**Nebraska Community Foundation an invaluable partner for PCCFF**

**By Becky Uehling**

It was at an informational meeting hosted by Nebraska Community Foundation in Paxton in 2003 that first planted the seeds for the Perkins County Community Foundation Fund. What was brought back to Perkins County from that meeting was a vision for Perkins County to develop a vehicle to help retain our generational wealth here in the county to help sustain the home we love well into the future.

What wasn’t brought back was a definite decision to partner with Nebraska Community Foundation in this new venture. Once board members had committed to the vision of the PCCFF, discussion at our first meetings was whether our local foundation was going to band together with the many other community foundations from across the state under Nebraska Community Foundation, thus pooling our money and increasing our investment rate of return, but also giving some of the control of how our fund was structured to the NCF. Or, keeping our community foundation separate, and investing our money locally on its own.

 Although not unanimous, the decision was made to partner with Nebraska Community Foundation, and this choice, in my opinion, has served us well over the years, with few drawbacks.

In existence now for 25 years, the NCF is made up of 250 funds across the state. Perkins County’s endowment money is invested with endowments from these other Nebraska communities, with each of us benefiting from the higher rate of return we get on our pooled money. This is definitely Nebraskans helping Nebraskans to benefit our whole state!

Not only do we get a higher rate of return on our investment, but the support we get from NCF is outstanding. We have an amazing area support staff member, Denise Garey, based out of McCook, who attends nearly all of our meetings and is our main contact for any question or needs we may have.

There are also investment specialists employed by NCF and available to each of NCF’s funds. They are just a phone call or email away when we need help with any planned giving question. NCF also has an amazing marketing team that goes above and beyond to assist us in any marketing projects we are working on to get the word out about our fund. NCF also has many networking opportunities for fund advisory committees throughout the year to connect with each other and with NCF representatives for brainstorming sessions that help us keep motived in growing our endowments.

I am very happy about the choice we made so many years ago to partner with NCF. There has been no better partner in this effort across the state to sustain our counties and communities, and I look forward to continuing to work them well into the future.

The Perkins County Community Foundation Fund’s web page is hosted on the NCF’s website at https://www. nebcommfound.org/give/perkins-county-community-foundation-fund. From this page, you can also navigate through the NCF’s page for a wealth of other information on community foundations and planned giving, and what other communities in the state have been doing within their own community foundations. I hope you take a moment and look at their website today.