In 2019 the Diller Community Foundation Fund is celebrating its 20th anniversary. And there is certainly a lot to celebrate! In 2006 the Fund Advisory Committee accepted a challenge to raise $150,000 to receive a $50,000 matching contribution. Mission accomplished, and grants to community projects increased.

In 2013, Fund leaders completed action planning through Nebraska Community Foundation to firmly establish a vision for the community and a mission and goals to achieve Diller’s dreams.

Last year the community came together again to celebrate another philanthropic milestone by matching The Sherwood Foundation challenge grant resulting in more than $300,000 in additional unrestricted resources for community reinvestment.

And as of May 2019, the current unrestricted endowment is at $792,080. Earnings from these invested funds will provide nearly $40,000 each year for community programs and projects in our hometown.

Yes, we are proud! And yes, we thank EVERYONE who has contributed in any way toward this magnificent dream!

Pictured at left, Peggy Hemphill and Dennis Schmidt share their support of DCFF through their planned Legacy Gift.

We encourage people who love their hometown to continue their annual support as we continue to build our endowment. However, after looking back at 20 successful years, we need to turn our sights to the future, as community wealth passes from one generation to the next.

Recently, two former Fund Advisory Committee members, and longtime Diller volunteers and advocates, shared their reasons for creating their own Legacy Gifts – also known as planned gifts that are included in a person’s estate plan or will.

“I never fully understood what the transfer of intergenerational wealth meant to a community. When it became clear that so much money could leave the community, I felt I needed to do my part,” said Peggy Hemphill, a lifelong Diller resident.

“I have a passion for this community. I grew up here, raised my children here, and have grandkids here! People here give so much, to their church and other organizations. Everybody’s got everybody’s back. My Legacy gift is not a large gift, but it is a lasting gift that will continue to grow. It’s like an insurance policy for our community,” she said.

Dennis Schmidt lives in Beatrice but grew up in Diller and considers it his hometown. “My family and I have always farmed there, went to Church there, and giving back was just what came naturally,” Dennis said. “We volunteered for everything from helping to build the Diller Community Building, mowing and working at Church or the cemetery or other projects. We stepped up and helped. It’s part of farm pride. Taking care of something and leaving it better than when you first found it.

“What attracted me to making a planned gift to the endowment is that the principal never gets spent, and the giving continues forever. It gives a community options way past 50 years into the future – when we may need a new water system or to take advantage of the latest technology. Things we cannot even fathom today,” Dennis said.

Peggy Hemphill used a very easy method to make her Legacy Gift. She named the Diller Community Foundation Fund endowment as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy.

“It was a simple process. I got a form from the insurance company and checked with Nebraska Community Foundation to get the correct wording for the document, and it was done!” Peggy said. “People need to talk about planning a future gift for their hometown. They need to be made aware, because most people probably have never talked about it and have never been asked.”

Dennis adds, “Too often we don’t really understand the giving nature of people. We could do so much better...so much more!” He thinks people use the excuse for being too ‘busy’ to think about or make a plan for what will happen to their estate after their life. To Dennis, ‘B-U-S’ is a four-letter word that gets in the way of getting things done.

Peggy gets emotional when she describes her hometown. “Diller is just an awesome town. The people and the pride they have. Our schools and businesses are great. Pretty much everything is neat and clean. People are tight-knit, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. It’s just a great, safe place to raise a family.

“I’m hoping people will give this some thought and contact one of our Fund Advisory Committee members to see how they might give back or help the organization in any way,” Peggy said. She added that some people might be more comfortable talking to the folks at Nebraska Community Foundation, which has helped hundreds of individuals and families with resources to guide donors and their financial advisors through the process of creating a Legacy Gift.

Peggy reminds us that considering a planned gift is a simple first step to investing in the future of your hometown. And if Dennis and Peggy’s hopes and dreams come true, Diller’s unrestricted endowment will hopefully increase to $5 million someday with the help of others who care deeply about the future of their prosperous and welcoming hometown.
We are very grateful to all who contributed to make this campaign successful and your support for our community.

