



### 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

### KCFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Want to receive KCFF newsletters and information by email? Send your email information to info@keithcountyfoundation.org

### Message From Our CHAIRWOMAN



Angie Kolste, KCFF Chair

Greetings to our Keith County Friends and Neighbors,

As the year comes to an end, I look back with a smile on all the good that is happening in Keith County! Keith Countians are philanthropic people and have built an enormous legacy endowment. I will be forever grateful to the group that saw the importance of establishing a lasting endowment and worked to create this legacy.

In a recent conversation, I was asked, "Doesn't the foundation have enough money?" I must admit, the question gave me pause, but I then realized, there will never be enough money!

In February 2023, Keith County learned that the ambulance service for our area would cease to operate on October 17, 2023. City and county officials, fire department personnel and concerned citizens worked to ensure ambulance service would continue in our community. At their request, and guided by KCFF's mission and vision statements, our Fund Advisory Committee was able to assist in purchasing two ambulances for our community. The fact that KCFF has a legacy endowment means we have been able to make impactful, transformative grants such as this.

Situations like this will continue to present themselves. We know there will be needs, but when, what, and where are impossible to predict. Keith County is in the midst of an enormous transfer of wealth. Over the next 10 years, \$565 million will transfer from one generation to the next. If the heirs do not reside in the county, the wealth leaves and is gone forever. If we left 5% of our estates to our local church, school foundation, or community foundation, \$28 million could be garnered to remain in Keith County, forever.

If you have lived here or worked here, you are part of the community's past and present. If you are considering a donation to the endowment fund, in addition to creating a lasting legacy for your community, you will also receive tax benefits in the year the gift is made. Thank you to everyone who has donated or is considering a donation to the legacy endowment. Each and every contribution assists in driving positive change in Keith County! A gift to the legacy endowment is a gift that will impact Keith County forever!

Angie Kolste | KCFF Chair

### **Beverly Pollock, KCFF Pioneer**

Beverly Pollock, one of the pioneer members of what is now Keith County Foundation Fund, passed away March 23, 2023, at the age of 86. According to her obituary, "She often said she was most energized and gratified by her service on the board of directors of the Nebraska Community Foundation and on the board of the Keith County Foundation Fund."

Pollock played a significant role in transitioning the Keith County Community Foundation, now KCFF, to affiliate with NCF. Her work and the work of early KCFF volunteers provided the vision and laid the groundwork to establish the forever gift of an unrestricted endowment.

Pollock's name is found frequently in the earliest minutes of

KCFF. She was accomplished, involved, and dedicated, serving on a variety of local and statewide organizations. She was a charter Nebraska Women Journalists Hall of Fame member and a longtime co-publisher of the Keith County News, along with her husband Jack. Professionally she was the recipient of many awards and honors. We are eternally grateful for her contributions.



Beverly Pollock Photo courtesy of the Pollock family

# Investing In

### The Keith County Big Give **Making Dreams Come True**

Encouraging charitable donations, donations that will stay in Keith County, is the fundamental element of the Keith County Big Give. By design the event is meant to empower local charitable organizations to dream big. KC Big Give provides a means to promote those dreams and raise funds to make those dreams a reality, dreams that will improve the lives of Keith County residents.

After only three years, the concept behind the KC Big Give has been widely recognized and embraced by Keith County residents. The event, which takes place June 1 through June 15 each year, has grown and expanded. This year 39 charitable and nonprofit organizations took part with more than \$262,000 being distributed to those groups, \$50,000 more than was distributed in 2022. To put this in perspective, think how many bake sales and car washes it would take to raise \$50,000.

Keith County Foundation Fund provides matching funds which give an additional boost to participating organizations. Donors also recognize that by giving during the event, their donations are multiplied by the matching funds. In 2023, the use of matching funds meant the value of each dollar donated was increased by about 31 cents, thus leveraging donors' gifts, and helping to bring project dreams closer to reality. KCFF is a proud supporter of the event, investing in the project each year with a matching funds donation. Initially KCFF gave \$40,000 in matching funds; in 2023 the KCFF donation was increased to \$60,000. The response was positive, motivating other donors to make challenges and contribute funds. As a result, an additional \$3,500 was added to the available matching funds for a total of \$63,500.

