NCF 25
TURN IT UP DREAM.
Friends: It is with deep pride that we share with you Nebraska Community Foundation’s 25th Anniversary Annual Report. It is a chronicle of what ambitious people with big dreams can accomplish in a relatively short amount of time. These achievements go far beyond capital projects and growing unrestricted endowments. Community leaders across the NCF network are effectively leading a cultural shift.

NCF has been in the people attraction business since it was conceived. We’ve built an entire system to help hometowns succeed at inviting members to our communities. NCF frames people attraction strategies through the abundance and opportunities that already exist in our places. Then we help community leaders envision a brighter future, develop a plan, mobilize their local resources, and make it happen.

It isn’t always easy to see the world in this way. This year we saw dozens of hometowns decimated by disastrous flooding. Yet all across the state, resilient Nebraskans are banding together, picking up the pieces, and moving forward stronger than ever before.

Over the years, the NCF network has grown and evolved in amazing ways. Our volunteer-led, community-centric work is now a model for Rural Development Philanthropy across the nation and around the world. To those who have been part of the NCF network for years, thank you for your vision, courage, leadership and generosity. To those who are new to our movement or learning about it for the first time, know that there is no limit to what thousands of Nebraskans with active hope can achieve.

Twenty-five years and we’re just getting started.

Jeff Yost  Lora L. Damme
President and CEO  Board Chair

Building Assets for Today and Tomorrow
($ in millions)

NCF in Numbers
- 235 affiliated funds serving 258 communities in 82 counties
- 1,500 volunteer Fund Advisory Committee members
- 9,888 contributions in FY 2019
- 44,476 contributions in the last five years
- $107.6 million in endowed assets
- $181.8 million in total assets
- 328 planned gifts totaling $65.1 million
- $355.3 million reinvested in Nebraska and its hometowns since 1994
- $603 billion estimated intergenerational transfer of wealth in Nebraska by 2060
Starting in the early 1990s, with little more than some modest office space shared with the Nebraska Rural Development Commission, a small cohort of determined advocates launched a bold experiment: Create a vehicle for people to give back to their hometowns. Make it easy for local leaders to establish affiliated funds for charitable contributions. Raise $25 million for Nebraska communities by the end of the decade.

As a new century dawned, $35 million had been raised through Nebraska Community Foundation for the betterment of Greater Nebraska. Early leaders then realized it was time to “Turn Up Their Dream Switch.” And did they ever!

This 25th Anniversary Annual Report attempts to explain the progress of Nebraska Community Foundation in terms of “why” rather than “how” change has unfolded over our short history. We have evolved from enabling people to give back to their hometowns, to empowering people to move their communities forward.

Not all stories and initiatives are presented in strict chronological order, because in most cases, community change does not proceed along a linear path. We invite you to explore why Nebraska Community Foundation is on the path we are on today. The people who stepped forward to lead the way. The ideas that opened our eyes. And the realization that Nebraska is a place of abundance.

Our network continues to mature with unity of purpose and an attitude of optimism. Our rural narrative and the language we use to tell our story have changed. We are focused on strengths. We are looking toward the future. These are the reasons this work is so compelling—to our board members, our staff, and our thousands of volunteers and donors.

This report acknowledges many visionary leaders who piloted our course over our first 25 years. We honor them and encourage a new generation with sights set on our collective vision: Nebraska is a place where our hometowns are achieving their dreams!

“Building on the past but innovating for the future makes Greater Nebraska vibrant. Everyone can help their hometown become an enticing place for our children and grandchildren.”

– MAXINE MOUL
NCF President Emeritus

NCF 25: TURN IT UP | DREAM!

NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ORIGINAL INCORPORATORS

E. Benjamin Nelson, Lincoln
Maxine B. Moul, Lincoln
Ed Loutzenheiser, Juniata
Nancy Hoch, Nebraska City
James M. McClymond, Omaha
Connie Lapaseotes, Bridgeport
Jane Keller, Bassett
Kim Lauritzen, Omaha
A Giving Tradition

Jim and Elaine Wolf are no longer with us but their legacy lives on. Their son, Jay Wolf, is the current vice chair of the Boone County Foundation Fund.

The Fund has seen phenomenal growth over the past several years in financial assets, community engagement, and impact. It serves as a conduit for major projects like the aquatic center, St. Edward Community Center, and a 1.8-mile paved trail system. The Fund has been a catalyst for programs to help working families. It led the way for a much needed after-school program and summer camp.

Its next big venture is an early childhood development center. The Wolf family has been a lead partner in nearly every charitable endeavor in the county. Their example has inspired hundreds of donors to give back. Today the Fund has more than $1.7 million endowed to move the community forward, forever.

Building Trust and Dreaming Big!

Jim and Elaine demonstrated to their children that service and philanthropy could be fulfilling and bring great joy into one’s life.

– JAY WOLF
Boone County Foundation Fund

Change happens along the lines of relationships and at the speed of trust. But it begins with a dream.

The dream emerged when Nebraska Rural Development Commission chair Maxine Moul and executive director Don Macke got the go-ahead from Governor Ben Nelson to study the feasibility of launching a statewide community foundation. Very few existed in the U.S. at the time, and Nebraska’s would be different. The mission would put philanthropy to work for economic development in Greater Nebraska.

Influential community leaders like Jim and Elaine Wolf of Albion led the recruitment of other ambitious people: Frank and Shirley Sibert of Valentine, Ron and Judy Parks of Papillion, Kim and Bruce Lauritzen of Omaha, and Connie and John Day of Norfolk, to name only a few. Jim Wolf followed Maxine Moul and Kim Lauritzen as board chair in 1999.

It takes a good amount of courage to start a new nonprofit. Starting one so keenly focused on charitable giving would be a “non-starter” for most people. But these early leaders were fearless. They demonstrated their confidence in this fledgling, future-focused enterprise by generously investing their own charitable dollars to sustain it as it grew.

Jim and Elaine initiated NCF’s endowment with a gift of $100,000. They followed that with a $100,000 challenge grant to NCF’s Boone County Foundation Fund. These and other early, generous gifts buoyed NCF’s credibility and catapulted our young organization into a 21st century filled with opportunity as described throughout the pages that follow.
The Power of Intergenerational Wealth Transfer

In 2001 Nebraska Community Foundation was first in the nation to map the intergenerational transfer of wealth (TOW) on a county-by-county basis. People were astounded by the huge numbers reported. The early estimates were dwarfed in 2011 when an updated TOW study predicted that $603 billion would transfer from one generation to the next by 2060.

In 51 counties, the peak years for this phenomenon were already occurring. And because of declining population in many places, much of the wealth was going to taxes and to heirs who lived elsewhere.

The report was an eye-opener for Richard Walter and other community leaders in Shickley (pop. 341), who established an unrestricted endowment soon after the original study was published. The Fund set the goal of harnessing a small portion of local wealth transfer to provide a permanent source of charitable community reinvestment forever.

Shickley Community Foundation Fund tops the list of NCF communities working to capture five percent of their local 10-year wealth transfer. The Fund has nearly $2.1 million in endowed assets, and another $1.9 million in planned gifts.

For many years Richard Walter has been a skilled mentor, coaching other fund leaders across the state to articulate the message about the wealth transfer opportunity. He has presented at numerous national and international conferences. Today, the neighboring communities of Byron, Hebron, Chester, Diller, Exeter, Friend, Deshler, and others are following Shickley’s example by harnessing the transfer of wealth and building their own unrestricted endowments.

Richard Walter is an NCF Honorary Board member and a Fund Advisory Committee member of Shickley Community Foundation Fund in Fillmore County.

I couldn’t believe how big the numbers were. In the next 50 years or so, nearly $2 billion will transfer from one generation to the next in Fillmore County.

– RICHARD WALTER
Shickley Community Foundation Fund

Investing in a New Generation

Since 2001, Shickley Community Foundation Fund has granted $464,532 to the village, school, charitable organizations, healthcare, and other area services. The reserve of available grant dollars in its unrestricted endowment continues to grow.

More than a third of the $72,000 in grants last year supported a myriad of needs in K-12 education. The Fund provided 35 Chromebooks for elementary school students and supplies and equipment for science classes. Both youth and adult development programs were offered, and healthcare investments included support for Fillmore County Hospital’s 3D mammography upgrades.

