



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



CONNECTING &
CELEBRATING
MCCOOK

MCCOOKFOUNDATION.ORG

MISSION

MCFF is connecting & impacting our community through intentional investments of time and financial resources



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

By Cynthia Huff
MCFF Chairperson

The McCook Community Foundation Fund is a community-based group of citizens planning and working to use the plentiful assets that already exist in our community. This Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) philosophy believes everything we need is right here; we must discover and capitalize on our existing assets. Our daily surroundings are often only appreciated when they become our focus - leading to taking these assets for granted - and not readily incorporated into our asset-based community development.

A few short decades ago, a common belief existed that McCook would sustain itself by just providing employment opportunities and newcomers would simply find our community an excellent place to live.

But that concept has evolved and expanded recently.

Newcomers are attracted by what the community offers: an inclusive, welcoming environment. We are slowly, yet intentionally, becoming a community that provides residents with opportunities for engagement and connection.

People do not want to live a day-to-day existence. They want to feel like they are part of something bigger. They want to feel a sense of kinship, camaraderie, and connectedness.

This belief leads the McCook Community Foundation Fund's

decision-making. We are not waiting for someone to save us! Instead, we are guided by a philosophy that everything we need is right here to create a sense of purpose and quality of life for both our long-time residents and newcomers.

At MCFF, we utilize funds from our generous donors to build and promote assets that already exist in the hometowns of southwest Nebraska. We are building a community we would want to visit. We are working to make McCook and Southwest Nebraska an even better place to call home.

Our foundation advisory committee is thoughtfully looking to the future - thanks to our donor's generous financial support - to determine investment in the community through grants that hold to our mission.

We value the partnerships we have developed over time that enable our committee to support exciting and engaging projects. And we need the support of the community, alumni, and donors to continue making progress.

Exciting new things are happening in McCook. Community members are beginning to see their community in new ways. We are using our existing assets to build the unimaginable — appreciating multiple points of view in creating the future we want. Because everything we need for a vibrant and engaged life is right here...right here in our hometown of McCook.

VISION

Making McCook an even better place to call home

FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cynthia Huff, Chairperson **Kyle Dellevoet**

Matt Sehnert, Vice Chairperson **Bill Graves**

Gavin Harsh, Treasurer **Linda Taylor**

Tricia Wagner, Secretary **Pam Wolford**

Peggy Been **Sean Wolfe**

Jeff Gross **Ronda Graff**, Coordinator

Dale Dueland

1954 MCCOOK GRAD LEAVES \$5 MILLION LEGACY FOR MCCOOK NONPROFITS

By Michael Wunder
NCF

James Lee, a 1954 McCook High School Graduate, didn't live in McCook when he passed away in early 2023, but that didn't mean he had forgotten his hometown.

Over the years, Lee stayed connected to his hometown, by regularly giving anonymous donations to many organizations in McCook and Southwest Nebraska. He was a generous man who kept to himself while going above and beyond for the place he loved.

And that generosity continued after Lee's passing in January 2023 in Hastings, when he left a happy surprise - a \$5 million surprise - for several McCook organizations.

Among the organizations benefiting from James Lee's gift are McCook Community Foundation Fund (MCFF), the McCook YMCA, the McCook Community Hospital Health Foundation, the McCook Educational Foundation and Overland Trails Council - Boy Scouts of America. He led an unassuming life in McCook and was living in Hastings at the time of his death. The longtime electrical engineer told Jim Gustafson, a Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) gift planning advisor, that he wished he could see the look on recipients' faces when they heard the news.

"Most people in McCook probably didn't know Jim Lee," Gustafson said. "He always talked about how they would be scratching their heads when they found out about his gift."

Lee was born in McCook in 1936, graduated from McCook High School and went on to obtain a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

YMCA CEO Mitch Gross believes Lee's gift to the YMCA will allow for more opportunities for kids, their families, and the community.

"This is certainly a transformational gift for us," he said. "Our board, our finance committee, our staff will be 100% good stewards of this gift and that it gets used in the most meaningful impactful manner

possible."