Asset Based Community Development is a key philosophy of KCFF. That philosophy says that we should invest in the assets that our community already has, assets like committed, project-driven nonprofit organizations. The Keith County Big Give does just that and more. The KC Big Give makes sure donation dollars stay right here in our communities and big dreams come true.

### **KCFF Focus on First Impressions**

In 2020, members of Keith County came together and shared their vision for Keith County. Residents identified First Impressions or "Curb Appeal" as a top priority to improve the appeal of our communities. During the past two years, Keith County Foundation Fund partnered with Keith County Area Development (KCAD) and local stakeholders to bring this vision to life. In 2023, KCFF invested \$50,000 into the project, fulfilling the second of a three-year commitment.

Work on the Keith County First Impressions project, which is now entering its third and final year, includes multiple mural projects, lush flower baskets and planters in downtown areas, cohesive branding and wayfinding, and the improvement of county-wide public green

spaces. The results can be seen and enjoyed in Ogallala, Paxton, and Brule.

Earlier this year, the second mural project was installed in Brule. Breanna Benton, a local artist and muralist, designed and installed her mural in Barton Park. The painting is called, "Ode to Brule." A team from PBS captured Benton as she brought her design



Barton Park Mural, Brule, NE

to life. The program is expected to air in March 2024.

### Keith County Residents Won't Lose **Ambulance Service**



KCFF check presentation

Keith County Foundation Fund presented a check for \$154,990 to Keith County and the City of Ogallala for the



Keith County Emergency Medical Service vehicle with KCFF logo

purchase of two emergency vehicles. The vehicles will be used at the newly formed Keith County Emergency Medical Services. Regional West previously provided ambulance service to Keith County. The city and county were notified that their service would end October 17, 2023. KCFF is happy to have contributed to the collaborative effort to make sure all Keith County residents will continue to have this vital service.

### **KCFF Focus on Early Childhood Continues**

A community is only as healthy and strong as its youngest members.

been used in a variety of ways to address the subject. From scholarships for students interested in studying early childhood education The Keith County Foundation Fund advisory committee supports this to investing in the C4K entity so impactful work continues, to the sentiment, and with community input from the 2019 visioning sespurchase of an activities trailer stocked with science, technology, sions, retains early childhood education and quality childcare as a engineering and math (STEM) kits that can be utilized at commumajor focus area. nity events and by childcare providers, preschools, and parochial schools, Kemp said the foundation's investment is significant. "KCFF has been an incredible asset to C4K as well as a great partner,"

While two separate and important topics, the areas are immensely intertwined, High Plains Early Learning Connection Coordinator Cheryl Roche said. Both high quality childcare and the access to Kemp said. "We can dream big." quality early childhood education opportunities can prepare children for future success.



"Ninety percent of development brain occurs before a child is 5," Roche said

During the last three years, a group of volunteers - including several KCFF members - partnered with Keith County Communities for Kids (C4K)

Keith County Area Development Executive Director Mary Wilson to brainstorm ways Keith County C4K Community Block Party said access to early childhood education and quality childcare is to address the issues impactful, most importantly for children, but also the community as of early childhood education and quality childcare. C4K took the a whole. lead on a 2021 market analysis to determine the community needs.

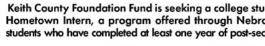
"The future of our community is our youth, which means taking care "One of the biggest issues that came up from the survey was the of our kiddos is essential," Wilson said. lack of options available," C4K coordinator Laura Kemp said.

Every child and every family should have the ability to thrive in the While survey results showed an overwhelming majority of responcommunities in which they live, Wilson said. dents did not know what constituted a high-quality childcare pro-"So, it is vital that our community focus on our small children in or-

gram, more than 90 percent deemed it important that high quality childcare exist in the community. der to help provide lasting impacts for success later in life, and an opportunity for growth in our community," Wilson said. "This in-"Parents also wanted their children to be in a learning environcreased effort will also allow an increase in workforce population, ment," Kemp said, adding this factor topped all qualities, including which can have a lasting positive effect on the local and regional cost and trust. economy."

