

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Valley County Community Foundation Fund
creating a homegrown legacy

VCCFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Melani Flynn, Chair
Chrisinda Ritz, Vice Chair
Jessica Piskorski, Secretary
Tyler Kaps, Treasurer
Bob Stowell
Jean Stowell
Jeana Hackel

Ray Scott
Joe Wadas
Chuck Zangger
Kelly Jonak
Dennis Greenland
Karmen Greenland

MEET OUR NEW FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dennis and Karmen Greenland



Why do we love Valley County? Oh, what is there not to love! We have so many reasons! Family, friends, friendly strangers, low crime rates, wide open spaces, beautiful scenery, great educational systems and health care facilities are just a few of the perks of living here! We joined VCCFF because we wanted to be part of an organization that does so much good, not for just certain areas of Valley County, but all of Valley County.

Kelly Jonak



When I think of Valley County, I think of how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful place. It is a wonderful community to raise a family and I hope that more and more families will continue to come back and do the same. I chose to join VCCFF because it is a wonderful organization that supports our community. I believe you have to support and volunteer your time to share in the success of your hometown. When we gather together to share our talents and time, it reflects on the vibrant future of Valley County.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

I have always appreciated my upbringing in Valley County and the sense of community I felt in my youth. When my husband and I discussed where we wanted to build our lives, Valley County was always at the forefront of the conversation. It is here that people truly care about their neighbors and freely and joyously give of their time, talent, and treasure.

Countless donors have generously given to VCCFF's endowments making an impact now and for future generations. We are seeing the benefits of such generosity by the plentiful payouts and wide-variety of opportunities the VCCFF can support throughout all of Valley County.

I am honored to play a part in this legacy and grateful that my children will also be able to experience the vitality we have cultivated in Valley County. Truly, we have everything we need here to thrive. If you are interested in learning more about the Valley County Community Foundation Fund, we invite you to contact us. Together, we will continue to create our homegrown legacy! - *Melani Flynn*



Vision

Valley County is a vibrant community, investing in today, and focusing on a legacy of collaboration, growth, and opportunity.

Mission

Empowering people to create a homegrown legacy through volunteer commitment and financial generosity.

Values

Integrity - We believe in operating with integrity in our commitments to donors and partners by maintaining confidentiality, practicing high ethical standards and legal compliance and honoring donor intent.

Respect - We believe all people have the inherent capacity to positively impact their community. We respect individuals and value their collective interests, strengths and cultures.

Collaboration - We believe in creating partnerships with organizations that support the development of arts and culture, youth, leadership, entrepreneurship and charitable giving for the benefit of our county-wide community.

Progressive Thinking - We believe in supporting programs and projects that address the changing needs of our area and offer the greatest benefits to our citizens.



CULTIVATING GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

LOCAL ENDOWMENTS PROVIDE THE ABILITY TO DREAM BIG

For over twenty years, generous people who care about Valley County have been growing a hometown legacy through gifting to local endowment funds. These gifts not only last forever, they increase in size! In 2018, the VCCFF achieved a challenge grant of raising \$500,000 in unrestricted endowment funds with the promise of an additional \$250,000 in matching funds. This unrestricted endowment, the Vibrant Future Fund, and several other restricted endowments support high impact granting to numerous worthy causes such as education, youth engagement, leadership development, entrepreneurial endeavors, arts and cultural experiences, community infrastructure, and newcomer attraction. Annual payouts are also used as leveraging funds when we apply for external grant opportunities! Since 2011, over \$250,000 in community grants have been reinvested in Valley County. During the past two years, the VCCFF is pleased to have supported diverse high impact community projects including the following highlights:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| \$25,000 | As part of \$551,500 in matching funds for Greater Loup Valley Activities, Inc. to apply for a rural workforce housing grant from the Department of Economic Development. The challenge grant awarded \$1 million to the grant recipients to support workforce housing and related housing development needs in Valley County. |
| \$25,000 pledge | To Citizens for a Great Ord, Nebraska for the purpose of building a barrier-free playground at Bussell Park |
| \$4,500 | To the Valley County Historical Society to support the facility improvements of the Valley County Museum |
| \$15,000 | To The Golden Husk Theatre, in honor of area veterans, to support the musical theatre production, Not Too Far Distant, student matinee and community performance, as well as the NE Grown Art Festival and the Fabulous Accordion Festival |
| \$12,500 | To the Valley County Gazebo Fund honoring John & Alyce Wozab |
| \$2,000 | To support the annual sponsorship of the VCED/VCCFF Community Scholarship for graduating seniors at Ord and Arcadia Public Schools |
| \$8,000 | To Heartland Youth Ranch for the purchase of a new horse shelter |
| \$13,100 | To the North Loup Popcorn Days Association to support the annual celebration and the purchase of a Nebraska Historical Society Marker Sign in honor of the 121st anniversary of Popcorn Days |
| \$2,500 | To the North Loup Rural Fire Department District 3 for the purchase of a powerlift |
| \$4,500 | In partnership with Valley County Economic Development to leverage a People Attraction Grant from Nebraska Community Foundation to investigate downtown revitalization options |
| \$2,500 | To support the application process for a county-wide Creative District Certification |
| \$4,000 | To Ord Public Schools FCCLA and FBLA Chapters to support students competing in national competitions |
| \$1,000 | To the Village of North Loup for updated “welcome” signs |
| \$12,500 | To the Village of North Loup for construction of a pergola at the Community Building |
| \$6,500 | To Valley Performing Arts Theatre, Inc. in support of A Christmas Carol, a Husk Community Theatre musical production |
| \$500 | To support the completion of a youth survey in Ord and Arcadia Public Schools |
| \$400 | For coverage of licensing fees for Ministerial Society youth group movie night |
| \$15,000 | To Synovation Valley Leadership Academy for program enhancement |