These are the kinds of investments that have earned residents the right to proudly proclaim their hometown slogan: Shickley: A Big Little Town.
Collaborating to Compete in a Global Economy

With hometown perks like a movie theater, community college, excellent healthcare, endless recreational opportunities, hand-crafted beer, and plenty of career opportunities, a growing number of young families are choosing to remain in or return to Holt County’s vibrant communities.

Three NCF community-based funds—Atkinson, O’Neill, and Stuart—and several donor-advised funds have fully embraced the concept of harnessing the power of philanthropy to fuel economic development. In 2008, their combined endowed assets totaled just over $400,000. Today, more than $7 million is permanently endowed, with annual payout funding necessities and amenities that attract young families.

These three communities recently completed challenge grants, significantly increasing their unrestricted endowments, and are looking ahead to big dreams and a very bright future.

A New Approach to Economic Development

By the early 2000s Nebraska Community Foundation had launched HomeTown Competitiveness, or HTC. HTC flips the “community dependence” model of seeking solutions from the outside to building on what is already working in our local communities.

“Nebraska Community Foundation helped us rethink our approach to economic development. If you think of a business model, the best way to generate more business is to start with the people and the products you already have,” said Jon Schmaderer, President of Tri-County Bank in Stuart, Bassett, Atkinson, and O’Neill.

It begins with a focus on four pillars of community economic development: leadership, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, and youth engagement. For early adopters, it was an approach that was easy for people to organize around. The pilot projects were supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and drew national attention. But the real outcome can be measured in places like Holt County, pop. 10,202, located 100 miles from an interstate highway. NCF helped eight municipalities come together with the county to jumpstart economic prosperity and propel people attraction. In 2007, Holt County Economic Development was established as an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation. Since then:

- There have been 214 new business starts, 56 expansions, and 31 successions.
- Over 597 jobs have been created, and more than 235 have been retained.
- More than 673 individuals and families have moved to the county.

And for the first time in decades, population has begun to stabilize in Holt County.

“We can create a very inviting environment to attract young families when we stop competing with our neighboring towns and start believing we are one community. Holt County is a great place to live because collectively we have so many different opportunities.”

— DARBY PAXTON
Executive Director, Holt County Economic Development
Inviting Them Home: “We quit giving our kids luggage for graduation.”

No one in the NCF network seems to know the origin of this wonderful quip, but it becomes a call to action once our affiliated fund leaders learn the results of surveys of more than 6,000 rural youth conducted by NCF. The main points: Kids love where they live. They think it’s a great place to grow up. More than half would consider returning for a career opportunity. And more than 40 percent are interested in owning their own business. Unfortunately, the vast majority say no one has ever asked them to share their views about their hometown.

Hometowns in Greater Nebraska need to reach out to people who already live here… young people. Communities in the NCF network are doing this in different ways. Some affiliated funds give each of their high school graduates a personalized mailbox and an invitation to return. Others offer scholarships to non-traditional students who are already living and working in the community to further their education and increase their skills. In Nebraska City and McCook, youth committees play a part in making decisions regarding grant awards. Makerspaces are being installed in libraries and schools. And in a growing number of places, the arts are being offered as an avenue for younger people to become engaged in their hometown. Some of these activities cost little more than the time it takes to show our future leaders they have a place in the future of their hometown.

Nurturing New-Generation Leaders

Over the past decade, thanks to Valley County Community Foundation Fund, middle school students have had the opportunity to learn about starting their own businesses. EntrepreneurShip Investigation camp, developed in partnership with UNL Extension, has given dozens of kids the chance to be mentored by local business owners. They’ve learned about loans, business plans and marketing materials. And they have even made a little money selling their products at a public market. Some kids return each year to mentor the younger children.

For several years, the Fund has brought the magic of the Missoula Children’s Theater to Ord, enabling hundreds of youngsters to step into the spotlight, many for the first time, building confidence to play a future leadership role in their community.

With more than $6 million endowed, Valley County will continue to support these kinds of programs far into the future. They create bonds to the community, and they have made it easier for many young adults to find their way back home.

Imperial graduates were among the first in Nebraska to receive personalized mailboxes as an invitation to return home. Many NCF community funds have adopted the tradition.
Setting Stretch Goals

Shortly after Jim and Elaine Wolf offered a $100,000 challenge grant to Boone County Foundation Fund in 2001, Frank and Shirley Sibert followed suit, with a $100,000 challenge grant to their hometown of Red Cloud. Later that year, the Wilkins family of Geneva made a $105,000 challenge to Shickley.

All three goals were met, and soon, Nebraska Community Foundation began teaching community leaders how to make the most of this important catalyzing tool. Two locally owned telecommunications providers, Consolidated Companies and the Robert and Jeanette Hunt family, owners of Great Plains Communications, issued a combined 20 challenges to funds in communities they served. Thanks to challenge grants, most of the affiliated funds featured in this report got a boost in funding, and more importantly, confidence, to ask friends and neighbors to invest in their hometowns.

Over the past 20 years, more than 80 challenge grants have raised approximately $20 million. The majority of these challenges were for unrestricted endowments. Annual endowment payout funds grantmaking decisions made by local volunteer Fund Advisory Committee leaders.

Today, affiliated funds receiving challenge grants take part in extensive coaching, training and peer learning with the commitment to make the charitable dollars they raise result in a lasting positive impact in their hometowns.

We have learned how to raise money; now we go forward learning how to build a stronger community.

– CINDY HUFF
Chair, McCook Community Foundation Fund
The most meaningful gift is an unrestricted gift. And when it is given to a specific place to build a community endowment, its impact grows and lasts forever. The tiny town of Byron (pop. 83) built a million-dollar community center. In the words of Jeremy Heitmann, a founding member of the Byron Community Foundation Fund, “Our unrestricted endowment will be much more important to the future of our hometown than this building will ever be.”

In Nebraska Community Foundation’s early years of working with volunteers and donors, most charitable contributions were given to projects. While we continue to assist communities in raising funds for community infrastructure and social and educational programs, today we stress the importance of unrestricted endowments.

An unrestricted endowment frees tomorrow’s leaders to make decisions based on circumstances we cannot imagine today. This requires building trusting relationships with donors and decision-makers over the long term.

We do not know what changes will occur over the next 25 years. We do know that a community’s unrestricted endowment will give the leadership in place the power of discretionary funds to leverage the kinds of investments that will keep our communities strong. An unrestricted endowment may be the most powerful economic development tool a community has.

“A comprehensive, unrestricted endowment is a vehicle for a community to propel itself into the future. It allows us to tackle the needs and big ideas with others in the community.”

– KIEL VANDERVEEN
Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund
Making the Good Life Even Greater

The Calamus Area Community Fund (formerly Burwell Community Fund) provides and receives a wide range of support each year. The area is rich in assets, with the Calamus Reservoir and Nebraska’s Big Rodeo attracting thousands of visitors. But it’s the energy of the people that makes this community so vibrant. The Fund’s recent unrestricted endowment campaign drew the broad support of 480 donors. There have been 5,000 contributions in the last 20 years.

In 2019, the Fund’s new Weverka Learning Academy account is helping teachers launch projects that enhance curriculum, such as two new learning centers where students and adults take college credit courses via distance learning. Dual credit courses are now available because certified teachers offer instruction online. The technology also enables remote meetings, saving both money and time. It’s no surprise that young adults are moving back and bringing along their entrepreneurial dreams that portend a bright future.

Unleashing Abundant Local Assets

When community-builders begin to tap into the diverse talents, wisdom, experience, and natural and built environments in their community—in addition to financial capacity—they are practicing Asset-Based Community Development. ABCD co-founder John McKnight researched NCF as a case study and had this to say: “The reason we have been so interested in being here is because you are unique. We know of no other place in the United States where groups and associations in so many local towns and communities have come together to pool their assets in order to shape the future.”

NCF works with communities to map and connect local assets to nurture stronger relationships among individuals and groups who can do more together than on their own. We help volunteers look at their hometowns through a lens of abundance and opportunity, rather than scarcity and problems. Our approach is to work with what we already have, to make what we want or need.