Community Foundation Fund grants out a portion of the income earned by the unrestricted endowment each year to fund projects and programs to benefit unrestricted endowments are an important tool to keep hometowns across Nebraska growing, thriving and improving for future generations. While Diller All funds raised through this campaign will benefit the Diller community unrestricted endowment account. Similar to a community savings account, Sherwood Foundation, an Omaha-based foundation that is promoting equity through social justice initiatives enhancing the quality of life in Nebraska. peers hailing from communities across the state to participate in the Rural Development Philanthropy initiative. A 2:1 matching grant was offered by the Diller Through its affiliation with Nebraska Community Foundation, the Diller Community Foundation Fund applied for and was selected by a group of securing a $100,000 matching grant that will increase the unrestricted endowment by $312,521. The Diller Community Foundation Fund is pleased to announce that it successfully raised $212,521 over a 30-month period ending December 31, 2018, Hometown Connections 2019         Page 2

A $2,150 grant is given to the Diller Bank Museum at the annual granting celebration. The Diller Community Foundation Fund 2019 Granting Celebration was held at the Diller Opera House January 27th in conjunction with the Diller Community Club’s spaghetti meat fundraiser. Over $90,050 in grants were awarded during the ceremo- ny. The organizations that received grants were: Village of Diller for Christmas lighting on main street, Memorial Park Committee for Christmas lighting, Diller Bank Muse- um for window replacement, doors, and to refinish the floor, Diller Opera House to replace sidewalk and pave south park- ing area, Diller Community Club for the City Park walking path, Park Improvement Committee to replace tennis net, basketball poles and nets, and for painting, Diller-Odell Schools for hydroponic farm/research towers, Diller-Odell cheerleaders for cheerleading camp, Diller-Odell Close-Up for a governmental leadership trip, St. Paul Lutheran Church for community Vacation Bible School supplies, Youth Philanthropy grants in the amount of $500 were awarded to: Diller Community Leadership Group, Helping Us Grow Spiritually (HUGS) and Happy Harbiners 4H Club. You can find a full list of grants that were given out, along with their amounts on page 4.

Hometown Connections 2019        Page 3

Diller FAC Serves on Mentor Team for Chester

Weeks and Roelfs Present at Nebraska Connecting Entrepreneurial Community Conference Tammy Weers and Beth Roelfs were part of a presentation by the Nebraska Community Foundation for the CEC Conference held April 24-25 in Beatrice. The presentation, “Unleashing Local Assets for Community Impact”, highlighted the stories of positive community engagement in Diller, Syracuse and the Loess Hills Lutheran School which are all using tools of philanthropy to imagine a bright future.
The following grants were announced at the granting celebration held on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at the Diller Opera House in conjunction with a spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Diller Community Club.

**Village of Diller**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $5,000.00
- (Christmas Lighting)

**Memorial Park Committee**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $1,000.00
- (City Park Walking Path)

**Diller Bank Museum**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $2,150.00
- (Window Replacements, Doors, Refurbish Main Floor)

**Diller Opera House**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $9,000.00
- (Pave Parking Area & Replace Sidewalks)

**Diller Community Club**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $4,000.00
- (City Park Walking Paths)

**Park Improvement Committee**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $1,500.00
- (Replace Tennis Nets, BB Poles & Nets, Parks)

**Diller Odell Public Schools**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $5,000.00
- (Hydroponic Farm/Research Towers)

**Diller Odell Choirlofts**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $250.00
- (Supplies for Choirleading Camp)

**Diller Odell Close-Up**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $800.00
- (Government/Continuing Education Trip)

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**
- Opera House Account Donations
- $250.00
- (Supplies for Community VBS)

**TOTAL** $27,550.00

Thank you to all the organizations in our community that submitted applications for the grants and the work that you do. Please contact any Fund Advisory Committee member if you are interested in applying for a grant in support of a project, program or event in the Diller community.

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**Who is on the Fund Advisory Committee?**

- **Chairman**: Scott Pretzer
- **Vice Chairman**: Micki Krieger
- **Recording Secretary**: Diane Wellsandt
- **Correspondence Secretary**: Beth Roelfs
- **Treasurer**: Tammy Weers

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**Vice Chairman**: Micki Krieger
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**Correspondence Secretary**: Beth Roelfs
**Treasurer**: Tammy Weers

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**Endowment Fund Donations**

- Gifts received June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019
- Bryan and Janet Barnard
- Kimberly Burhoop
- Tony & Joyce Carpenter
- Ron & Judy Parks Diner
- Bryan & Janet Barnard
- Advise Fund of NCF
- Scott & Holli Pretzer
- Dean & Elizabeth Roelfs
- Joe & Kayla Schmuelle
- Greg & Tamara Weers
- Robert & Diane Wellsandt

**General Account Donations**

- Cynthia & Robert Milligan
- Ron & Judy Parks Diner
- Several Anonymous Gifts
- Dean & Elizabeth Roelfs
- Steve & Peggy Hemphill
- Larry & Sondra Germer
- Tom & Joyce Carpenter
- Doug & Cindy Lottman
- Kimberly Burhoop
- Scott & Holli Pretzer
- Land O’Lakes, Inc.
- Sharon Ocker
- May 31, 2019

**Improvements To Diller Opera House**

- $702,080.04
- $1,643.43
- $1,280.81
- $389.34
- $396,837.55

* Funds in the amount of $4,500.00 from the Opera House Account were used for part of the cost of repairing the sidewalk and paving the parking area on the south side of the Opera House.