Lee's gift to the hospital foundation is a testament to his dedication to the community and his continued wellbeing, said Executive Director Jessica Bortner.

"Many times, they say that these planned gifts are where people's values and beliefs line up," Bortner said. "What a huge gift back to the community that he knew raised him, built him, and set him off to do the great wonderful things that he's done."

McCook Community Foundation Fund members are embracing the potential of the gift, which will undoubtedly have a huge impact on their work. Though all the details haven't been decided, they know the gift is an example of the power of planned giving to support the places we love.

"I think it speaks to the true nature of rural living," said MCFF Chair Cindy Huff. "There is something about living in Nebraska that makes you proud."

The Fund will extol Lee's story in their efforts to encourage area residents to consider giving back to Red Willow County. Statewide, more than \$100 billion will transfer in the next 10 years - through the next 50 years, that number jumps to \$950 billion. In Red Willow County alone, \$608 million is expected to transfer in the next decade. Just 5% of that - \$30 million - could make a huge difference in the county's future.

"A lot of people are just like Jim Lee," Gustafson said. "They want to keep it quiet. But, on the other hand, by doing this Jim was really adopting McCook, the hospital, and the YMCA and the other organizations as his family. That's truly what he did. He elevated them all to the status of family members."



MCFF'S SEHNERT CHALLENGE FUNDING MCCOOK'S GROWING ARTS AND CULTURE SCENE



By RONDA GRAFF
MCFF

McCOOK

- In early 2022, the movie "Called to the Walls" played at the Fox Theater in McCook, bringing the concept of a community mural project to the big screen. Created by Amber Hansen and Nicholas Ward, the film documents the process of creating community-based murals with muralist Dave Loewenstein and the Mid-America Mural Project.

Just a year later, McCook's first community mural was fully realized on the downtown wall at West First and C Streets.

Nearly a half-block in length and one to one-half stories tall, the McCook Mural uses dozens of colorful, visually-striking images to tell the story of the community from various viewpoints. Both professional and volunteer artists spent the three weeks bringing those images to life on the wall.

But the McCook Mural project is truly a community project.

The mural project involved dozens of citizens sharing their ideas about what should - and what shouldn't - be included in the mural. Listening and planning sessions have been held over the past year to create a mural that was both artistic and told a story. Plans are underway to provide information digitally about specific items in the mural.

The mural project involved dozens of

donors,

both financial and in-kind, all seeing the vision before it was even complete but willing to put their funds toward the project. Along with a grant from the McCook Community Foundation Fund, donors included the Kimmel Foundation, the Nebraska Arts Council, the Graff Charitable Foundation, Community Hospital, the McCook Arts Council, and Frenchman Valley Coop.

And the mural project involved more than 100 community members picking up a paint brush and leaving their mark - or more appropriately their brush stroke - on the 2023 McCook Mural. Artists ranged from local youth groups to workers at the SWATS program to those who just showed up at the community paint-in.

Those volunteers were led by the "Called to the Walls" creator Amber Hansen, along with Darcy Millette. They were joined by local assistant artists Wes McCollam and Karrie Steely and apprentice artists Elizabeth Aguirre, Maria Lopez Campos and Asher Long. Other local artists lent their talent including Deonne Hinze, Deb Goodenberger and Lucas Kotschwar.

Hansen said the community turn-out is the most she has seen on any of her projects.

While the McCook Mural is now



complete, the community mural project is not over. Along with creating the mural, the project was also designed for local artists to work alongside the professional muralists, learning about the process and how to make the mural happen. And then those local artists take that knowledge and bring more murals to fruition. So don't be surprised to see more and more walls in McCook and Southwest Nebraska turning into beautiful murals to tell our stories and simply make our communities brighter, more colorful places to be.



Thanks to the community's generosity during the Sehnert Challenge, funds are now available to help grow arts and culture throughout the community. In just 2023, arts funding helping bring the MerryMakers to all three senior living sites in McCook, funded a summer arts program at the ArtBank for local youth, brought the Sheldon Art Museum's traveling exhibit for area students...to name just a few events and projects. McCook was also officially designated a Nebraska Creative District by the Nebraska Arts Council, bringing even more opportunities to Southwest Nebraska. And McCook completed a major mural project which brought together hundreds of community members to bring it to life.