At the conclusion of an asset-mapping gathering, people are often surprised at the long list of strengths and resources held in even the smallest communities. Great teachers in Pender. The reservoir near Imperial. The meat market in Diller. The senior center in Albion. The Sandhills, the water, the fresh air. But most important, the young people in our hometowns who love where they live!

NCF communities are putting their assets into action. With increasing philanthropic investments and willingness to welcome others, both financial and human capital will increase in value with increasingly diverse opportunities.
Peer Learning: Priceless!

A room filled with NCF volunteers sharing their wisdom and their dreams is a launchpad for positive change. And when individuals gain the confidence through their own experience to teach what they have learned, the impact is lasting.

Early on, NCF recognized the value of peer learning among community-based affiliated fund leaders. We hosted regional meetings to evoke conversations about what was working and what challenges people were facing.

Today, NCF continues to organize annual trainings and regional gatherings. Most are hosted by local Fund Advisory Committees, such as a recent peer gathering in Bassett put on by the Rock County Community Fund. Post-training surveys report the great value volunteers place on the opportunity to learn from their peers.

From our beginning, NCF has called on experienced volunteers to share their advice and expertise, be it managing effective meetings or asking for a major gift. These generous leaders take time out of their schedules and put miles on their vehicles to travel to peer communities and offer a helping hand, all at their own expense.

Helping Others Succeed

Before becoming affiliated with NCF, Howells community leaders reached out to peer mentors for insider opinions on what to expect. Ray Welsh of Pender gave them some practical advice: Don’t focus on the fees. Focus on building your team.

Howells followed Ray’s lead. Members travelled together to every NCF training offered and hosted educational gatherings in their own community. They listened, they learned, and they impressed everyone along the way. Within four years, Howells was invited to join four other NCF funds for a deep exploration of Rural Development Philanthropy and support in reaching a 2:1 $500,000 challenge grant goal.

Learning from their peers, experienced mentors, and NCF staff members has helped the Fund reach 80 percent of its fundraising goal with more than a year to go. Now, Howells committee members are serving as peer mentors themselves.

I do enjoy sharing my experiences with others. You learn as much as they do. We tell them to really get to know more members of their communities, find out their dreams, and believe that all things are possible!

—JOAN MASTNY
Peer Mentor, Howells Community Fund
Creating Magnetic Communities

In Nebraska, the economic development question is not about jobs. It’s about people. NCF has been making that case for 25 years. Today in Nebraska, people attraction is priority one!

In the 21st century, most people can choose to live and work wherever they want, and many create their own jobs or bring their jobs with them.

What Nebraskans must do is create communities that attract people—people already living here, newcomers—especially new Americans—and people who return home. They will want more than what small towns have traditionally provided—safe neighborhoods and good schools. They desire entertainment, culture, opportunities to get involved, and access to technology and healthcare.

Payout from unrestricted endowments can leverage investments in the types of resources many young families consider necessities—deal breakers for choosing to live in our hometowns. High-quality early childhood development programs and wrap-around after-school care are critical needs for the majority of families with young children. These are programs that are being spearheaded and sustained with ongoing funding through our communities’ local affiliated funds and their unrestricted endowments.

Across the NCF network, unrestricted endowments are enriching our hometowns with children’s theater, wellness and recreation facilities, makerspaces, distance learning, and community centers where new faces soon become people whose names we all know.

It all begins with an invitation. Please stay. Please come home. Please know you are welcome. What can we do to help?

Students in Overton (pop. 594) put their artistic talent to work to develop two stunning designs for the community’s basketball courts, with help from Overton Area Community Fund.

The NCF Formula for People Attraction

Collective Vision +
Distributed Leadership +
Discretionary Capital +
Citizen Engagement =
Magnetic Communities!
Planning for Impact

Community transformation occurs when we use our unrestricted endowment payout to create positive change that otherwise may not occur. In 1994, NCF’s handful of community-based funds were started with virtually nothing. Today, 138 community-focused affiliated funds are building endowments, with $89.8 million endowed and a conservatively estimated $35.4 million in planned gifts for the future. Thirteen communities have more than $1 million in endowments, and 43 now have more than $10,000 in annual payout for grants.

In 2019, an anonymous donor gifted $7 million to Keith County Foundation Fund. This significant increase to the Fund’s unrestricted endowment will result in an annual payout of over $400,000 each year.

NCF is working hand-in-hand with the Keith County Fund Advisory Committee to develop an impact-planning process to guide Keith County leaders in their charitable investments. This will involve a thorough understanding of community issues, demographics, and opportunities to make life in Keith County better for everyone!

NCF provides similar support to other affiliated funds that have completed action planning and are ready to transform grantmaking into lasting, positive impact. No two communities will define “positive impact” in the same way. However, we can agree that charitable investments must produce results that matter, and that community success is based on these results.

“Building Relationships. Earning Trust.”

Major gifts like the $7 million anonymous gift to Keith County Foundation Fund seldom come from “out of the blue.” It takes a long track record of transparency, sincerity, and action to inspire this level of confident giving. Since 2004, the Fund has made grants for fire and water rescue, public education, workforce development, tourism, and more. The Fund’s achievements include raising well over $1 million to match challenge grants. With this recent major gift the Fund will have significant resources, each and every year, to shape the future of Keith County forever.

“The trust that our donors have placed in our Fund is the result of relationships established through the years. Our recent large gift brings with it huge responsibility that presents both opportunities and challenges for making long-term, impactful grants,” said KCFF vice chair Pam Abbott.
OUR HOMETOWNS ARE ACHIEVING THEIR DREAMS!

Like our founders, we cannot begin to envision what lies ahead in the next 25 years. Will national thought leaders continue to visit our state in search of clues to what makes a vibrant, thriving community? Will Greater Nebraska become an arts mecca, a hotspot for emerging technology, or a welcoming haven for people from different geographies?

We can be certain that gifts to community endowments will be paying out far more on an annual basis than they are today. But financial capital alone will not buy “the good life.” Social capital—mutually beneficial, trusting relationships built on a shared vision—is required to ensure that Nebraska is a place where our hometowns are achieving their dreams!

Weaving Our Way to a Greater Nebraska

After spending 72 hours in Nebraska learning from dozens of affiliated fund leaders about the achievements of their communities, New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote in his weekly column, “Everybody says rural America is collapsing. But I keep going to places with more moral coherence and social commitment than we have in booming urban areas. These visits prompt the same question: How can we spread the civic mind-set they have in abundance?”

Brooks and a team from the Aspen Institute had heard about the Nebraska Community Foundation movement and reached out in 2018 in furtherance of Weave: The Social Fabric Project, an initiative aimed at better understanding the secrets of strong communities. Brooks’ visit to Nebraska provided further affirmation that the key to building and sustaining democracy starts at the community level.

In May 2019, 14 Nebraskans were personally invited by the Weave team to join Brooks and community leaders from across the country in Washington D.C. to talk about the work of their Nebraska Community Foundation community-based affiliated funds and how the NCF network is weaving its way to a Greater Nebraska.

The Dream Switch

In 2020, Blixt and Nebraska Community Foundation are challenging Nebraskans to “turn up their dream switch” through a co-produced community arts and development endeavor.

The Dream Switch is a brand new original song cycle (an album that tells a story consecutively through the composition and order of songs) written by the award-winning, Nebraska-based musical theater team Becky Boesen and David von Kampen. The Dream Switch focuses on welcoming, belonging, and how Greater Nebraska can further its efforts to attract returners and newcomers, as well as retain those who currently call it home.

“We see The Dream Switch not only as a chance to enrich lives through a quality arts experience, but as an entry point and opportunity to have critical conversations about the future of our hometowns,” said Jeff Yost, NCF president and CEO.
Embracing the Future

NCF has built a model unique in the United States—one that enables local leaders to re-examine the ways they interact in their communities.

Thanks to funding through The Sherwood Foundation and Peter Kiewit Foundation over the past several years, 25 community-based affiliated funds had the opportunity to not only raise significant amounts for their unrestricted endowments, they also participated in multi-day peer learning sessions, absorbing new ideas and concepts—about fundraising, but more importantly, about Rural Development Philanthropy (RDP).