During the last few years, the foundation committed funds that have

### KCFF is Now Accepting Applications for Our 2024 Hometown Intern Position





# **Keith County**

Meaningful programming also has renewed a public focus on and learning opportunities related to early childhood education and quality childcare throughout the county. Educating the public on what early childhood education encompasses and how to define quality childcare continues as one of Kemp's main tasks. Again,

KCFF funding has helped expand avenues to reach parents and the community with this information, including a texting platform, increased social media presence and increased participation in community events.

"The awareness for the importance of quality early childcare and education is crucial not only for families but for the economic growth of Keith County," Kemp said.

Keith County Foundation Fund is seeking a college student to serve as our HOMETOWN INTERN for the summer of 2024. Hometown Intern, a program offered through Nebraska Community Foundation, is a paid position for current college students who have completed at least one year of post-secondary education and who will return to their hometown for the summer.

Go to keithcountyfoundation.org/hometown-internship to apply

## **KEITH COUNTY FOUNDATION FUND**

### **INVESTMENTS IN KEITH COUNTY** JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

Guided by the KCFF vision and mission statement, the KCFF FAC strives to make significant, sustainable, and transformational grants

Youth Inspired Philanthropy	\$5,603
Future Library Replacement Fund	.\$10,000
Big Give Matching Funds	.\$60,000
Keith County Housing	.\$35,000
Keith County First Impressions	.\$50,000
Esu 16 Grant/KCC4K	.\$29,520
Friends of Kenfield Petrified Wood Gallery	\$5,794
Lemoyne Senior Center	\$3,000
Front Street Cowboy Museum	\$3,000
Trails West CASA	\$2,700
Early Childhood Development*\$	300,000

Total Investments.....\$504,617

### THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING A GIFT TO KCFF

A Gift to our Legacy Unrestricted Endowment is a FOREVER GIFT



# Investing In

### Listening to Our Youth

During the past four years, Nebraska Community Foundation has surveyed more than 3,700 Nebraska students to learn what is important to them and discover what it will take to create hometowns where they will want to build their lives. This year, KCFF sponsored the NCF youth survey for our Keith County students. Students from Ogallala High School and Paxton High School answered questions in April with follow-up sessions in October. Results were included in the 2023 NCF Greater Nebraska survey, providing a valuable learning tool to engage, understand, and include younger voices in community decisions.

Results from Keith County were similar to statewide results. Students still prefer small towns, a majority would like to live near the area

they currently live in, and they want to feel safe. The top three most important factors in their ideal community continue to be safety, good schools, and proximity to family.

Our greatest asset is our people. These young people represent our future. We want to hear



Follow-Up to the KCFF Keith County Youth Survey, Oct. 2023

and building relationships, we hope they will understand that we view them as partners. We

want them to know they belong. According to Jeff Yost, president and CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation, "We believe these

youth survey results

them. We want to understand them. And we want them right here in Keith County. By engaging these young people, working with them instead of for them,



Angie Kolste , KCFF and Kara Asmus, NCF

are a critical tool for understanding the priorities, values and desires of young Nebraskans and that they can help us create the kinds of communities of choice our young people want to return to."

To find out more about the NCF Greater Nebraska Youth Survey and Keith County's results go to keithcountyfoundation.org/youthsurvey.



## **Our Future**

### Youth Inspired Philanthropy Inspiring Our Youth to Dream

Providing shade for the animal shelter, reading to young kids, leaving colorful rocks to brighten someone's day, making sure every new middle school student has a welcome bag, these are the kind of projects completed during the third year of KCFF's Youth Inspired Philanthropy program. Seven groups celebrated the successful completion of projects November 5, 2023, by completing a final report, presenting information on the ups-and-downs of their projects, and enjoying pizza with friends and family.

Program coordinators, Mary Jensen and Barb Jeffres led the celebration, with an introduction by Angie Kolste, Keith County Foundation Fund Chair. The program inspires youth to dream up projects that will benefit Keith County, and to plan, implement, and report about the difficulties and the successes of the projects. Many of this year's participants reported they are already dreaming of what can be done next year and that they would definitely tell anyone who is considering a project next year to start planning now.