A



B



C



D



E



F

IN APPRECIATION OF DONORS

Community Foundation	Dr. Jerry Willis	Cappel Sales
able Foundation	In Memoriam	Dale & Glenda Ellerton
Wellness Initiative	Hinze Chiropractic	Steve & Kim Butler
practic	my	Steve & Marilyn Hunter
son		Doak Construction
		Ed & Susie Townsley
		Randy & Shirley Ryser
		Mike & Roxie Roth
		Yolo & Geri Burns
		McCook Rotary Club #1494
		McCook Clinic
		Agner Auto Group
		Jinda Clark
		D & S Hardware
		McCook Lettering



G

2023 MCFF GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

THE GRANTS INCLUDED:

- (A) MCFF Graduation Gifts to 2023 MHS Seniors:**
 Once again, MCFF provides gifts to the McCook High School seniors, along with the message that we would like for them to return to their hometown.
- (B&F) Pickleball Continues to Grow in McCook:**
 MCFF helped the local pickleball community celebrate the new pickleball courts at Russell Park in 2023, including a matching grant to improve and expand the courts.
- (C) Southwest Nebraska Big Give:**
 Dr. Bill Graves and Randy Dean accept a donation from Charlie Coleman during the 2023 Big Give. Now in its 8th year, Southwest Nebraska Big Give on Nov. 2 reached record levels, raising nearly \$280,000 for 38 area non-profit organizations. MCFF is part of the Big Give and serves as the host for Community Chest, which organizes the event.
- (D) “Reality Check” Brings Reality to Junior High Students:**
 Charlie McPherson works with students to balance their checkbook after they visited the other financial stations such as utilities, cell phone, and housing. MCFF provided a grant to help students get a dose of reality about how finances are part of their everyday lives.
- (E) Beautify McCook Bringing Color Downtown:**
 Gary Wiemers waters planters along Norris Avenue throughout the summer. Volunteers raised funds, including a grant from MCFF, to place planters downtown, as well as install Christmas lights on the downtown McCook skyline and in Norris Park.
- (G) Safety Equipment for Habitat for Humanity:**
 Volunteers work on the 2023 Habitat for Humanity house in McCook. MCFF provided a grant to the organization to purchase safety equipment when workers are installing the roofs on the houses.

Dozens from McCook Attend NCF Training Banquet:
 Nearly 40 McCook community members took part in the Nebraska Community Foundation’s annual training and banquet, held in Kearney in November 2023. They returned to McCook with ideas, connections and inspiration.



MCCOOK HOST TO CANADIAN AND URBAN/RURAL VISITORS IN 2023

By **JEFF YOST**
Nebraska Community Foundation

One of the best parts of my role at Nebraska Community Foundation is listening to our NCF affiliated fund volunteers speak about their communities with pride. These local leaders invest so much time, treasure and talent into their hometowns and often go unsung. So, when an opportunity arises to showcase their success, we rarely turn it down. Such was the case in September, when a group of 17 visitors from Canada toured Nebraska to witness the progress small towns can make when residents are encouraged to bring their talents to the table and create something special. Over the course of four short days, our guests crossed the state east to west and visited communities where committed volunteers have built places brimming with pride.

The travelers represented the Gros Morne Institute for Sustainable Tourism (GMIST), a non-governmental organization located in Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland and Labrador. The cohort visited Nebraska to learn from NCF volunteers, focused on supporting quality, sustainable tourism experiences across Canada. Specifically, they were interested in seeing places where asset-based community development (ABCD) led to completely reimagining the status quo.

