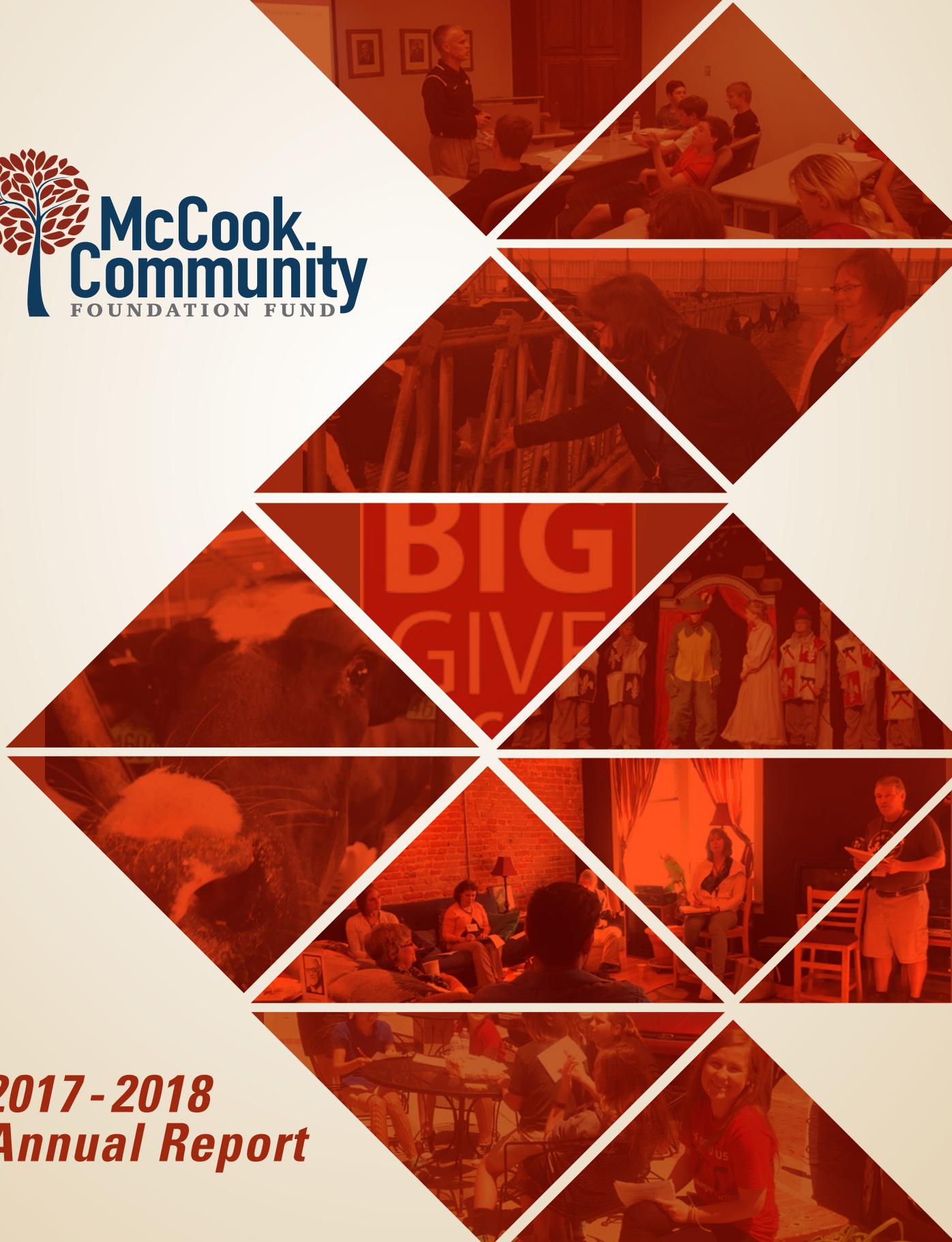




McCook
Community
FOUNDATION FUND

2017-2018
Annual Report



LENDING A HAND



Fund Advisory Committee Executive Committee Members

Cynthia Huff,
Chairperson

Dale Dueland,
Vice Chairperson

Mark Graff,
Treasurer

Peggy Been,
Secretary

Andrew Ambriz

Dennis Berry

Linda Frank

Dr. Bill Graves

Gavin Harsh

Doug Skiles

Pam Wolford

Ronda Graff,
MCFF Coordinator

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

By Cynthia Huff
MCFF Chairperson

Three years ago, I had the opportunity to join the Fund Advisory Committee of the McCook Community Foundation Fund, not really knowing what I was getting myself into. I had heard of MCFF's work through Gazette articles and by word-of-mouth, but I had no idea of the extensive impact this organization has had in setting the stage for a bright future for our hometown, McCook, and southwest Nebraska.

MCFF, which is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, oversees 30 separate accounts with 12 of those as endowment accounts. An endowment allows donations to remain in the fund forever and to continually grow. Twice annually, grants are awarded using only a percentage of the earnings generated from the principal of the fund. Those donations stay and generate interest and this interest generates our capacity to make grants.

So how does MCFF go about making grants? It is the mission of MCFF to inspire investments in the quality of life for the people of southwest Nebraska. We believe our community

Mission

Inspiring investment in the quality of life for the people of Southwest Nebraska.

Vision

McCook is a vibrant, inclusive community with access to the world. We nurture innovation, economic and educational opportunities, quality community leadership, cultural arts and healthy families and lifestyles.



is a vibrant, inclusive community with access to the world. Our grant-making goals guide us in nurturing innovation, economic and educational opportunities, quality community leadership, cultural arts, and healthy families and lifestyles.

Our organization continually discusses the importance of our donors with the guiding principle that it is not the amount a donor makes that is important; it is the number of donors that is paramount. We need our community to engage in a culture of giving, to be part of the growth and change that is a natural evolution of any forward-thinking community. We advocate taking an active role in the direction our community develops and targeting growth and development that is impactful and far-reaching.