The goal of RDP is rural community transformation. RDP creates a level playing field where community members, practitioners, and donors participate equally and effectively. This kind of philanthropy acts on the knowledge that engagement, collaboration, leverage, and inclusion are as important as the size of endowments.

The last Census reported that in 74 Nebraska counties (all rural) the majority population decreased while the minority population increased. As Nebraska becomes more diverse, community leaders will need to enthusiastically welcome and mentor new leaders to represent and broaden the pool of potential community decision-makers.

NCF affiliated funds have developed skills needed to raise money. Going forward, we must collectively produce results that matter for the whole community and ensure decision-making is in the hands of all those affected.

Building “One” Community

Columbus Area Future Fund is a connector, a convener, and part of nearly every community conversation. The Fund was a catalyst and funding partner for four major quality-of-life initiatives and has helped smaller projects such as an inclusive playground for children of all abilities.

The Fund maintains close ties with the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and provides support to Centro Hispano. Now in its 10th year, Centro Hispano offers services related to business, education, civic engagement and immigration. Columbus Area Future Fund has supported the business development program that trains and guides individuals who are starting or have started a business. “We have been fortunate to have amazing partners support this work and community members who are willing to mentor and guide our businesses to growth and prosperity!” said executive director Karina Perez.

These relationships are the result of collaborative efforts in Columbus to build a more welcoming community that is committed to “building one community, not two.”
This map depicts counties and communities that benefit from planned gifts and affiliated funds of Nebraska Community Foundation.

Benefiting 258 Communities in 82 Counties

June 30, 2019

Denotes a County-wide Affiliated Fund or Expectancy

235 AFFILIATED FUNDS

of Nebraska Community Foundation
99 Community-Based Affiliated Funds

Ansley Area Community Foundation Fund
Arnold Community Fund
Arthur Area Community Foundation Fund
Atkinson Community Foundation Fund
Axtell Community Fund
Bennet Area Community Foundation Fund
Bertrand Area Community Fund
Big Springs Community Fund
Blaine County Area Community Foundation Fund
Bloomfield Community Foundation Fund
Boone County Foundation Fund
Brown County Community Foundation Fund
Burr Community Fund
Butler County Area Foundation Fund
Byron Community Foundation Fund
Calamus Area Community Fund
Callaway Community Fund
Ceresco Community Foundation Fund
Chambers Community Improvement Foundation Fund
Chappell Community Fund
Chester Community Fund
Coleridge Area Fund
Columbus Area Future Fund
Craig Community Fund
Crawford Area Fund
Creighton Community Foundation Fund
Crafter Community Foundation Fund
Cuming County Community Fund
Curtis Community Foundation Fund
Davenport Area Community Fund
Davie Area Community Foundation Fund
Deshler Community Fund
Diller Community Foundation Fund
Dorchester Community Foundation Fund
Elgin Community Foundation Fund
Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund
Exeter Area Community Foundation Fund
Friend Area Fund
Future of Decatur Foundation Fund
Greater Waverly Area Foundation Fund
Greeley Community Fund
Hallam Area Fund
Hayes County Community Fund
Hebron Community Foundation Fund
Hickman Area Community Foundation Fund
Holstein Improvement Committee Fund
Holt County Economic Development Fund
Howells Community Fund
Humboldt Area Community Foundation Fund
Hyannis Area Community Foundation Fund
Imperial Community Foundation Fund
John and Alyce Wozab Memorial Fund (Valley County)
Keith County Foundation Fund
Keya Paha County Foundation Fund
Kimball Area Foundation Fund
Laurel Area Community Foundation Fund
Logan County Community Foundation Fund
McCock Community Foundation Fund
Mullen Area Foundation Fund
Naper Community Foundation Fund
Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund
Neligh Area Community Foundation Fund
Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund
Newman Grove Community Foundation Fund
Norman Grove Community Foundation Fund
Norfolk Area Community Foundation Fund
Oakdale Community Fund
O’Neill Community Foundation Fund
Osmond Community Fund
Overton Area Community Fund
Palisade Community Foundation Fund
Pender-Thurston Education & Community Foundation Fund
Perkins County Community Foundation Fund
Plattsmouth Community Foundation Fund
Ralston Community Foundation Fund
Ravenna Area Vision Fund
Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund
Rock County Community Fund
Rushville Community Fund
Ruskin Community Foundation Fund
Shickley Community Foundation Fund
Spencer Community Foundation Fund
Stratton Community Foundation Fund
Stuart Community Foundation Fund
Syracuse Development Foundation Fund
Tecumseh Community Foundation Fund
Thedford Area Community Foundation Fund
Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation Fund
Trumbull Community Foundation Fund
Unadilla Area Community Fund
Valley County Community Foundation Fund
Verdigre Community Foundation Fund
Wallace Community Foundation Fund
Wauketa Community Fund
Wausa Community Foundation Fund
Wayne Area Legacy Fund
Wheelers County Community Foundation Fund
Wilber Area Community Foundation Fund
Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund

Butler County Area Foundation Fund has inspired children of all ages through support for the Hruska Memorial Library in David City. Summer art camps and reading programs are a perennial favorite. Engagement and enrichment of Butler County’s youth will continue to be a strategic investment. The Fund has more than $2.8 million in permanently endowed assets and expectancies to invest in its communities forever.

Endowment-Building for Community-Focused Affiliated Funds

Endowed assets plus expectancies ($ in millions)
31 Organizational Affiliated Funds
Auburn Public Schools Foundation Fund
Brown County Hospital Endowment Fund
Cedar Rapids/Riverside High School Alumni Association Fund
Chase County Hospital Foundation Fund
Christian Heritage Endowment Fund
Connecting Young Nebraskans Fund
Diane Nelson Endowment for the Governor’s Residence Fund
Fillmore County Hospital Foundation Fund
Foundation for Thayer County Health Services Fund
Fillmore County Hospital Foundation Fund
Grace Lutheran Church Foundation Fund
Hillcrest Nursing Home Endowment Fund
Kearney County Health Services Fund
Hillcrest Nursing Home Endowment Fund
Lakeview Education Foundation Fund
Leadership Nebraska Foundation Fund
Lucille Burch Foundation for Animal Companions Fund
Milford Public Schools Foundation Fund
Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation Fund
Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund
Nebraska Library Association Foundation Fund
Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Fund
Northeast Nebraska RC&D Foundation Fund
Northern Cheyenne Breakout Legacy Fund
Serve Nebraska Fund
SkillsUSA Nebraska Foundation Fund
Syracuse Library Foundation Fund
The WealthSpring Fund
Ukema Charitable Trust Fund
Valley County Health System Foundation Fund
Wachiska Audubon Society Fund
West Holt Medical Services Foundation Fund
Wymore Public Library Foundation Fund

49 Donor-Advised Funds
Howard and Peggy Atkins Fund
Erna R. Badstieber Trust Donor-Advised Fund
BCBSNE Fund for Quality & Efficient Health Care
Bruning State Bank Donor-Advised Fund
Jane and Doyle Busskohl Family Fund
Connie Fund

28 Designated or Field of Interest Funds
Orin and Ruby Barlean Scholarship Fund
Blackburn Family Designated Fund
Butte Anoka Scholarships Fund
Chief Standing Bear Journey for Justice Scholarship Fund
Concordia University Nebraska Endowment Fund
Don and Artice Fells Fund
Bobby Foehlinger Memorial Scholarship Fund
Fred Berg Designated Fund
Ken Good Scholarship Fund
Lyndall A. Harris Memorial Fund
Neal and Pauline Keller Scholarship Fund
Donald Keenan Memorial Fund for Math and Science Education
Martens Family Scholarship Fund
McManigal Family Fund
Nagengast Family Scholarship Fund
Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund
Nebraska Flood Recovery Fund
Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund
Glen and Janet Olson Fund
Omaha Hearing School for Children Scholarship Fund
Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund
Omaha Hearing School for Children Scholarship Fund
Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund
Omaha Hearing School for Children Scholarship Fund
Irene and Verne Pretzer Scholarship Fund
Edna and Richard Reineke Scholarship Fund
John and Geraldine Slama Designated Fund
St. Edward Medical Clinic Fund
Tri-Valley Medical Foundation Designated Fund
Glen and Janet Olson Fund
Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund
Omaha Hearing School for Children Scholarship Fund
Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund
Omaha Hearing School for Children Scholarship Fund
Irene and Verne Pretzer Scholarship Fund
Edna and Richard Reineke Scholarship Fund
John and Geraldine Slama Designated Fund
St. Edward Medical Clinic Fund
Tri-Valley Medical Foundation Designated Fund
Verner and Mildred Vanzant Elwood Care Center Endowment Fund
Waco Community Scholarship Fund
Youth Scholar College Scholarship Fund

7 Public/Private Partnership Funds
Basin Coalition Fund
Nebraska Habitat Projects Fund
North Platte Decree Committee Fund
Partnerships for Innovation Fund
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Fund [2]
Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Fund

21 Life Income Funds
Additional gifts are invested through NCF to benefit Nebraska communities and organizations and provide income for donors.
Connie Day of Norfolk left a lasting impression on her family and friends, the citizens she represented in the State Legislature, and certainly those who served with her on the NCF Board of Directors from 1997 to 2000.