GROWING HUMAN CAPACITY AND IGNITING AN INNER SPARK

SYNOVATION VALLEY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



The VCCFF is proud to grow human capacity through support for Synovation Valley Leadership Academy. In 2023, SVLA is celebrating 10 years of entrepreneurial and personal transformation programs which have positively impacted nearly 200 participants and numerous regional businesses from across Nebraska, as well as in other states.

SVLA is a world class, personal leadership development program that provides participants with abundance mindset tools, entrepreneurial masterminds, and business and culture transformation opportunities. SVLA's continued work to enhance leadership capacity and encourage business development is essential for the future of greater Nebraska. The foundation of SVLA is a coaching methodology which brings forth each person's unique knowledge, skills, perceptions and competencies to empower individuals to tap into their most brilliant selves.

Since the program's inception, the VCCFF has contributed over \$60,000 in grant funds to support local leadership growth, including the purchase of podcasting equipment and operation costs. This equipment allows SVLA to provide an in-person experience to zoom participants and reach a broader audience, including participants from Kansas, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Texas.

To learn more about opportunities to engage with this leadership development program, please visit www.synovationvalleyleadership.org.



As we look toward future goals, we encourage donors to designate planned gifts to the Vibrant Future Fund. Planned giving to the unrestricted endowment will benefit Valley County forever, ensuring the continued growth of annual payouts to meet pressing needs and seek future opportunities.

AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY VITALITY THROUGH THE ARTS

EMBRACING CREATIVITY AS THE STORED HONEY IN OUR COMMUNITY

The VCCFF is pleased to inspire and support a thriving local arts culture through sponsoring diverse creative experiences and engaging in arts asset mapping. Over the past eight years, the Fund has collaborated with The Golden Husk Theatre to host a Missoula Children's Theatre residency, with an annual grant of \$3,750. This residency is an extraordinary opportunity for 64 area youth to share their artistic gifts and discover their passions, while building meaningful relationships and leadership skills as they work with the MCT professional directors and cast members. The experience engages youth and their families from over twelve communities on an annual basis!

Other annual arts experiences supported by the VCCFF include the Nebraska Grown Art Festival and The Fabulous Accordion Festival. Both of these events showcase the talents of local artists, honor our rich heritage, and attract patrons from across the state to Valley County. From 2020 to the present, the VCCFF has strengthened the local arts culture with over \$30,000 in grants from endowment funds.

The VCCFF believes embracing and engaging individuals' creativity positively touches every aspect of community development from solving problems to creating opportunities. Through the practice of arts asset mapping, which involves interviewing community members to learn about their innate gifts, passions, skills, and dreams for their community, the VCCFF has developed an inventory of local creatives who work together to enhance community vitality.

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on!" -Albert Einstein



Dozens of area youth participate in the annual Missoula Children's Theatre residency thanks to the collaboration between VCCFF and The Golden Husk.



The Fabulous Accordion Festival honors and celebrates our area's heritage and local talent with polka music and culinary wonders.

"Creating things allows me to leave something of value in place."

- Julie Baker, professional musician

TRANSFER OF WEALTH IN VALLEY COUNTY

What We Know

Nebraska has incredible wealth and ALL Nebraska communities have wealth to give. When we leave some of our wealth to the places where it was made and accumulated, we can ensure a more prosperous future for our Nebraska hometowns.



Five Ways to Help Valley County Thrive



Visit fivetothrivene.org and learn more about the transfer of wealth in Valley County.

Explore NCF's planned giving resources at nebcommfound.giftlegacy.com.

Talk to your professional advisor about including your community in your estate plans.

Give to the endowment of your local community fund, Nebraska Community Foundation, or another favorite charity.

Spread the word!
When we all leave five, our hometowns thrive!

The Solution is Simple

We must act now to encourage charitable investment in the future of our communities while the window of opportunity is open. We must teach, encourage, and inspire generous Nebraskans to give back today, and include their community in their estate plans for tomorrow. Imagine if just five percent of this abundance were given back to the places where it was made and accumulated.