As I write this article, a new goal is forming for MCFF and the community as a whole: a new grant with the potential of a two-to-one match. Currently, MCFF maintains \$3,000,000 in assets. The new grant will allow each of us to have a part in building capacity for growth in our community. Please join us in building our future by looking forward and giving back.

Personally, being a member of MCFF has been an eye-opening experience. To be surrounded by a progressive, forward-thinking group of individuals is constantly awe-inspiring. It makes me want to be a better community member and be a part of creating and growing McCook's future. What an opportunity!





**Jeff Yost, President and CEO
Nebraska Community Foundation**



McCook is a beacon! A ray of light! In a word, McCook is, terrific!

One of the many reasons McCook is terrific is the McCook Community Foundation Fund. The leaders of this Fund are dreaming bigger about what is possible. Here is what one of them had to say:

“Now I am thinking more of a larger vision of what is possible for our communities and how we are going to get there. Not large in a sense of proportion or place, but instead how we can affect the culture in our community to make it a very special and attractive place to live and raise a family.”

Dale Dueland
Vice Chair, McCook Community Foundation Fund
Member of Nebraska Community Foundation Board of Directors

“...how we can affect the culture in our community to make it a very special place to live and raise a family.” That’s a great dream. Dale has it just right. Our community economic development question today is not one of jobs, it’s about place. Why do I want to live, work and raise my family in this community?

The good news is young people state that they want to live and work as adults in McCook and southwest Nebraska. In surveys conducted the past few years, more than half of McCook’s students say they can see themselves living in the area as adults and 46 percent are interested in owning their own business.





Our job as community leaders is to invite young people to live, work and raise their families right here in McCook. All across the state, local leaders are finding success in attracting stayers, returners, and newcomers to be in community with them. In fact, in 52 of Nebraska's most rural counties, the population of 30- and 40-year-olds is on the rise. You're seeing that in McCook, with dozens of young families returning home or moving in.