Sadly, we lost Connie to cancer in 2001 at the age of 52; however, her legacy continues to positively impact families in Northeast Nebraska. In 1998 Connie used a $500,000 life insurance policy to establish an endowment to improve the lives of children and youth—a cause close to her heart.

Over the years, her son, Brandon Day, and daughter-in-law, Tammy, have invested more than $380,000 from the endowment’s payout to fulfill Connie’s dreams. After more than 20 years, the endowment, with assets of $906,000, continues to grow and give back.

Grants from the Connie Fund have supported Northeast Nebraska’s Youth Philanthropy Contest, enabling kids to carry out charitable projects that have brought joy and comfort to thousands of residents. Funding supported the purchase of iPads and Chromebooks for Jefferson Elementary School, so every student has equal access to technology. And in the last five years, more than $95,000 in grants have provided funds for operations and board development at The Zone, a highly successful after-school program for students in grades seven through 12.

Connie and her husband, John Day, were founding members of the Norfolk Area Community Foundation Fund in 2001, and Brandon and Tammy have both served on its Fund Advisory Committee.

Today, Brandon and Tammy Day are using the company they operate, Daycos, as a wellspring for charitable giving. Daycos4Good is an NCF endowment funded by Daycos revenues and advised by Daycos employees. The company’s goal is to invest 10 percent of its revenues in its employees and the community by 2028.

Connie’s legacy of service has inspired her children and grandchildren. Among many other commitments the couple has made, Brandon served on the NCF board of directors from 2005 to 2014, including two years as chair. Tammy is a founding member of the Philanthropy Council of Northeast Nebraska and serves on Norfolk Public Schools Board of Education.

Brandon remarks that although his daughters, Corrin and Grace, never had the chance to meet their grandmother, they feel like they know her through all the good work her legacy continues to accomplish.

“One of the great things about the Connie Fund and Daycos4Good is not only do we get to help our community, here we are, nearly 20 years after she passed away, I get a chance to talk about why she was a great woman and why she loved her community.”

— BRANDON DAY
NCF Honorary Board Member
NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

OUR VISION
Nebraska is a place where our hometowns are achieving their dreams.

OUR MISSION
We unleash abundant local assets, inspire charitable giving, and connect ambitious people to build stronger communities and a Greater Nebraska.

NCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dale Dueland of McCook Vice Chair
Paul Madison of Nebraska City Secretary
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Greg Vasek of Lincoln Chair, Advancement Committee

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Brandon Day of Norfolk
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Richard Hunt of Blair
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Rodrigo Lopez of Omaha
Ed Loutzenheiser* of Juniata
Bob Mundy of Omaha
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Ron Parks of Papillion
F.E. Pete Peterson of Fort Collins, CO
Beverly Pollock of Ogallala
Sid Salzman* of Ainsworth
Jim Scholz of Omaha
Frank Sibert of Kearney
Denny Stara of Lincoln
Bob Stowell of Ord
Brian Thompson of Waverly
Kathleen Thuman of Lincoln
Susan Ugaie of Lincoln
Mimi Waldbaum* of Omaha
Richard Walter of Shickley
Jeanene Wehrbein* of Plattsmouth
Ray Welsh of Pender
Jim Wolf* of Albion

*Deceased

Maxine Moul of Lincoln President Emeritus


Richard Hunt of Blair
Kim Lauritzen* of Omaha
Fred Lockwood of Scottsbluff
Rodrigo Lopez of Omaha
Ed Loutzenheiser* of Juniata
Bob Mundy of Omaha
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Ron Parks of Papillion
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Sid Salzman* of Ainsworth
Jim Scholz of Omaha
Frank Sibert of Kearney
Denny Stara of Lincoln
Bob Stowell of Ord
Brian Thompson of Waverly
Kathleen Thuman of Lincoln
Susan Ugaie of Lincoln
Mimi Waldbaum* of Omaha
Richard Walter of Shickley
Jeanene Wehrbein* of Plattsmouth
Ray Welsh of Pender
Jim Wolf* of Albion

*Deceased

Maxine Moul of Lincoln President Emeritus
**ACHIEVING OUR DREAMS**

NCF 25: Turn it up. DREAM!

**NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**BENEFACTORS ADVANCE OUR MISSION**

These generous donors’ cumulative gifts have helped build and sustain NCF’s work for over 25 years.

**$1,000,000 and above**

- The Ford Foundation
  New York, NY
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
  Battle Creek, MI
- The Sherwood Foundation
  Omaha

**$250,000 to $999,999**

- Consolidated Companies/Thompson Family
  Lincoln
- First National Bank of Omaha
  Omaha
- Robert and Jeanette Hunt Great Plains Communications Donor-Advised Fund
  Blair
- Peter Kiewit Foundation
  Omaha
- Judy and Ron Parks/Millard Manufacturing Corp.
  Omaha
- Jim* and Elaine* Wolf
  Union Bank & Trust
  Lincoln

**$100,000 to $249,999**

- Ameritas Charitable Foundation
  Lincoln
- W.H. and E.C. Damme Farms LLC/Lora Damme and Jay Longinaker
  Talmage
- Brandon and Tammy Day/Daycos
  Norfolk

**$25,000 to $49,999**

- America First Foundation
  Omaha
- Lemoine “Andy” and Geri* Anderson
  McCook
- Bellevue University
  Bellevue
- Betttenhausen Family Foundation/Robert Betttenhausen
  Lincoln
- Cooper Foundation
  Lincoln
- Bruce and Kim* Lauritzen
  Omaha
- John and Carmen Gottschalk
  Omaha
- Kenner Family Donor-Advised Fund
  Hebron
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
  Lincoln
- Bob Mundy/Coordinated Planning Inc. dba Mundy Associates
  Omaha
- Bob and Jean Stowell/Springdale Title & Realty
  Ord
- Wolf Foundation
  Albion
- Jeff Yost and Cindy Ryman Yost
  Lincoln
- Dennis Berens Rural Health Fund
  Lincoln
- Bridges Trust
  Omaha
- Judy K. and Don A. Brockmeier
  Eustis
- Wayne and Bev Buller
  Albion
- Countryside Bank
  Unadilla
- Diller Telephone Company
  Diller
- Bob and Michelle Dudley
  Norfolk
- Dale and Mary Dueland
  McCook
- Elkhorn Valley Bank
  Norfolk
- Fillmore County Hospital Foundation
  Geneva

**$15,000 to $24,999**

- Dennis Berens Rural Health Fund
  Lincoln
- Fortify Group
  Shickley
- Shannon Harner and Philip Goddard
  Lincoln
- Pete and Jonnie Peterson
  Fort Collins, CO
- Sara Coffee Radil and Gary Radil
  Omaha
- Reinke Manufacturing Company
  Deshler
- Security Bank
  Laurel
- Al and Lois Steuter
  Johnstown
- Tri-County Bank/Schmaderer Family
  Stuart
- Sandra and Steven Wendell
  Axtell
- Jay and Susie Wolf
  Albion

*Donor is deceased*
Our Work

Nebraska Community Foundation draws on volunteer community leadership, place-based philanthropy, peer-to-peer learning, and experienced mentors and professionals to create greater opportunity for all.