### **KEITH COUNTY FOUNDATION FUND**

### FUNDS STATEMENT JUNE 30, 2023

General Fund <b>\$107,233</b>
Scholarships <b>\$ 178,317</b>
Ogallala Library <b>\$298,735</b>
FAC Endowed <b>\$9,166,644</b>
Paxton Library Fund \$12,905
Brule Cemetery Fund <b>\$10,974</b>
Ogallala Arts Endowment <b>\$5,794</b>
Legacy Account <b>\$1,975,106</b>
Holzfaster Board Endowment <b>\$39,811</b>
Berryman Education Acct <b>\$208,924</b>
Big Give\$110,781
Payout Account
Ken Schimonitz <b>\$252,208</b>
Kathleen Lute Public Library Replacement <b>\$274,156</b>
Aimee J Haley-Holzfaster
Memorial Term End \$104,602
Set Asside Account <b>\$545,185</b>

Total ...... \$13,357,450

### Lifetime Legacy Endowment Donors since 2003

### Platinum (\$25,000 or More)

Abbott, Mike & Pam Adams Bank & Trust Anonymous Anderson, Clark & Eileen Margaret A. Boesiger Living Trust Callen, Larry & Mary Lynn Draucker Funeral Home Draucker, Jerry & Barbara Dudden, Dick & Joan Joan M. Dudden Charitable Trust Duhachek, Eric Holzfaster Farms Holzfaster, Ralph & Beverly Johnson, Terry & Gwen Keith Co. News/Leaacy Challengers 2003 Lockhart, Kevin & Elise Peter Kiewit Foundation Pinnacle Bank, Ogallala Pollock, Jack & Beverly Prophet Systems Innovations -Kevin Lockhart Kenneth F. Schimonitz Gift Thalken, Jim & Peg Western Prairie Hospice

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> Memorials and Gifts to **Our Legacy** Contributions and Memorials received from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

In Memory of Steve Johnson Ken & Christine Snyder Big Give In Memory of Maxine Kolste

Drew & Shirai Armstrona General Account

In Memory of Peggy Lawler Ken & Christine Snyder General Account

#### In Memory of Pete Peters Mr. & Mrs. Gene Holscher General Account

#### In Memory of Beverly Pollock

Michael & Pam Abbott Jana Jensen Maxine Moul Mary Pierce **Unrestricted Endowment** Cindy and David Arterburn Larry Callen Geraldine Crook Gary & Susan Gieschen Trust Carl (Cliff) & Ruth Hermance The Keith County News Bart & Angie Kolste Michael & Tonya Mayer Michael & Shelly McQuillan Ron & Judith Parks Bill & Karen Peterson Pete & Jonnie Peterson John & Kathleen Pollock Lynn Roper Kristine & Thomas Schaff T. Parker and Alanna Schenken Ken and Christine Snyder Barbara Spencer Scott and Mary Weber Patrick & Megan Wetovick General Account Sherry Blanche Heather Thomas Library General Account E. Larson S. Lewis E. Lockhart Kathleen Lute L. Moore D. Teaford Ogallala Library Endowment In Memory of Ken Ruser Mr. & Mrs. Gene Holscher

General Account

### In Memory of Lawrence Smith

K. Cole Ogallala Library Endowment

#### In Memory of Mike Welsh

Kristi Welsh Leibhart Wild West Soap Box Derby IBEW Local Union No 1920 L. Anderson R. Anderson Larry Callen N. Elmshaeuser T. Johnson Peters Joint Trust E. Steenburg K. Welsh General Account



Keith County Foundation Fund PO Box 104 Ogallala, NE 69153

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ONE CONTRIBUTION in full: \$	to be paid by	
ANNUALLY: \$	per year for years beginning	
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Please request and complete a Donor	or ACH Authorization form.	
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Our work depends on **YOUR SUPPORT** Contribute to our mission at **www.keithcountyfoundation.org** 



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