Today, with over \$3 million in permanent endowments and another 17 estate gifts estimated at least \$2 million, the McCook Community Foundation Fund is leading the way to making dreams come true. Community impact can be felt with a new skate park, to computers for elementary kids, to entrepreneurship support, illustrating the vision and the leadership the McCook Community Foundation Fund is having on the future of your hometown.

At Nebraska Community Foundation, it continues to be our privilege and pleasure to work with leaders in McCook to help make this special place an even greater hometown. Your light is shining bright! Congratulations to everyone in McCook for your ambitious community-building work and many achievements!



**Jeff Yost, President and CEO
Nebraska Community Foundation**

BIG GIVE MCCOOK CONTINUES TO GROW

By Ronda Graff
MCFF Coordinator

With experience on their side, organizers for the second annual Big Give McCook were hoping to go bigger and better in 2017. The 24-hour fund-raiser was definitely bigger, raising more money and involving more non-profit groups than last year. And the Community Chest committee hopes it was better for both donors and the local organizations, which benefitted from the philanthropic event.

Once the final donations and sponsorships were added, the total for 2017 was more than \$137,000, according to Community Chest co-chairmen Lisa Felker and Melissa Stritt. Community Chest is a sub-account of the McCook Community Foundation Fund, which also provided grants to Community Chest to initially develop the Big Give website in 2016 as well as maintain the website.

Through the donations to Big Give McCook - whether large or small - the community has shown a commitment to the long-term stability and growth of McCook, one of the reasons MCFF's advisory committee got behind the 24-hour giving event. McCook and Southwest Nebraska have shown their generosity, as well as a desire to invest in their community and to make southwest Nebraska a great place to live.

The Big Give total includes matching grants and sponsorship funds, along with donations from the eight in-person giving stations around McCook and online donations.

Even more impressive were the 650-plus individual donations in just one day. The hundreds of donations ranged in size from one dollar into the

thousands, but all were vital to a successful event. Community Chest and MCFF hope to create a culture of giving in McCook and the area and the community turned out in force to support those charities they are passionate about.

The non-profits involved this year included:

- **The Community Chest and its agencies:**
- Adult Basic Education
- Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska
- Domestic Abuse/Sexual Assault Services
- Ed Thomas YMCA
- Family Resource Center
- Live Y'ers
- Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska
- Prairie Plains CASA
- Salvation Army
- TeamMates Mentoring Program

Other participating organizations were

- Community Hospital Health Foundation
- Fox Theatre
- Hillcrest Nursing Home Foundation
- McCook Arts Council
- McCook Art Guild
- McCook Community Foundation Fund
- McCook Humane Society
- Share the Heat
- Southwest Nebraska Habitat for Humanity
- St. Patrick's School

Totals for each organization, along with information about their intended use of the funds, is available on the Big Give website, at the following:

biggivemccook.org.

The giving stations were also busy throughout the day and included McCook National Bank, which served as base camp for the day, Pinnacle Bank, First Central Bank, Great Western Bank, Horizon



