

What is the Rock County Community Fund?

The Rock County Community Fund is a charitable organization working to improve the quality of life and create opportunities for prosperity in Rock County and the surrounding area. We have created an endowment, which is like a community savings account – to support community projects, programs and people.

What does the Rock County Community Fund do?

We address our community needs and invest in its future by providing a way for people to give back to Rock County. We encourage people from all walks of life to make tax-deductible contributions, both large and small. We collaborate with other organizations to identify and support projects, programs and people who are helping to build the kind of community where our children can choose to live, work and raise their families.

We are using philanthropy today as a tool for building a prosperous future for Rock County!

Why is this important?

The greatest threat Rock County faces is the loss of local resources that helped to build our community from the start: capital investments, businesses, jobs, young people who are tomorrow’s leaders, and importantly, intergenerational wealth.

Many of today’s senior citizens no longer have heirs who live in the area. This means that when the older generation pass on, the wealth they have built through a lifetime of work – in the form of land, retirement funds and other assets – often passes to heirs who no longer are connected to our community.

The Rock County Community Fund provides a way for people to give back to the community that has been an important part of their lives. It is an opportunity for them to consider Rock County as “another child” when planning their estate.

What is the Rock County Community Fund doing to achieve its goals?

We want to encourage everyone to make a “habit of giving back” to the community. We invite all residents, and people who have moved away, to make gifts to our community- both large and small.

Each year, a portion of those contributions are placed in a permanent endowment, which is invested to create a source of funding for annual grants to improve the community. The endowment funds will be held and invested in perpetuity, creating an asset for the community that remains forever.

Some contributions will also be used to support immediate community needs such as a community center, our swimming pool, community housing, technical skills classes and much more.

How did Rock County Community Fund get started?

Rock County Community Fund was formed in 2014 by a group of citizens who were committed, like all of us, to building a bright future for Rock County.

Why should people contribute to Rock County Community Fund?

With today’s technology, young people can choose to live and work almost anywhere, including right here in Rock County.

According to surveys conducted by the Nebraska Community Foundation, more than half of the young people from small towns would prefer to return home to work and raise their families if career opportunities were available. And more than 40% would like to own their own business someday. It is our job to make this possible.

We must invest in Rock County in ways that make it a place where the next generation, and beyond, can rediscover the good life we have always enjoyed.

How is the Rock County Community Fund governed?

The Rock County Community Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation (“NCF”) and is governed by an all-volunteer group of local Fund Advisory Committee members.

Working with NCF enables us to reduce administrative costs and provides access to financial and legal services, training and education, marketing services and gift planning assistance. This means that more of every dollar received in donations benefits Rock County. More information about NCF is available at <http://nebcommfound.org>.

Who is on the Rock County Community Fund Advisory Committee?

Members of the Rock County community Fund Advisory Committee serve three-year terms. Current members include the following individuals:

Homer Buell, Chairman

Dennis Swanson, Vice Chairman

David Gale, Treasurer

Larry Buell

Tami Cosgrove

Caleb Lackaff

Kayti Gordon

Tiffany Maurer

Jim Nelson

Gary Shankland

How can people support our community through the Rock County Community Fund?

There are many ways to contribute, and all gifts are tax-deductible: We can accept gifts of cash or pledges over a multi-year period, appreciated property, life insurance, or bequests in wills. Our affiliation with NCF makes it possible to give gifts of real estate, livestock, grain and more. You can even give a gift that provides a guaranteed income and tax savings through a gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust.

The Rock County Community Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation (“NCF”), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All contributions to our Fund are tax-deductible.

Please direct all inquiries to Homer Buell, Chairman of the Rock County Community Fund, at either (402) 760-0615, or via email at homer@nntc.net. The mailing address for Rock County Community Fund is P.O. Box 506, Bassett, NE 68714.