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**ACCOUNT BALANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of May 31, 2019</th>
<th>Diller Opera House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$702,080.04</td>
<td>General Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,643.43</td>
<td>Main Street Account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,280.81</td>
<td>Opera House Account*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$389.34</td>
<td>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$396,837.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Diller Pays It Forward**

- Two heads are better than one.
- Tammy, Peggy, and Beth joined the Diller Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee?

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**NCF Affiliated Fund Training, Expo and Banquet**

Unleash abundant assets! Inspire charitable giving! Connect ambitious people! These elements were used to engage attendees of the NCF Affiliated Fund training!

Three members of the Diller Community Foundation Fund attended the NCF Annual Celebration in Norfolk, NE on November 8, 2018. Attending were Tamara Weers, Micki Krieger and Diane Wellsandt.

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**Account Balances**

- $702,080.04
- $1,643.43
- $1,280.81
- $389.34
- $396,837.55

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---

**Endowment Fund Donations**

- Gifts received June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019
- Bryan and Janet Barnard
- Kimberly Burhoop
- Tom & Joyce Carpenter
- Randy & Sandra Gemmer
- Steve & Peggy Hemphill
- Land O’Lakes, Inc.
- Foundation
- Doug & Cindy Lottman
- Sharon Ucker
- Ron & Judy Parks Diner
- Bryan & Janet Barnard
- Advise Fund of NCF
- Scott & Holli Pretzer
- Dean & Elizabeth Roelfs
- Joe & Kayla Schmuelle
- Greg & Tamara Weers
- Robert & Diane Wellsandt

**General Account Donations**

- Cynthia & Robert Milligan
- Ron & Judy Parks Diner
- Several Anonymous Gifts
- Dean & Elizabeth Roelfs
- Steve & Peggy Hemphill
- Larry & Sondra Germer
- Tom & Joyce Carpenter
- Doug & Cindy Lottman
- Kimberly Burhoop
- Scott & Holli Pretzer
- Land O’Lakes, Inc.
- Sharon Ocker
- May 31, 2019

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The Merry Modern Extension Club was awarded a grant through the Diller Community Foundation. With this grant they painted the lamp posts that line the main street that runs through Diller, NE. There are 20 posts that line the street. The money helped buy the stain that was used to paint the posts black. At the 2018 granting ceremony the group asked for help on getting the painting done. So, we, the Happy Harbiners 4-H club volunteered to do the painting. The Happy Harbiners painted the posts on October 20, 2018. The group that painted that day consisted of 12 members, their two sponsors, and another parent. The group started painting early in the morning and finished shortly after lunch. The Merry Modern Extension Club were gracious enough to buy the painters lunch for the work at the Field in Diller.

The Happy Harbiners 4-H Club is an area group made up of kids from the Diller, Fairbury and Odell areas. They meet once a month and have a goal of completing one if not two group service projects a year. Our annual service project is planting flowers in downtown Diller, in nine large pots that line both sides of the main street. We try to do this project late April or early May.

In 2018 we were awarded the Youth Philanthropy Award, through the Diller Community Foundation. With the grant we were able to buy potting soil, flowers, succulent plants and some garden accessories. One or two of our pots actually resembled fairy gardens. We have had the help of a great mentor, Kathy Engelman, who is a former leader of the group.

We were once again awarded the Youth Philanthropy Award in 2019. We will try to do this fun activity for as long as we can. On May 8th, 2019, we were able to get this year’s project done. If you are ever in town check out the flower pots!
The Diller Commu- nity Fund wishes to thank all who made this event possible, including Diller Community members, donors of the Pancake Feed, the Diller Fire Department, and the many volunteers who made the event possible. Special thanks go to the Diller-Odell FFA Chapter, who provided food and helped with setup and cleanup of the event.

New to the Diller-Odell Schools this upcoming year will be a student Feed offered as part of the Diller-Odell FFA Alumni and collaboration with the Diller Community Fund. The Feed will be served by Diller-Odell students with locally raised beef and pork in their lunch programs.

Our goal is to provide the students of Diller-Odell with healthy, flavorful and nutritious meals and get involved by donating a meal or making a monetary donation that would be used for purchasing animals or processing of the meat. Processing will be completed by the Diller Locker, who also assisted many of the surrounding students already with this process.

If you would like to get involved or make a donation please contact Andrea at the Diller-Odell FFA Alumni and get involved by donating an animal or making a monetary donation that would be used for purchasing animals or processing of the meat. Processing will be completed by the Diller Locker, who also assisted many of the surrounding students already with this process.

