



2023 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2

OUR VISION

Enhance Keith County’s ability to grow as a community where people want to live, work, learn, have fun and prosper.

OUR MISSION

Provide leadership

that promotes collaboration, cooperation and partnerships within the Keith County community

Encourage charitable giving

to build endowments and other community-focused funds

Provide stewardship

in partnership with Nebraska Community Foundation that provides guardianship and investment of funds

Make impactful grants

addressing community needs and opportunities through high-impact, sustainable grant-making

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Message From Our CHAIRWOMAN



The VISION statement of the Keith County Foundation Fund is: Enhance Keith County’s ability to grow as a community where people want to live, work, learn, have fun and prosper. How does a group of local volunteer citizens go about fulfilling their vision?

KCFF is fortunate to be one of over 250 affiliated funds in the Nebraska Community Foundation network, whose goal is to assist Nebraska communities to “turn up their dream switch and build a bolder, brighter future.” NCF believes local residents must lead the charge in growing their communities. KCFF benefits from education and training

opportunities, directed by our Affiliated Fund Development Coordinator, to help empower us to grow stronger. NCF is the fiscal agent for KCFF and ensures our grant making complies with government rules and regulations.

Pam Abbott, of Ogallala, currently chairs the 19-member board of directors that governs NCF. This board is a diverse group, from across the state, who are committed to the affiliated funds and donors they serve.

Jeff Yost has served as the NCF President and CEO for over 20 years and has amassed a team of 24 individuals that includes the following positions: Office Manager, seven Affiliated Fund Development Coordinators, Director of Legal Affairs, Accountants, Director of Advancement, Creative Specialists, Director and Advisor of Gift Planning, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Controller, Director of Marketing and Communications, Director of Peer Learning, Database Specialist, Gift Processing and a Community Storyteller!

Nebraska Community Foundation’s innovative practices and ideas have attracted the attention of foundations around the globe! A contingency from Canada will be visiting Nebraska and Keith County the end of September. Our Canadian guests are hoping to learn about the practice of Asset Based Community Development, endowment building, different approaches to sustainable community tourism and economic development and we will no doubt, learn from them as well.

Under the guidance of the Nebraska Community Foundation, the Fund Advisory Committee of the Keith County Foundation Fund is working diligently to ensure Keith County continues to grow and prosper now and far into the future. Great things are happening in Keith County and Nebraska! ■

Angie Kolste | KCFF Chair



The newest Keith County First Impressions mural can be found at Barton Park in Brule, NE. The mural was painted by Breeanna Benton

Maximizing BIG GIVE Donations through KCFF Matching Funds

The 2023 Keith County Big Give raised over \$262,000 for charities whose work benefits the people of Keith County. That total included \$60,000 in matching funds donated by Keith County Foundation Fund, as well as an additional \$3,500 of matching funds contributed during the event by donors challenging other donors to help reach this year's goal. This year's matching funds increased each dollar donated by about 31 cents, providing the groups an amazing opportunity to maximize funds raised for their projects. And, as always, each dollar raised through the KC Big Give stays in Keith County.

The Keith County Senior Center was one of thirty-nine groups who received their checks during a thank you dinner held July 20, recognizing the dedication and hard work of the groups. There were many smiles after the dinner when group representatives opened their check envelopes. But for Joy Manning, Director of the Keith County Senior Center, there were tears.



Kathy Bailey (front); Joy Manning, Deana Schaecher (back left-right)

Of the three years the Big Give event has been offered, this was the second year the center participated. The center's kitchen needs remodeled and updated. Sixty to eighty meals are prepared in that kitchen each day. Those meals are served to Keith County seniors on site in Ogallala and Paxton and delivered by volunteers as *Meals on Wheels* to Ogallala and Brule. Those meals are more than meals; they may be a senior's only meal of the day. In addition, the center offers activities, information on available state resources, and connection. According to Manning, "We are their community. We have become dear friends."



Keith County Senior Center Kitchen

Although this was the center's second year joining the Big Give it was Manning's first. She started her position in April and wasn't sure what to expect. She said members of the Big Give Committee were easy to access and offered help



Keith County Senior Center

when needed. During the event she watched donations to the center on the leaderboard rise from \$4,000 to \$5,000. Donations kept rising, moving from \$6,000 to \$8,300. That is what she thought the center would receive. However, thanks to the matching funds provided by KCFF and other sponsors, the check they received at the dinner was over \$11,000. That is when the tears came.

Manning explained she did not expect to see what she saw in that envelope. The tears were those of gratitude. She gave an example of the center's recent bake sale and how seniors came together but had to work very hard for each dollar they raised. The Big Give

matching funds were a blessing on top of the Big Give donations; a blessing that was greatly needed.

Bids for the kitchen project should be received in the next couple of weeks. With the help of funds received from the Big Give, Manning says they may be able to get the center's kitchen remodeled by the end of the year. She doesn't know if that would have been possible without the Big Give check. She also said that when people give to the Senior Center they are giving to individual people. Those dollars are used to touch Keith County seniors each day.