At Nebraska Community Foundation, we live and breathe ABCD. It focuses on identifying local abundance instead of scarcity, then

strengthening those existing assets instead of endlessly fixating on needs. Before deciding to visit Nebraska, GMIST sought guidance from ABCD scholars and proponents around the world. They reached out to experts in North America, Europe and Australia to narrow down where they should go to learn more about ABCD. All of these ABCD contacts kept pointing them to Nebraska and Nebraska Community Foundation. What a tremendous endorsement for our network! The bus tour took our guests (and NCF staff, board members, and volunteers) to Shickley, Red Cloud, McCook, Ogallala, Halsey, Taylor, Ord and Albion. In that kaleidoscopic array of Nebraska hometowns, they witnessed everything that makes our network unique among community foundations. They toured state-of-the-art early childhood education centers; heritage tourism landmarks; vibrant local businesses; historic main streets; community buildings and event centers; and superb restaurants. At every stop, local volunteers and leaders beamed with pride when describing their community's success. Their love for their

places was palpable, as was their excitement and optimism for the future. You could see that enthusiasm transfer to the Canadian visitors, the inspiration illuminating their eyes like lightbulbs materializing over their heads.

Jonathan Foster, GMIST's executive director, said the tour helped his group understand they also have what they need in their own communities to build a more resilient future.

"We're the ones who are going to be our own saviors," Foster said. "We're the ones who are going to commit. We're going to help our community. We're going to do what is needed."

Those are inspiring words, inspired by Nebraskans. Also inspiring is this GMIST mantra: a great place to live is a great place to visit. I couldn't agree more!

This is a sea change in the world of tourism, which is notoriously extractive and seldom benefits residents as much as we'd like to see. Together, organizations such as Nebraska Community Foundation and GMIST are working to change how we view and practice tourism and economic development. By focusing on quality-of-life improvements for residents, we create magnetic places—and those places become communities people want to visit for themselves.

I'm immensely proud of our network's accomplishments and even more proud of the volunteers who made them happen. Their energy is the fuel that's brought Nebraska Community Foundation terrific success, and it's those dedicated Nebraskans who will lead our state into its next era of prosperity.



NCF staff, MCFF members & Canadian visitors in Norris Alley

Visitors from North Omaha stopped by High Plains Museum as part of Urban/Rural tour to build relationships



MORE UPS THAN DOWNS IN YOUTH GROUP

As I enter my senior year at McCook High School, being a member of Youth Change Reaction has truly been a privilege and a one-of-a-kind experience. As a freshman, I applied for YCR because I knew upper-classmen who were a part of the McCook Community Foundation Fund's youth organization and they shared their great experiences. I have had a passion for community service since joining the Driftwood Feeders 4-H club as a kid and I wanted to expand my involvement in the community.

Being a part of YCR has not only helped me immensely with my leadership skills but the group has also given me the opportunity to develop public speaking skills at a young age. When I started high school, I was terrified of public speaking and in fact, really anything that involved talking to adults.

As a freshman, I would go to MCFF monthly meetings, feeling so anxious and afraid that I would not know what to say. However, I quickly realized that the adults in that meeting room and in this community want our youth to succeed.

Additionally, YCR has given me the opportunity to express the voice I didn't even know I had. Last year, I was given the opportunity to speak at the Nebraska Community Foundation's annual training event in front of a room full of adults from across the state. Although I was nervous, I was able to complete my speech with ease because of the support I received and the confidence that I had established in my public speaking.

Although I have had plenty of good experiences with YCR, I have had my share of complex challenges. When we were in the process of getting the parts needed to complete the Cars Under the Stars drive-in theater project, I faced great difficulty trying to get a screen ordered from a reputable sign company...a struggle I dealt with for the first half of my junior year.

I felt embarrassed. I felt like I was letting my community down because I was not able to accomplish this goal within the timeframe we had promised. I expressed my feelings to Mrs. Shelly Sehnert (our YCR school sponsor) and Ronda Graff (MCFF coordinator).



Since this summer marked my family's 10-year anniversary in McCook, I figured it was a good time to reflect on my time here. When I moved here in the summer of 2013, I knew this was the place that we were supposed to be, but it wasn't the place I wanted to be. My heart was set on someplace bigger, more metropolitan, with a Trader Joe's, Indian Food, and a place to drink a cup of coffee and get some Wi-Fi at 9 p.m. Needless to say, the first two years were rough.