**BIG GIVE
MCCOOK**

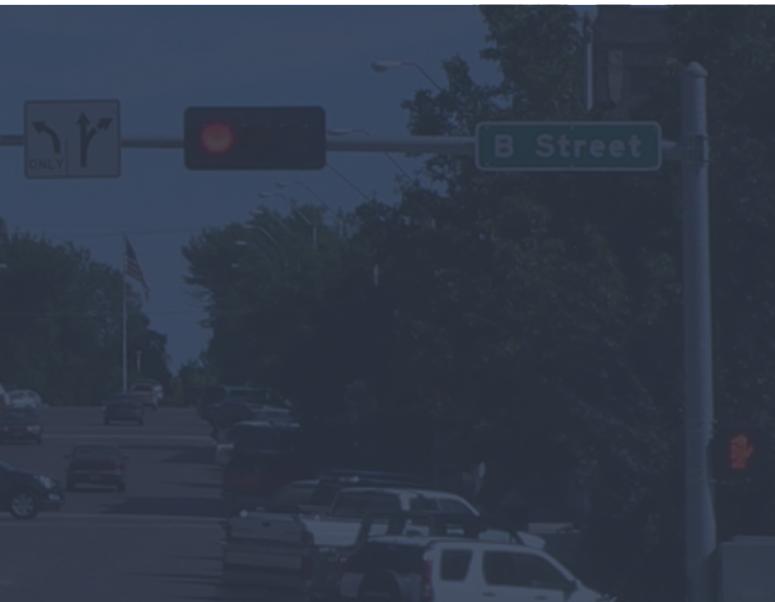
Bank, Hillcrest Nursing Home, Community Hospital and the YMCA.

Each of those giving stations also had a "power hour," where the donations were matched 1:1 up to a \$1,000 thanks to generous business donors. Big Give McCook non-profits also received bonus funds, provided by sponsors including McCook National Bank, Graff Charitable Foundation, Deveny Motors, Parker Hannifin and Great Western Bank.

While organizers took a short break after Big Give McCook, the Community Chest volunteer committee is already back at work, distributing funds from the 2017 Big Give, as well as planning for the 2018 Big Give McCook.



Don Harpst, MCFF Advisory Committee member, passes the time by knitting, as he waits for donations at the 2017 Big Give McCook giving station at Hillcrest Nursing Home.



Garey Focusing On Future

Nebraska Community Foundation, along with the Southwest Nebraska affiliated funds, welcomed Denise Garey of McCook to its staff.

Garey is among six new employees the foundation has welcomed in the past two years, the majority of which are occupying newly-created positions, just one indicator of NCF's exponential growth in recent years. Garey will serve Nebraska Community Foundation as an affiliated fund development coordinator focused on Southwest Nebraska, including her hometown of McCook. As affiliated fund development coordinator, she provides training, education and resources to local volunteers as they strengthen and enhance their community impact.

Garey earned an associate's degree from McCook Community College and bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has an extensive background in fundraising, economic development, communications and community development. She served as fund coordinator for McCook Community Foundation Fund, housing director at McCook Economic Development Corporation and director of community relations for Northeast Community College.

A native of McCook, Garey returned in 2004 with her son. She enjoys her role as a 4-H leader, following her son at collegiate golf tournaments and cheering on the Husker volleyball team.

At Nebraska Community Foundation, 21 staff members and 1,500 volunteers are exploring how we can do the work of community development differently. We're asking: What would happen if we not only asked "what do you need?" but also asked "what can you contribute?" Asking this question leads to a transformation of thinking and doing – a transformation where communities become partners and where individuals become co-producers. This transformation is hard work and requires a special skill set. But when it is done successfully, it results in empowered individuals and communities that can take control of their own future.

YCR ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

By Mark Graff
YCR Coordinator, MCFF Treasurer

Youth Change Reaction, more commonly known to the public as YCR, is a group of 12 McCook High School students who are dedicated to activating the youth in their community through positive and fun activities.

Every year, they strive to be more active in the community than the year before. Their activities ranged from hosting dances to helping with bingo to leading tours in the community, all in an effort to make McCook a better place.

A couple of YCR's favorite activities are the ones that get younger students involved. The group puts on a Junior High dance one Friday night a year. It's a fun way for Junior High students to interact with kids from the other school system in the community. They can let loose in a safe environment and feel like they fit in with their peers.

YCR is also given the opportunity to play with the elementary school students at recess every couple of months. The group tries to include everyone in the fun, hoping to help the kids who don't fit in so well have good role models, and more importantly to have a good time!