Lunch at the Keith County Senior Center

The Keith County Senior Center is a wonderful example of how the Big Give works and what it means to nonprofit organizations. This now annual event provides a vehicle to communicate their missions, tell of their projects, and raise funds. Manning and Joyce Mickelson, Senior Center office volunteer, say they are already planning for next year. They intend to use the technology and resources the Big Give offers more than previously. And most importantly, they want Keith County residents to discover and learn about the Keith County Senior Center and the meaningful impact it has on our community. ■

Investing in the Future of Keith County

2023 Berryman Scholarship

Surely, Charles Wilton "Bud" Berryman would smile if he saw the impact of the gift he left to his community. Berryman's gift of education, via scholarship dollars left in his estate, are far-reaching and often come full circle as recipients continue to call Keith County home.



Sierra Knaub

Sierra Knaub, Cassidy Coggins and Garrett Harms, recent recipients of the Berryman Scholarship, plan to continue their education in the fall. They also aspire to return to the county in the future.

Knaub, a Southeast Community College student, is pursuing a degree in early childhood education. She plans to open a daycare after completing her associate of applied science degree.

"I am eagerly looking forward to the day that I am able to own my own daycare business in my hometown of Ogallala," Knaub said.

Coggins, who is pursuing a Master of Science in counseling, with a concentration in clinical mental health counseling, will be attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"I have seen first-hand that more accessible mental health care is desperately needed in Keith County. It would be wonderful for me to be able to use this education to give back to the community that raised me in the form of health and healing," Coggins said.

Harms, a recent South Platte High School graduate, will attend Lamar Community College at Lamar, Colo. He plans to pursue an associate of applied science degree in horse training and management.

"My family has been actively involved in agriculture since my great, great-grandparents homesteaded in Keith and Arthur counties. I have learned to love the farming and ranching way of life. I hope to continue the tradition and return after my education," Harms said.

The Berryman Education Account, established in July 2012, is administered through the Keith County Foundation Fund, an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation. Berryman's 2012 estate gift of more than \$173,000 was set up as a quasi-endowment, as established by the KCFF's advisory committee. This allows both investment and principal to be utilized for the purpose of providing scholarships.

Since the first disbursement in 2014, more than \$62,000 has been granted in scholarships to 17 recipients, eight of whom



Cassidy Coggins

continue to be Keith County residents.

The scholarship period opens in the spring and awards are made early summer. Applicants must reside in Keith County and funds must be used to pursue a continuing education course, degree or a certificate program at a public accredited community college or an accredited degree-granting college or university. ■



Garrett Harms

2023 Cliff and Ruth Hermance Scholarship

Caleb Most is the recipient of the Cliff and Ruth Hermance Scholarship.

Most, who will be attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and majoring in ag education, was presented with the \$5,000 scholarship during Ogallala High School's academic awards ceremony in April.

Most's career plan is to be an ag teacher and Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor in a Nebraska high school.

The Hermance scholarship, established in October 2002, is given to an Ogallala High School graduating senior who plans to attend a four-year college. Preference is given, but not limited to, a student pursuing a career in education. ■



Caleb Most

August is **Make a Will** Month

Three reasons to finally get that will in place

According to Gallup, less than half of American adults have a will. August is “Make a Will Month” and the perfect reminder to either finally get a plan in place, or revisit estate plans to ensure they still represent one’s wishes. Here are three more compelling reasons to either write or revisit that will during the month of August.

Your family and/or heirs will thank you

According to Caring.com, 34% of people aged 35–54 have never discussed estate planning with anyone. That means, in the event of an untimely passing, those folks are left to guess the wishes of their loved one, or worse, fight over them. Having a will in place is the best way to ensure one’s wishes are met and that loved ones are taken care of.

Your community will thank you

Over the next 10 years in Nebraska, more than \$100 billion will transfer from one generation to the next. In Keith County alone, \$565 million is transferring in the next decade. There is always a transfer from generation to generation, as parents pass away and leave their estate to their children. But if the heirs no longer live where they grew up, that wealth may leave as well. Importantly, many Nebraska counties are approaching or are already in the midst of their peak transfer years. In other words, there is real urgency to act now. The opportunity will never be greater.

Charitable gift planning is one of the simplest, most impactful ways to ensure a portion of the multi-billion-dollar transfer of wealth remains in Keith County. Nebraska Community Foundation suggests leaving 5% of one’s assets to local charitable causes like Keith County Foundation Fund. If everyone left just 5%, it would equate to \$5 billion statewide in the next decade or \$28 million in Keith County alone. These charitable resources could be used to further community and economic development, better local quality-of-life, and improve Keith County for the next generation who call it home.

It’s easier than you think

Writing a will may seem intimidating, but most people report the process is easier than they anticipated. Meeting with a professional advisor is always recommended, however there are also free online tools to help you get started. For instance, www.fivetothrivene.org has a free, easy-to-use will planning guide to take you through the process. Visit the website, scroll down to the “Transfer of Wealth Toolkit,” and click on “WORKBOOK: Planning Your Legacy” to access the free guide. ■



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Keith County Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