Weekly donation for the Pan- cake Feed is $500, which will be placed in the historic Diller Opera House. "Diller Remembers Endowment" is a fund that provides auction service during the auction.

An important event was the- ements as well. Post prom be- long at Washington D.C. and New York City. We were able to see it at night, and the views from the top were incredible.

Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. 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"Close Up offered me an experience that I will never forget: it introduced me to new, lifelong friends, showed me the political side of our country, brought my attention to problems within our country, and inspired me to improve our country with our actions and ideas." - Michelle Klecan

"This trip helped me to open my eyes to how important my role as a citizen is." - Michelle Klecan

"While this trip was very fun, there were plenty of opportunities to learn about our government. I started the week with zero knowledge about what efficacy was. I now think I have a basic understanding.

"Close-Up was an amazing experience." - Michelle Klecan

"Washington D.C. was an amazing experience for many reasons. When we were there I had an amazing workshop leader that helped us understand our country. We visited many monuments, but my favorite out of all of the rights would have to be the Lincoln memorial. The walls of the memorial was Abraham Lincoln’s speech. The Gettysburg speech is what is up into groups and we discussed many topics along the line of government. Another great thing that happened was that we had a ballot box and were able to vote. All in all in D.C. was amazing and I would love to go back." - Neleigh Weers

"Close-Up offered me an experience that I will never forget: it introduced me to new, lifelong friends, showed me the political side of our country, brought my attention to problems within our country, and inspired me to improve our country with our actions and ideas." - Michelle Klecan

"This trip helped me to open my eyes to how important my role as a citizen is." - Michelle Klecan
“ROAR”-Life is Wild. God is Good!

Surrounded by tigers, jungle and giraffe, everyone who participated in St. Paul’s Vacation Bible School were treated to fun, learning and Christ centered fellowship.

The program incorporated lessons through music, interactive stories, a life relevant daily video, snacks and games that were linked to the key point for the day and the Imagination Station that provided a hands-on connection to the day’s theme. Highlights included a visit from the Pharaoh and zany skits.

Twenty-eight children from the congregation and community worked on a caring project to collect 150 pounds of food to be donated to a local food pantry. The challenge was extended to the congregation and will conclude at the end of June.

The DCFF supported the program with a grant of $250 so that the community program could be provided as a free youth activity.

Reading is ‘Dino-Mite’

Children ages 4 through the 4th grade were treated to everything DINOSAUR during the 4 week summer reading program held at the Diller-Odell Elementary library. During each Thursday in June they completed investigations into topics like the size of these ancient beasts, by standing shoulder to shoulder kids discover that the 89 foot long creature was 69 kids long. Experiments and experiences also helped participants learn about the size and shape of dino eggs, how tiny (75 cm) or large (260 cm) a dino footprint could be, the working of the dinosaur’s stomach, how dinosaurs are named, the making of a fossil and the work of a paleontologist. Kids created games and craft projects related to the themes of the day. Creations included hatching dinosaurs, dino ornaments, and a Dinosaur-in-a-Can. This contraption simulates the ‘ROAR’ of the dinosaurs using a garbage can, rope and imagination.

Openings included jokes, dancing to the Dino Stomp and Dino Pokey, Dinosaur fact games and a Dinosaur-in-a-Can. Students enjoyed checking out books from the library with the chance to win prizes for their reading. Betty Lawrence and Judy Landenberger helped to check out books. Many other adult and youth volunteers helped to organize and make the program a success.

Sponsors for the 2019 program include Diller-Odell Public School, the Diller Community Foundation Fund, Odell Area Community Enrichment, the Fun Raisers, and Robert Mueting. A DINOSAUR size thank you to all volunteers and sponsors.

L.E.A.R.N. Meets a Visioning Goal for Youth

During the recent ‘community visioning’ sessions a goal to increase activities for youth was established. As a result, a group of enthusiastic and skilled students from Diller-Odell High School has started a program called “L.E.A.R.N.” The name stands for the Leadership, Education, and Responsibility Network. The organization benefits elementary students at Diller-Odell Elementary. Key leaders are Mahaila Engelman and Alisyn Wenzbaur.

The program tutors elementary students at least two days per week. The tutoring sessions provide an opportunity to get extra help and provides a quiet space to do homework.

L.E.A.R.N. is also an after school program for the students. These activities are held twice a month. At the beginning of each month, students do a fun activity. Then, towards the end of the month, an educational activity is the target. Throughout the year several community service activities are also completed.

This project was awarded a 2019 Youth Philanthropy Grant of $500 by the Diller Community Foundation Fund.
"Ride the Wave of Giving" was the theme of this year’s Foundation float. Mason Schlichtman navigates his kayak down a sparkling mountain stream.