YCR helped the Nebraska Lions put on bingo at the county fair this year. They also participate in a tour for seventh grade students called the Heritage Tour, a walking tour down Norris Avenue. The seventh grade students learn about some of their community's heritage along with receiving a few souvenirs. YCR members truly enjoy the tour because they get to know the younger students and learn about McCook as well.

Halloween is a time that all of the high school clubs get together to host something fun, and YCR gets involved however possible. This year all of the groups worked together to put on a haunted hallway at the school. The attendance was much higher than expected. It was so much fun and so well received that the haunted high school will return in the fall.

Thanks to an endowment account set up by Andy and Geri Anderson, YCR receives grant money to be used as they see fit. Every year around Christmas, YCR uses part of their grant toward the Angel Tree charity. They pick a family in need off of the tree and shop for presents as a group. They wrap the presents themselves at the annual Christmas party, and find joy in knowing that they are making a difference.

The members of the group collectively come up with a cause to dedicate the other half of their grant money to each year. YCR hopes that 2018 will bring them more opportunities to get involved, and more chances to improve McCook for generations to come.



McCook Community Foundation Fund

An Affiliated Fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation

Funds Statement

February 28, 2018 (Unaudited)

Unrestricted Cash and Investments by Account

McCook Community Foundation General Operating Account	\$34,478
Total Unrestricted Endowment Accounts Including	
McCook Community Foundation Anderson Family Gift Account	
McCook Community Foundation Jewell Family Gift Account	
McCook Community Foundation Myers Family Gift Account	
McCook Community Foundation General Endowment Account	\$2,304,969
Restricted Accounts	
Kathryn A. Wall Endowment Account	\$420,913
McCook Education Foundation Endowment Account	125,625
Barbara Fassler Neumann Nursing Scholarship Account	111,995
Hillcrest Nursing Home Foundation Endowment Account	53,878
McCook College Foundation Endowment Account	41,078
Nelda Haag Scholarship Account	37,695
Memorial Methodist Church Legacy Account	31,095
Community Chest Account	29,205
Bison Alumni Newsletter Account	26,926
Myron Mingo Memorial MCC Scholarship Account	26,580
Kansas Nebraska Good News Radio Endowment Account	21,491
Youth Change Reaction (YCR) Endowment Account	13,659
Ed Thomas YMCA Endowment Account	12,533
Heritage Square Account	9,860
McCook Children's Museum Account	8,548
Community Hospital Health Foundation Endowment Account	6,447
McCook Recreation Account	5,244
Celebrate McCook Account	5,219
Eight Miscellaneous Accounts with Balances Under \$5,000	17,919
Total Fund Balance	\$ 3,345,357

Financial Activity Summary of All Accounts on Cash Basis

October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2018

Beginning Fund Balances 10-1-16	\$ 2,947,903
Income	
Grant & Contribution Income	\$ 295,298
Endowment Acct Investment Value Increases (Decreases)	\$ 439,995
Investment & Interest Income	\$ 31,356
Total Income	\$ 766,649
Disbursements	
Charitable Grants	\$274,367
Disbursements for Charitable Activities	\$ 38,615
Total Disbursements for Local Charitable Causes	\$ 312,982
Nebraska Community Foundation Fees	\$ 26,758
Investment Management Fees	\$ 19,128
Fund Administrative Services	\$ 5,190
General Fund Operating Expenses	\$ 5,137
Total Fund Operating Disbursements	\$ 56,213
Total Disbursements	\$ 369,195
Net Change in Total Fund Balances	\$ 397,454
Ending Fund Balances 2-28-18	\$ 3,345,357



NEBRASKA
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PLANNING FOR YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE

By RONDA GRAFF
MCFF Coordinator

Estate planning may not be an easy topic to discuss, but it is something that everyone should consider whether their estate is large or small. To get the conversation going, the McCook Community Foundation Fund, the Nebraska Community Foundation and McCook Community College joined together for two free estate planning workshops in 2017.