I spent a lot of time feeling stuck, thinking about all of the reasons McCook was even worse than I expected. Anytime I happened upon a gripe session, I was quick to pile on. I was biding my time, waiting for a chance to go somewhere, anywhere, that wasn't here.

In the summer of 2015, I heard Chuck Schroeder of the Nebraska Rural Futures Institute talking about Broken Bow, about how it was one of the best kept secrets in rural Nebraska.

I grew up in Broken Bow. It was no secret to me that there was a fate worse than living in McCook - and that was living in Broken Bow.

Schroeder explained that Broken Bow had changed significantly in recent years. There had been a movement of community transformation in Broken Bow that had started with a group of young residents who made a pact to only talk about how amazing Broken Bow is. Before long people started to believe it. People started investing, volunteering, participating. Before long, things started to change.

And with their help, we were able to get a new screen ordered, other parts made and the drive-in should be up within the next few months, hopefully in time for a spring show.

Overcoming this obstacle was challenging, but it taught me a lot. It gave me a glimpse into the "real world" and showed me how difficult it can be to accomplish a big project like a drive-in. I am grateful to have spent my high school years as a part of such a wonderful organization and group of people, including my fellow YCR members.

Being a member of Youth Change Reaction has helped me in more ways than I could have ever imagined and has made a large impact on the person I am today.

By being listened to, by being heard and by being involved in the community, I realized that McCook really is a good place to call home.

Abigail Boner is a four year member of YCR and serves as Co-President.

Every week, MCFF had an editorial in the McCook Gazette, under the title "Community Connection Column." The column also appears on the MCFF website as well as on social media. The topics vary but always focus on "community." Every Fund Advisory Committee (FAC) member is asked to write a column at least once a year, which has resulted in thought-provoking, inspiring and forward thinking essays.

CHANGE OF THINKING CAN CHANGE VIEW OF COMMUNITY



I did a little research and found that it was true: Broken Bow is different and still changing.

Now I was faced with a real crisis of belief. Maybe Broken Bow wasn't the problem. Maybe McCook wasn't the problem. Maybe I was the problem, and maybe I had been all along.

For two years, I had looked for reasons to be disappointed, frustrated, discontent, and even angry about living in McCook. And at every turn I found what I was looking for. The more negativity I found, the more I looked for. The more I griped, the more I found. Over and over again.

As a result, I was miserable, frustrated, and quickly growing bitter and resentful about the place I call home. Something had to change, and I knew that something was me.

Change is never easy and I think there is something about living in Southwest Nebraska that makes change even more painful, but sometimes change is necessary. I prayed and asked God to help me see my situation differently. Slowly but surely the bitterness began to recede and eventually it was replaced by joy and even pride.

I'm always trying to get my friends from Lincoln and Omaha to come out for a visit.

This summer a Lincoln friend finally took me up on my offer. He and his family came for three days and stayed at the Garret House on Norris Avenue. They sat on the porch in the evenings and marveled at how beautiful it is here. They made friends with the neighbors. They visited Nebraska's only James Beard award-winning restaurant. They had fantastic Italian food, and ordered some of the best burgers in Nebraska from a phone at their booth. They stopped and spent time admiring the beautiful downtown mural. They went on a tour of the Keystone and caught the art installation on the 6th floor.

Every time I made a recommendation or sent them somewhere, I was so excited. I knew they were going to have an amazing experience and meet kind, wonderful, and thoughtful people. They were blown away by McCook. He called me the other day to tell me he's going to come back for a few days or maybe a week this fall, "because there's just something about this place." I know what he means. I found it too - once I finally decided to look.

Kyle Dellevoet is pastor at McCook Christian Church and in his second year as a fund advisory committee member.

IN 2023 MCFF RECOGNIZED WITH COMMUNITY HONORS, CELEBRATED IMPACTFUL GRANTS



By Shary Skiles
McCook Gazette

McCOOK, Neb. – Making Southwest Nebraska better is one of the goals of the McCook Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee. By bringing people and resources together to collaborate and dream big, MCFF has been accomplishing that goal for the past 22 years.