Together we:
- Envision a brighter future
- Nurture active hope
- Recruit and develop diverse local talent and leadership
- Invite contributions of time, talent and treasure from all people
- Cultivate a culture of giving to grow endowments for community reinvestment
- Manage financial resources
- Build and leverage every local asset
- Develop and deploy community mentors to advise and encourage fellow volunteers
- Engage in beneficial partnerships within and beyond our network
- Advance our mission through effective communications
- Secure philanthropic investment for advancing NCF’s mission

ANNUAL GIFTS SUPPORT OUR WORK

Gifts received from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

$100,000 and above
Frank Sibert
Kearney
Union Bank & Trust
Lincoln
Anonymous

$25,000 to $99,999
Abel Foundation
Lincoln
Lora Damme and Jay Longinaker
Talmage
Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska
Lincoln
Graff Charitable Foundation
McCook
Judy and Ron Parks
Papillion
Pinnacle Bank
Nebraska
Richard and Darlene Walter
Shickley
Anonymous

$10,000 to $24,999
Ameritas Charitable Foundation
Lincoln
Bellevue University
Bellevue
Bridges Trust
Omaha
Bruning State Bank
Bruning
Consolidated Companies
Lincoln
Cornerstone Bank
York
Kurt and Jerene Kruse
Albion
Al and Lois Steuter
Johnstown
Steve Buttress
Kearney
Dale and Mary Dueland
McCook
Elkhorn Valley Bank
Norfolk
MNB Financial Services
McCook
Paul and Angie Madison
Nebraska City
Lynn and Dana Roper
Lincoln
Security Bank
Laurel
CenterPoint Financial Group, Kiel VanderVeen, CFP®
Nebraska City
Wolff Foundation
Albion
Jeff Yost and Cindy Ryman Yost
Lincoln

$2,000 to $4,999
American National Bank
Omaha
Appeara
Norfolk
Baird Holm
Omaha
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Charlotte, NC
Behlen Mfg. Co.
Columbus
Bettenhausen Family Foundation
Lincoln
Black Hills Energy
Lincoln
Blackburn Manufacturing Company
Neligh
James Bradford
Norfolk
Charter West Bank
Pender
Kathleen Thuman/Community First Bank
Big Springs
D.A. Davidson
Lincoln
Daycos
Norfolk
Endacott Peetz Timmer
Lincoln, Newman Grove, Bruning
Fillmore County Hospital Foundation
Geneva
First State Bank Nebraska
Lincoln
HBE
Lincoln
Fortify Group
Shickley
Richard and Janet Labenz
Lincoln
Madonna Foundation
Lincoln
McMill CPAs and Advisors
Norfolk
Midwest Bank
Pierce
Moeller Electric
Byron
Jane and Michal Moreland
Imperial

$1,000 to $1,999
BKD
Omaha
Doug and Louise Bereuter
Lincoln
Steve Brewster
Stuart
Janny and Ryan Crotty
Auburn
Mark and Linda Graff
McCook
Moylan Kropp Retirement Planning
Omaha
Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
Lincoln
The Tom & Cynthia Olson Family Foundation
Lincoln
Parker, Grossart, Bahensky, Beucke, Bowman & Symington
Kearney
Pender Grain Elevator
Pender
Brad Pflueger
Norfolk
Sara Coffee Radil and Gary Radil
Omaha
Reinke Manufacturing Company
Deshler
The Ambassador Group
Nebraska City
Town and Country Veterinary Clinic
Albion
Valero Energy Foundation
Albion
West-Hodson Lumber Co.
Osmond

Jean Gilbert of the Kimball Community Foundation Fund was one of more than 250 volunteers who attended NCF’s 2018 annual training in Norfolk.
Eldon and JoAnn Gustafson
Ralston
Jim and Terri Gustafson
Roca
John Kampfe
Omaha
Jason and Tracia Kennedy
Lincoln
Lichti Oil Company
Shickley
Lorensen Lumber & Grain
Pender
Lutz
Omaha
McFarlin & Brokke
Omaha
Lori and Russ Pankonin
Imperial
Security First Bank
Lincoln
Greg and Marcia Vasek
Lincoln
Eldon and JoAnn Gustafson
Ralston
Jim and Terri Gustafson
Roca
John Kampfe
Omaha
Jason and Tracia Kennedy
Lincoln
Lichti Oil Company
Shickley
Lorensen Lumber & Grain
Pender
Lutz
Omaha
McFarlin & Brokke
Omaha
Lori and Russ Pankonin
Imperial
Security First Bank
Lincoln
Greg and Marcia Vasek
Lincoln
$500 to $999
Pam and Michael Abbott
Ogallala
Dan Bahensky
Kearney
Steve Busskoll
Norfolk
Mundy & Associates
Omaha
John Dittrich
Meadow Grove
Chuck and Janel Hibberd
Lincoln
Jane Hood
Lincoln
James Stuart III Family Foundation
Lincoln
E. Lyle Kinley, Jr.
Council Bluffs, IA
Greta Leach and Elizabeth Barry
Malcolm
Robert Mundy
Omaha
Anders Olson
Tekamah
Jeffrey J. and Lynn K. Pirruccello
Omaha
Randy Rink
Pender
Springdale Title & Realty
Ord
Kiel and Mimi VanderVeen
Nebraska City
Sandra and Steven Wendell
Axtell
Welsh Financial Services
Pender
Wilson/Richter Donor-Advised Fund
Lincoln
$499 and under
Teri Alley-Davis
Lincoln
Dena and David Beck
Minden
Kent and Peggy Been
Indianola
Olinda Boslau
Lincoln
Mark Buckley
Dakota Dunes, SD
Homer Buell
Bassett
Reggi and Doug Carlson
Lincoln
Jerry Catlett
Bruning
Phuong Dinh
Lincoln
Employees of Consolidated Companies
Lincoln
Denise Garey
McCook
Don and Alice Harpst
McCook
James W. and Marjorie B. Hewitt
Lincoln
Steve Knoche
Virginia
Iowa - Nebraska State Bank
South Sioux City
Les and Terri Long
Lincoln
Martin and Ruth Massengale
Lincoln
Jean Mueller-Yanaga
Kimball
Jennifer Radil
Omaha
Teri Alley-Davis
Ogallala
Phil Shaddox
Lakin, KS
Shae Beck
Lincoln
Jennifer Bland
Schaumburg, IL
Daren Brunkhorst
Cheyenne, WY
Little Bird Crook
Elko, NV
Laura Denney
Laramie, WY
Kendall Eide
Nampa, ID
Robin Faison
Cedar City, UT
Joe Ford
Cheyenne, WY
Cathy Grim
Laramie, WY
Dave Hart
Reno, NV
Samantha Hodge
Laramie, WY
Kendal Houston
Cedar City, UT
Amy Hunziker
Nampa, ID
Willie Industrial
Cedar City, UT
Dave Johnson
Reno, NV
Kendal Houston
Cedar City, UT
Amy Hunziker
Nampa, ID
Ray Johnson
Reno, NV
Shae Beck
Lincoln
Reggi Carlson
Communications Specialist
Janny Crotty, Assistant Director of Advancement
Phuong Dinh, IT System Administrator
Amy Fey, Accountant
Kristine Gale, Community Impact Coordinator
Denise Garey, Affiliated Fund Development Coordinator
Kira Geiger, Creative Specialist
Jim Gustafson, Director of Advancement and Gift Planning
Jana Jensen, Affiliated Fund Development Coordinator
Greta Leach, Director of Community Development Philanthropy
Les Long, Controller
Carrie Malek-Madani, Director of Marketing and Communications
Julii Rosso, Office Assistant
Emily Sulzle, Assistant Director of Gift Planning
Betty Wagner, Executive Assistant to CEO
Kara Weander-Gaster, Affiliated Fund Development Coordinator
Diane M. Wilson, Manager of Private/Public Partnerships

NCF Staff Members

Jeff Yost, President and CEO
Jason Kennedy, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
K.C. Belitz, Chief Operating Officer
Teri Alley-Davis, Office Manager
Dena Beck, Affiliated Fund Development Coordinator
Steve Brewster, Affiliated Fund Development Coordinator
Kyle Bucknell, Senior Accountant
Reggi Carlson, Communications Specialist
Janny Crotty, Assistant Director of Advancement
Phuong Dinh, IT System Administrator
Amy Fey, Accountant
Kristine Gale, Community Impact Coordinator
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Diane M. Wilson, Manager of Private/Public Partnerships

Staff members pause during a peer learning session in Howells to show off their new T-shirts. From left, K.C. Belitz, Kristine Gale, Greta Leach, Steve Brewster, Denise Garey, Jana Jensen.
On June 1, 2018, the Nebraska Community Foundation board of directors adopted a new Strategic Framework composed of six ambitious goals that will challenge staff, board, and volunteers to push the NCF mission further than ever before. The NCF Strategic Framework is not a map, but rather a compass, designed to guide our path into the future and turn up dream switches across the state.