The primary purpose of the estate planning seminars was to encourage conversations about estate planning and the importance of planning early as well as having financial matters in order.

Topics ranged from IRAs and inheritance tax to creating a strategy by small business owners, whether ag-based or with a downtown storefront; how to fulfill your financial wishes and the best way to use your assets; what attorney costs are; and what a professional financial advisor or attorney brings to the process.

The two sessions were both led by Jim Gustafson, NCF's Director of Advancement and Gift Planning, who spoke on charitable giving. Other speakers at the two sessions in 2017 included Doug Skiles, a MCFF committee member and a CPA with McPherron, Skiles and Loop.; Ben Dutton, UNL Extension; Aaron Broz, MNB; Cody Siegfried and Alexis Davidson, Goodwin Siegfried Law Office; and Dustin Hartzer, Edward Jones, along with representatives of Pinnacle Charitable Trusts.

Along with NCF, MCFF provides the legal, fiduciary, investment and development support for 30 affiliated funds. MCFF is helping leaders transform our hometown into a stronger, more progressive and sustainable community through philanthropy.

The MCFF Advisory Committee hopes to make the workshops an annual tradition for McCook and southwest Nebraska in 2018.

For more information about the estate planning seminars or planned giving, contact Dr. Bill Graves, MCFF's Planned Giving Champion.

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

MCFF GRANTS TOP \$300,000

The McCook Community Foundation Fund passed a milestone in 2017, distributing more than \$300,000 in grants since 2003 to dozens of local organizations and groups in McCook and Southwest Nebraska.

MCFF has given more than 150 grants totaling \$304,388 since the grants were first allocated in 2003, with one of the first grants going toward playground equipment at the then-newly remodeled McCook Elementary School. Since then, MCFF has given grants ranging from developing McCook's skatepark to funding a Heritage Tour about McCook's storied political history to a Nu-Step Recumbent Machine at the YMCA.

One purpose of the MCFF grants is to ensure that McCook is a vibrant, inclusive community by investing in innovation, economic and educational opportunities, quality community leadership, cultural arts and healthy families and lifestyles.

MCFF also believes in working with other local organizations and one example was a 2017 grant to McCook Community College's 2017-18 Leadership Program, which brought national speaker John O'Leary to the Fox Theater.

Drawing nearly 100 high school students along with hundreds from the community, O'Leary's speech aimed to inspire others to find joy in whatever path life gives them. At age 9, O'Leary was injured in an explosion that left 100 percent of his body burned, he writes in his online biography, and was given a one-percent chance to survive. After five months in the hospital, "dozens of surgeries," having all of his fingers amputated and relearning how to walk and feed himself, he returned home. As part of his presentation, O'Leary shared lessons he's learned in honor of those who saved him, as well as those who stayed with him as he fought to survive.

In addition to the in-person presentation, MCC's Leadership Program also included a month-long "Learn at Lunch" program to review O'Leary's book, "On Fire." The leadership program concluded in 2018 with a "Future Leaders Toolbox," a series to give potential leaders development opportunities, and a Future Leaders Conference in March.

The 2016-17 fiscal year MCFF grants included:

- Nebraska 4-H Council, SW Neb. - Washington, D.C. Trip
- McCook Community College - 2017-18 Leadership Program
- Southwest Nebraska Community Theater Association - Missoula Children's Theater
- Republican River Fitness Series - Trailer for supplies and running events
- Hear Nebraska - Prairie Roots Festival concert in McCook
- UNL Extension Service - Develop and maintain community calendar
- Cat Pack - Create McCook Humane Society calendars by youth group
- Southwest Nebraska Habitat for Humanity - Rehabilitate an old house
- Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska - Scholarships for adults
- McCook Chamber of Commerce - Winch system at City Auditorium
- HTC Youth Task Force - McCook High Senior graduation gifts





mccookfoundation.org