The McCook Chamber chose McCook Community Foundation Fund as its 2023 first-quarter Honor Business. Chamber President Molly Smith told committee members that the chamber wanted to recognize the importance MCFF plays in the community by providing financial and leadership support for so many projects. Since its formation in 2001, MCFF has directly granted more than \$600,000 to community organizations, benefiting youth programs, services to the elderly, education, cultural activities, and many large and small community projects. MCFF committee member Cynthia Huff graciously gave credit for MCFF's accomplishments to community members. "None of the work that we do, which is energizing and exciting work that we get to do, would happen without people like you being partners," Huff told the gathering at Friday



morning's presentation. "Our donors are fabulous and believe in this community, and all the organizations we have that make this community a better place to call home are making this community better. We're all here together so thank you."

As part of the award presentation, MCFF met at the McCook Junior High School so they could observe one of their latest grants to the McCook Public School system, a CNC router. MCFF committee member and McCook Public School Business Manager Jeff Gross said that MCFF has been encouraging the school system to think outside the box and dream creatively about things that would enrich MPS students' experiences in the school system. He said instructors Tom Sughroue and Tyler Jedlicki in the Industrial Technology Department

came up with the idea of purchasing the CNC (computer numerical control) router for the department. Gross said the total cost of the project was about \$44,000, with MCFF donating half of that cost.

The apparatus will cut wood, plastic, and aluminum. The machine is operated by a computer program that controls the movement of the cutting tool and can be used to create intricate designs and shapes in materials that would be difficult to achieve with traditional hand tools. It is capable of cutting, drilling, engraving, and shaping with great precision and accuracy.

Gross told the gathering that McCook Public Schools has greatly benefited from the generosity of MCFF through the years, citing grants for Bison Days and Bison Kid's Club as examples.



Among other awards during 2023, Community Chest was recognized at the Chamber's Annual Banquet with the Community Service Award. As a sub-account of MCFF, the McCook Community Chest oversees the Southwest Nebraska Big Give which has raised more than \$1.5 million for area non-profit organizations over the past eight years. Co-chairs Melissa Stritt and Lisa Felker received the award from Chamber board president Lori Beebe.



Fund Advisory Committee member Pam Wolford and her husband, Greg, were named the 2023 Heritage Days Honor Family during the Heritage Days mixer at MNB Bank



Jackson Dellevoet, one of the newest members of Youth Change Reaction, was named a 2023 Heritage Days Royalty member. He was joined by his sister, Angela and their mother, Jody Dellevoet, at the Heritage Days mixer.



MCFF Advisory Committee member Jeff Gross received the 2023 Chamber Community Builder Award during the annual banquet.

MCFF ENDOWMENTS CONTINUE TO GROW THANKS TO COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

By **GAVIN HARSH**
MCFF Treasurer

As another year comes to an end, the McCook Community Foundation Fund has been beyond blessed by the generosity of our donors. Reflecting where everything started a little more than 20 years ago, it is simply amazing what MCFF has achieved over the past two decades. The journey has included so many who have seen the vision of MCFF and shown their support, including Andy and Geri Anderson followed by challenge grants of Don and Alice Harpst, the Sherwood Foundation, Arvene and Neva Myers and most recently, the Walt and Jean Sehnert Challenge, which all helped the MCFF endowment grow by \$2.72 million. The generosity has not stopped, and in many ways, we are just gaining momentum.

In just the past three years, donors have gifted more than \$1.6 million to MCFF, from both living donors who want to see their gifts in action during their lifetime as well as through planned gifts by those who have passed. Through all of our gracious donors, our endowment is at record capacity, generating an annual granting capacity of nearly \$200,000/year to make Southwest Nebraska the best place to call home.

As we look to the future, we have large goals to reach. According to the Nebraska Community Foundation's transfer of wealth study, Red Willow County will transfer more than \$600 million dollars to the next generation by 2030. Following their work, the "5 To Thrive" campaign can and will have an everlasting impact on our community. As part of "5 to Thrive," everyone is encouraged to leave just 5 percent of their assets to a charity of their choice in their hometown.