1. Affiliated Funds have the capacity, competence and confidence to inspire, lead and support progress in their place.

NCF affiliated funds are often at the center of progress in their places. Our volunteers serve as community leaders, activators, advocates, organizers, conveners, fundraisers, visionaries and dreamers. In Pender, Fund Advisory Committee members wore all these hats and more in pulling off their biggest project to date—a $7.1 million, 38,500 square-foot state-of-the-art community center on Main Street. “We really try to invite everyone to the table and we’ve never been opposed to making the table bigger,” said Ray Welsh, a member of the Pender-Thurston Education & Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee. Peer-to-peer learning is central to achieving this goal and our friends in Pender are always willing to lend their experience and expertise to other affiliated funds looking to increase capacity, competence and confidence in their own hometowns.

2. Affiliated Funds are using payout from their unrestricted endowment to create positive change that otherwise may not occur.

In the care of a progressive, future-oriented Fund Advisory Committee, community unrestricted endowments have the potential to turn great communities into extraordinary ones. We often talk about unrestricted endowment payout as “margin of excellence” capital, in other words, money that can help catalyze positive change that otherwise may not occur in a community. Rock County is the perfect example of this grantmaking philosophy in action. Recently, Rock County Community Fund made several grants for the benefit of local students—funding to further the high school’s agricultural education program, a grant to bring an artist in residence program to the area, weekly summer art classes for grades K-12, and special coding and robotics offerings to the local public library.

3. People attraction is occurring in Nebraska hometowns.

A great majority of communities across the NCF network are highly focused on attracting new and returning young families as well as retaining the ones who currently live here. Philanthropy can be a powerful people attraction tool, and charitable dollars are being used to fund projects and programs that directly benefit young families—like early childhood development, access to arts and culture, and skills development for young professionals and emerging community leaders. In July, NCF was invited to play a leading role in programming sessions around people attraction as an economic development strategy at the Governor’s Economic Development Summit. Keynote speaker Jim Clifton reinforced the importance of a community-centric model stating, “You want to save Nebraska? You’ll save it one city at a time. You’ve got to find leaders in each place who’d rather die than see their place fail.”
4. The NCF network is diverse and inclusive.

In nature, ecosystems are strengthened by rich diversity. Human networks, like Nebraska Community Foundation, are no different. The more people we invite to the table, the more assets available, and the stronger our communities become. Goal four looks at embracing all dimensions of diversity across Greater Nebraska and welcoming new voices and perspectives to join important conversations about the future. Consultants like Carlos Barcenas of Grand Island (pictured here) are helping the NCF network build the skills and cultural competency required to make progress toward this important goal. We aim to make all aspects of NCF’s work more inclusive—from board, staff, and volunteer recruitment, to grantmaking practices. There is no one we do not need.

5. NCF is known for building an optimistic, confident brand for Greater Nebraska.

In Nebraska, nearly everything and everyone works. We have great public schools, an engaged citizenry, safe communities, and generous people. We consistently rank among the nation’s happiest and highest quality of life. Goal five centers on sharing this abundance and optimism with the world. Numerous media partnerships, including a collaboration with 10/11 News’ Pure Nebraska program, are doing exactly that by highlighting the stories of amazing people and hometowns across Nebraska. Most of all, these platforms are being used to give audiences an alternative narrative on what it means to live in a rural community. But this goal extends far beyond marketing tactics. It’s an ethos we resolve to spread to every corner of the state. There’s a reason we call this place Greater Nebraska!

6. NCF has the institutional capacity and financial stability to carry out its mission.

Our fiduciary responsibility to affiliated funds is at the core of NCF’s work. Having our financial house in order gives communities the freedom to dream bigger about what is possible. In our 25th year of growing community endowments, NCF crossed a major landmark—$100 million in endowed assets. That’s capital that will sustain our work and benefit our hometowns for years to come. Forty-three Greater Nebraska communities in the NCF network now have at least $10,000 in annual payout. Many are working to meet homegrown challenge grants. Belief in the future of Greater Nebraska and the abundance that can be found here is spreading like a beneficial virus across the state. In July 2019, the Omaha World-Herald published an editorial about NCF stating, “Community foundations are a vital Nebraska resource. The groups bring residents of a community together to identify local needs and pool their resources to address them.”
CREATING A FAMILY LEGACY

Nebraska Community Foundation has assisted hundreds of donors and their professional advisors with different tax-wise tools for charitable giving. Jim and Pat Blackburn of Neligh have a gift plan that involves several methods.

The Blackburn family has owned and operated Blackburn Manufacturing Company since 1953. The company produces millions of marking flags and other marking products each year. Jim serves as CEO, and daughters Jennifer Blackburn-Nielsen and Krista Blackburn-Schindler are president and marketing director respectively.

Jim and his wife, Pat, were eager to take advantage of the Charitable IRA Rollover which allows individuals who have reached the age of 70½ to distribute up to $100,000 from their IRA directly to charitable organizations. The amount distributed applies toward the annual required minimum distribution. One exception is the charitable distribution cannot be made to a donor-advised fund.

“We’ve supported a lot of organizations over the years. We were looking for a way to use our tax-deferred savings to continue our support, without having to pay a lot of taxes when that money was withdrawn,” Jim said.

The solution was to use a traditional IRA and a Charitable IRA Rollover to make a significant annual gift to a designated fund. Working with NCF, the Blackburn Family Designated Fund was established to provide grants to Antelope Memorial Hospital, Neligh-Oakdale Public Schools, and Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School each year.

Jim is optimistic about the future of Neligh. “Economic activity has picked up in the community in the past five to 10 years,” Jim said. “I had read about Nebraska Community Foundation for a long time. There are a number of communities in the area that have affiliated funds. Neligh had been talking about starting a fund for quite some time. Now they have, and there appears to be a lot of young, energetic people on the committee.”

Jim, Pat, and both daughters have been deeply involved in community volunteer activities for decades. Now the couple has taken the additional step to continue their giving after their lifetimes by establishing an endowed donor-advised fund and naming it and NCF as partial beneficiaries of their IRA.

“My family has been very fortunate living and doing business here. So, it’s nice to give back to your own hometown,” Jim said. “There’s no doubt I would absolutely recommend Nebraska Community Foundation to someone who is thinking about arranging a gift in their estate plan. They were certainly helpful.”

Giving to the Future of Your Hometown

Planned giving assistance is one of the most important services NCF offers to ensure a bright future for our hometowns. Jim Gustafson has headed up this effort since 1999, first as a part-time consultant, then moving to full time in 2005. “It’s the longest job interview I’ve ever had,” Jim jokes. “But it is the most inspiring and rewarding work I could have ever imagined!”

After 25 years, most organizations are just beginning to implement planned giving programs. NCF is far ahead, as these conservative estimates show:

15 years ago: 53 gifts at $20.4 million
10 years ago: 156 gifts at $30.0 million
5 years ago: 270 gifts at $48.6 million
Today: 328 gifts at $65.1 million

Every Nebraskan can leave a lasting, forever legacy in their hometown. Contact Jim Gustafson, director of advancement and gift planning, or Emily Sulzle, assistant director of gift planning at 402.323.7330.
Nebraska Community Foundation’s Legacy Society is our way to celebrate and say thank you to generous donors of future gift provisions through estate plans that benefit Nebraska. You will be invited to the Legacy Society when you inform Nebraska Community Foundation of your charitable intentions. With permission, you will be honored in NCF’s Annual Report.