This is your opportunity to enrich Valley County's future. We're asking you to consider leaving just five percent of your assets to your favorite Valley County charity to benefit our county for generations to come.

Over the next 10 years in Nebraska, more than \$100 billion will transfer from one generation to the next. In 50 years, that number exceeds \$950 billion. This phenomenon has come to be known as the intergenerational transfer of wealth. There is always a transfer from generation to generation, as parents pass away and leave their estate to their children. But if the heirs no longer live where they grew up, that wealth may leave as well.

Remember

Once our wealth leaves the community, it is gone forever.
Once our wealth is endowed in our community, it is here forever.
The time to act is now—the opportunity will never be greater!

The VCCFF is committed to investing in people of all ages through supporting programs, community amenities and hometown events.

“Charity might begin at home, but it should never stay there. A candle shines its brightest when it's lighting another candle. It's the same when we invest in people.”

- Darlene Psota, Former VCCFF Chair

Thank You

It is an honor and privilege to build relationships with donors and their families who share love for their hometowns through local giving. We are deeply grateful to our donors who have contributed to the Vibrant Future Fund (the unrestricted endowment) and all of the accounts within the Valley County Community Foundation Fund.

Together we can keep growing our hometown legacy through giving back to our county-wide community with gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We welcome new ideas and engagement as we move forward with endowment building and high impact granting to empower the vitality of Valley County for generations to come.

Petska Donation Provides Seed Money for Early Childhood Endowment

In response to the growing county-wide need for additional childcare development, Kerry and Shelly Petska worked with Bob Stowell to designate a donation in honor of their parents, Don and Norma Petska, as seed money to establish an Early Childhood Endowment. The endowment will provide annual funding to enhance child care development opportunities as well as continuing education and support for current child care providers.

“My parents, Don and Norma Petska, felt faith, community, family, and especially children, were most important in their lives. Shelly and I share these same feelings. By donating to this endowment, we hope to leave a lasting legacy in their memory.”

- Kerry Petska



Our *heritage* has provided a strong foundation;
our *work ethic* and *grit* have produced a prosperous community;
and our *shared vision* of generosity will enhance our *rich quality of life* for generations to come!



Family Monthly Gift Makes Big Impacts

Tanner & Jeana Hackel and family

“Living in this wonderful community has shown Tanner and me so much about living in abundance, gratitude, and freedom. I love the quote by Deepak Chopra that says, “True abundance mindset is the experience in which our needs are easily met and our desires are spontaneously fulfilled.” We experience this on a daily basis, surrounded by collaborative businesses, nonprofits, family, friends, and neighbors who, together, enrich life in Valley County. We set up monthly gifting to VCCFF because we realized that our gift, compounded with the giving of others, exponentially grows into abundance and opportunities for our community.”

- Jeana Hackel

CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Cash | Ag Commodities | Marketable Securities | Real Estate

Planned Gifts in Your Will or Trust

Closely Held Stock & Tangible Personal Property | Retirement Assets & Life Insurance Policies



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129 S. 16th Street, P.O. Box 56, Ord, NE 68862
 vccommunityfoundationfund@gmail.com
www.nebcommfound.org/give/valley-county-community-foundation-fund

I (We) would like to partner with the Valley County Community Foundation Fund and offer my (our) support with a contribution in the amount of \$_____ to benefit the following account:

Choose one and make checks payable to the Valley County Community Foundation Fund.

The Vibrant Future Fund (unrestricted endowment): General Other

This gift is given in honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

I will contribute my gift online at www.nebcommfound.org/give/valley-county-community-foundation-fund.

I am interested in contributing a monthly contribution from my bank account to benefit VCCFF.

I am interested in naming the VCCFF in my will, retirement plan or life insurance policy.

I am interested in receiving information on charitable gift annuities and trusts that pay lifetime income and save taxes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Scan here
to donate online.



VCCFF DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES

(September 30, 2023)

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| The Vibrant Future Fund (unrestricted endowment) | \$842,725.61 |
| HomeTown Competitiveness (HTC) Endowment | \$189,376.17 |
| Geweke Family Youth Endowment | \$151,676.46 |
| Geweke Family UMC Endowment | \$118,952.96 |
| Valley County Economic Development Board Endowment | \$57,676.63 |
| Loup Valley Ag Society | \$12,198.00 |
| Ord Golf Course | \$5,575.38 |
| Ord Library Endowment | \$27,345.80 |
| Hrebec North Loup UMC Endowment | \$227,740.03 |
| Hrebec North Loup Endowment | \$281,032.84 |
| Early Childhood Endowment | \$32,342.23 |
| TOTAL FUND BALANCE | \$1,921,087.78 |

Since 2011, the VCCFF has invested in the people of Valley County with over \$250,000 in community grants from endowment payouts.



The VCCFF is an affiliated fund of the
Nebraska Community Foundation.