As MCFF promotes "5 To Thrive," our goal is to grow MCFF's endowment to \$10 million by 2030. Flash forward another 10 years to 2040, we put another lofty goal to reach \$30 million. To reach these goals, we encourage as many as possible to be intentional in making a planned gift.

Currently, MCFF has 18 planned gifts and many more are in the works, so we believe the future of the fund is bright. We extend a massive thank-you to our past donors as well as our future donors, all who believe in the work we are doing at MCFF.



2023

MCFF GRANTS:

- **MCFF Celebrate McCook**
Beautify McCook, downtown planters
- **McCook Public Schools/CASA**
Reality Checks Program
- **Red Willow Co. Health Department**
Vaccine Freezer
- **Habitat for Humanity**
Volunteer Safety Equipment
- **Community Chest**
Southwest Nebraska Big Give
- **MCFF Summer Hometown Internship**
- **McCook Arts Council**
Merrymakers, Buffalo Commons, Summer Youth Arts
- **6th Floor Project**
Keystone 6th Floor Youth Docents
- **McCook YMCA**
STEAM/Makerspace
- **McCook Arts Council**
To Be Determined-Creative District
- **McCook Public Schools**
Bison Days
- **McCook College Foundation**
Nurse Aid Tuition Assistance
- **High Plains Historical Society**
~High Plains Museum Sound System
- **Community Kitchen**
Day of the Dead Celebration
- **Humane Society**
Building Renovations





McCook Community Foundation Fund honors those who have made an indelible mark on our lives and in our communities. MCFF recognizes donations made “in honor of” someone who has passed away, “in honor of” someone who is doing great work in our community, and to highlight those making “community connections” to make McCook an even greater place to call home.

Donations given in 2022-2023 on behalf of the following:

In Memory Of

Patricia (Dugger) Battreal
Margaret (Peggy Decker) Bell
Owen Beneda
Harold Bennett
Tony Lee Bennett
Delbert Blake
Linda P. Bonar
Don Brandt
Donna Brewster
Loren Brown
Suzie Burton
Evelyn “Evie” Caldwell
Mike Carr
Norma Jean Cochran
Ron and Sharon Crowe
Lori Pearson Dack
Charles DeHarty
Sharon Deon
Glenice Lorraine (Gaibler) Discoe
Dave Dunham
Terry and Mary Ellinger
Owen Elmer
Vernon Esch
Eric Fisher
Doris Ford
Cameron Foster
Val Fuller
Rod Gaston
Karen A. Gilliland
Zelpha Golding
Donna Lynne Grafel
Henry Guerrero
David R. Haller
Suzanne Harland
Travis Harsh
John Havens

Marguerite Henn
Phyllis Jacobs
Bud Keenportz
Jeff Kehr
Vaughn W. King
Marvin & Ruth Klooz
Jim Lee
Lois Ann Lepper
Bill Loescher
Judith (Haag) Loghry
Marv & Dixie Lorentz
Scott Joseph Malleck
Sandra Maris
Barbara (Minary) Masur
Stacey Dawn Matson
Stella Rose McConnell
Roger Messinger
Burton “Butch” Mires
Angela “Angie” Ranie Mockry
Julie Ann Mockry
Anna Montey
Nona Mullen
Arvene and Neva Myers
John Kent Nothnagel
Densel O’Dea
Tor Olson
Angie (Clark) Plummer
Monte Richard Rogers
Bonnie Ilene Rowan
Donna Ruppert
Dennis G. Schoup
Walt and Jean Sehnert
Kathy Shaff
Elaine M. Snockson
Les Snowden
Norma Stewart
Ardith Stute

Andrew Sughroue
Warner Lee Teel
George Judson Tiller
Lois Tiller
Eileen Unger
Connie (Remington) Walter
Ray Walter
Dean Weskamp
Tom Weskamp
Steve Wilcox
Dewayne Wilmont
Siegi Wilmont
Carla A. Winters
Diane Yenny

In Honor Of

Tom & Nancy Buresh
Mike & Linda Nielsen

Community Connectors

Don Harpst
Mark Wilcox