If you would like to support Nebraska Community Foundation, give back to your hometown, or if you have already made a future gift intention in your will through a beneficiary designation or with a life income arrangement, contact Jim Gustafson, director of advancement and gift planning, or Emily Sulzle, assistant director of gift planning, at info@nebcommfound.org or 402.323.7330.

Recognition in the Legacy Society is based on information known on or before June 30, 2019.
The Hometown Legacy Society honors those generous individuals who have made a planned gift of any amount to benefit an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

Colin and Teresa Albers
Nebraska City

Sally Andersen
Omaha

Lemoine “Andy” and Geri* Anderson
McCook

Larry and Kelly Ballinger
Pender

Sue Batie
Cypress, CA

Guy and Bonnie Bechtel
Ogallala

Kerry and Colleen Belitz
Columbus

John* and Maurine* Biegert
Shickley

James and Patricia Blackburn
Neligh

F. Kay Blackstone
Red Cloud

Marcia A. Boden
Roseville, CA

Sharon Bohling
McCook

Wayne and Pat Boilesen
Albion

Jim and Helen Bradford
Norfolk

Jim Brennan
Atkinson

Janet S. Brewster
Stuart

Steven A. Brewster
Stuart

Judy K. and Don A. Brockmeier
Eustis

Steve and Sharon Brown
Valentine

Frank L. and Mary B. Bruning
Bruning

Fred and Penni Bruning
Bruning

Rick and Tracie Chochon
Columbus

Densil* and Elaine Christiansen
Pender

Gary* and Jan Chvala Family
O’Neill

Janice L. Cohorst
Wymore

Judith Scherer Connealy and Matt Connealy
Decatur

Tom and Deanne Damkroger
Lincoln

Brandon and Tammy Day
Norfolk

John Day
Ravenel, SC

Edwin and Barbara Dickau
Newport

Jeanne and John Dittrich
Meadow Grove

Mary Kay Dolejs
Omaha

Eugene and Judy Dondlinger
Shickley

Bob and Michelle Dudley
Norfolk

Dale and Mary Dueland
McCook

Eric Duhachek
Ogallala

Rori D. Erickson
Albion

Bette J. and Robert A.* Essig
Burwell

Jared and Julie Falty and Family
Norfolk

Joe and Bev Ferguson
Norfolk

Bud and Rita Fleischer
Columbus

Douglas A. and Patricia L. Friedli
Nebraska City

Erv and Marcia Friesen
Nebraska City

Denise Garey
McCook

Douglas and Judy Gaswick
Imperial

Mark and Linda Graff
McCook

William and Sandra Graves
McCook

Wayne and Linda Green
Chambers

Jim and Terri Gustafson
Lincoln

Steven and Beverly Harms
Davenport

Don and Alice Harpst
McCook

Bernard and Susan Hay
Scottsdale, AZ

Jerry and Kathy Heard
Holtsville

Peggy and Steve Hemphill
Diller

Sharon A. Hersemann
Nebraska City

Stacie Higgins
Nebraska City

Carol Hilker
Pender

In Memory of Leo Hink
Burwell

Tricia Batie Luse
Orange, CA

Richard Holland and Kathleen High
Lincoln

Don* and Phyllis Hovendick
Four Seasons, MO

Dave Hunt
Holtsville

Neal* and Elizabeth Hunt
Albion

Stephen Hunt
Plattsmouth

Larry and Pat Jakubowski
Holtsville

Jana M. Jensen
Bingham

Nick and Susan Jensen
Pender

Gene and Beverly* Johnson
Wausa

Loral* and Elna Johnson
Imperial

Calvin* and Audrey Jones and Family
Thedford

Jay Jones
Thedford

Sally Julifs
Nebraska City

Joseph R. and Gina D. Kamler
Shickley

John C. Klosterman
David City

Keith and Karen Knudsen
Laurel

Dawn Koehlmoos
Fremont

Mark A. and Suzanne M.* Kolterman
Seward

Kurt and Jerene Kruse
Albion

Bethanne Kunz
Ord

Larry R. Larson
Omaha

David and Susan LeGrand
Nebraska City

Susan Lorence and Ray Newton
Plattsmouth

Mark and Jana Lorenzen
Pender

Chad Lottman
Diller

Douglas and Cindy Lottman
Diller

Bob Lowe
Goode, VA

Bonne and Gerry Luckey
David City

Joel* and Helen Lundak
Nebraska City

Ronald Maas
Bennet

Paul and Angie Madison
Nebraska City

Cora Lynn Fosler Malmberg*
Pender

Brian and Joan Mastny
Clarkson

Travis and Heidi McConnell
Wallace

Marilyn D. McNabb
Lincoln

Redge and Phyllis Meierhenry
Clancy, MT
Kids and adults enjoy the community celebration in Valley County preceding the evening performance of “The Dream Switch,” a song cycle and community conversation about welcoming, belonging, and attracting newcomers and returners to our hometowns.
## Statement of Financial Position

**June 30, 2019 and 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and temporary cash investments</td>
<td>$9,099,175</td>
<td>$4,729,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of deposit</td>
<td>27,486,879</td>
<td>28,402,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>143,527,748</td>
<td>114,425,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in real property</td>
<td>76,351</td>
<td>75,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest receivable</td>
<td>152,822</td>
<td>133,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift annuities insurance</td>
<td>274,774</td>
<td>291,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from related party</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>157,056</td>
<td>185,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts receivable</td>
<td>972,705</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9,354</td>
<td>9,354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$181,756,864</td>
<td>$148,251,745</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LIABILITIES**        |               |               |
| Funds held for agencies | $10,319,665   | $9,972,600    |
| Accrued payroll liabilities | 86,864       | 57,325        |
| Accrued other liabilities | 130          | 1,239         |
| Gift annuities payable | 740,227       | 775,669       |
| **Total liabilities**  | $11,146,866   | $10,806,833   |

| **NET ASSETS**         |               |               |
| Without donor restrictions, undesignated | 156,132,533   | 121,846,627   |
| Without donor restrictions, board designated reserve | 1,034,914     | 1,028,319     |
| With donor restrictions | 13,442,531    | 14,569,966    |
| **Total net assets**   | $170,609,978  | $137,444,912  |
| **Total liabilities and net assets** | $181,756,864  | $148,251,745  |

## Statement of Activities

For the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue and support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$54,291,099</td>
<td>$39,244,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income/(loss)</td>
<td>8,913,710</td>
<td>6,449,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain/(loss)</td>
<td>(56,265)</td>
<td>(55,438)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative fee revenue and reimbursements</td>
<td>1,672,184</td>
<td>1,565,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>$64,820,728</td>
<td>$47,204,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>28,129,435</td>
<td>28,286,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>2,939,720</td>
<td>2,069,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>586,507</td>
<td>414,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$31,655,662</td>
<td>$30,770,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>33,165,066</td>
<td>16,433,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>$137,444,912</td>
<td>$121,010,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$170,609,978</td>
<td>$137,444,912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The financial statements of Nebraska Community Foundation are audited annually by an independent public accounting firm. A copy of the audited financial statements may be obtained by contacting the Foundation’s office. A copy of the Foundation’s tax filing (Form 990) may be obtained on the Foundation’s website or by contacting the Foundation’s office.
Assets, Disbursements and Contributions
of Nebraska Community Foundation with its Affiliated Funds

**Total Assets**
($ in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>83.6</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>107.6</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>130.6</td>
<td>148.3</td>
<td>181.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of 06.30

**Endowed Assets**
($ in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>68.4</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>107.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of 06.30

**Grants and Disbursements**
($ in millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>7,794</td>
<td>7,018</td>
<td>6,673</td>
<td>6,898</td>
<td>7,445</td>
<td>8,833</td>
<td>8,516</td>
<td>9,797</td>
<td>9,888</td>
<td>107.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Contributions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>32.6</td>
<td>32.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As of 06.30
One of the things that Nebraska Community Foundation is doing is taking the wealth—and I mean financial wealth, but also the intellectual wealth, and the spiritual wealth—that is dispersed in the communities and getting people together so they can start a conversation about how we should use all our kinds of wealth.

...It’s a model for what can be done around the country.

– DAVID BROOKS
Columnist, The New York Times

Nebraska Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations as established by the Council on Foundations. This means that NCF meets the nation’s highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability.