REFLECTING ON 2018

The year started off with a very productive gathering with the Community Prosperity Initiative. Over 100 community leaders spent an evening and the next morning focusing on community needs, a shared vision for the future, and priorities for solutions. The meetings resulted in the formation of several committees focused on reducing poverty, recreation, trails, riverfront development, affordable housing, affordable childcare, and early childhood development. Nebraska Community Foundation’s Jeff Yost and Janny Crotty facilitated the sessions and Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund continues to be involved with the committee's work as well as the 2019 progress update.

WHAT WE SUPPORT

Over the course of the year, Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund has invested in people through a number of programs and projects in our community including:

- DARE program for elementary students
- Pollinator garden developed by middle school students
- Workforce development scholarships offered through Southeast Community College
- A Riverfront Development Study
- Soccer Field Study
- Field Trips to Arbor Lodge and Arbor Day Farms for local students
- Five non-traditional scholarships (bringing the total to 57)

All of this was made possible through the $42,000 payout from our unrestricted endowment valued at over $1 million. In 2018, total assets grew to over $2.4 million. Over the last 18 years, NCCFF has reinvested over $5.5 million in our community.
Five people have completed their initial orientation to the Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee (FAC) and are now full members. They are Lidia Borer, Denise Davis, Sharon Hersemann, Stacie Higgins and Melissa Turner.

Three new members have been added to the Grant Development Committee. They are Pastor Juan Fernandez, Jack Hobbie and Mary Stevenson.

LEADERSHIP NEBRASKA CITY

Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee congratulates Leadership Nebraska on the successful completion of their challenge grant, issued by NCCFF.

Leadership Nebraska City (LNC) raised $20,000 which was matched with $10,000 from NCCFF to create a $30,000 Leadership Endowment account to support LNC’s mission “To continually develop leaders who effectively work together toward positive growth through skills training, confidence building, expanding knowledge of our community and networking while connecting them with opportunities to lead and to serve.”

The endowment will support additional training to create more engaged and civic-oriented leaders in our community.

A CHALLENGE TO GROW OUR ANNUAL DONOR BASE!

With the goal of increasing the number of annual donors to Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund (NCCFF), a challenge grant has been offered by Paul and Angie Madison and Kiel VanderVeen, committed volunteers and supporters of NCCFF.

Our challengers have agreed to match enrollment funds from any newly added annual donor. By growing NCCFF’s annual donor base, we will not only further cultivate a culture of giving here in Nebraska City, we will also expand the spectrum of ideas and input for future grantmaking opportunities.

Fund Advisory Committee members are currently recruiting new annual donors and would welcome suggestions from current donors who know of community members or Nebraska City alumni who might be interested in joining our movement. Please reach out to an FAC member if you know someone who may be interested in supporting this important work.

Our Ambitious Young Leaders

Every year the Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund Youth Advisory Committee seeks to make an impact in Nebraska City with a portion of the Fund’s unrestricted endowment payout.

This year the Youth Advisory Committee collaborated with local schools; Gallup; our friends in Valley County, Nebraska; Leadership Nebraska City; and an anonymous Nebraska Community Foundation donor to fund a program designed to build leadership skills and community engagement in our high schools.

The program was funded with a $7,000 grant from the Youth Advisory Committee and a matching $7,000 grant from an anonymous donor from the Nebraska Community Foundation network. So far, leadership curriculum developed in Valley County has been implemented, students have taken the Gallup Strengths assessment, teachers have been trained by Gallup staff, and plans are in place to expand the program to include a leadership in action series pulling in local community leaders. This project is a great example of how ambitious our youth are!