



*"Inspired by the past,
focused on the future"*

2021 NEWSLETTER



Leigh Legacy Fund Members (Front Row, L to R): Tara Dlouhy, Kamin Held, Megan Hillen, Melissa Brabec, Tricia Mullenhoff, Heather Held; (Back Row, L to R): Michele Clausen, Thomas Urban, Ryan Hillen, Brent Wietfeld, Landon Wietfeld, Paige Ritz, Justine Fischer

A NOTE FROM THE LEIGH LEGACY FUND

HELLO FRIENDS of Leigh living both near and far!

Beginning in July 2019, members of the Leigh Area Foundation voted to affiliate with Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), a statewide nonprofit organization providing shared ideas and resources to nearly 250 communities across the state. With our official affiliation in January 2020 came a name change, and we are now the Leigh Legacy Fund. The addition of the word "Legacy" reflects our desire to make a lasting impact on the community of Leigh.

After joining NCF, we expanded our fund advisory committee (FAC) as well as our vision for the future, and we have never looked back! As an affiliated fund of NCF, we receive support in finance, planned giving, community development, education, and communications. Importantly, all grantmaking decisions are made at the local level by FAC members.

The 13 members of our FAC are deeply committed to the future of this community. The main goal of Leigh Legacy Fund (LLF) is to increase charitable giving among those who love this community as much as we do and to make grants that enrich the quality of life for present and future generations, preserve our heritage, and nurture our sense of community.

We will do this primarily by establishing an unrestricted endowment. Funds that go into LLF's unrestricted endowment are invested, the principal is never touched, and the investment earnings increase over time. In other words, any gift made to LLF's unrestricted endowment is a "forever" gift. A portion of the invested earnings serve as "payout" to be granted to programs and projects that benefit the community of Leigh and surrounding area every year.

Anyone who donates to LLF's unrestricted endowment has not put forth any specific guidelines on how the money is used beyond benefitting the people and community of Leigh. Donors to the unrestricted endowment trust the LLF Advisory Committee to decide how the money is spent (with welcome input from the community!) Unrestricted gifts provide ultimate flexibility for the future as we cannot anticipate community needs 10 years from now, 50 years from now, and beyond.

Members of the Legacy Fund are so proud of the exciting things happening in our community. The support shown by so many people in our short time as a fund has been truly inspiring. So many people for so many years have worked tirelessly to make Leigh the great place it is. By working to build our unrestricted endowment, we want to do our part to capitalize on the strengths and assets Leigh already has and continue to build the community for future generations!

We hope you find our very first newsletter informative and enjoyable. If you have any questions about our fund or wish to support our work, don't hesitate to reach out to our volunteers! ■

Leigh Legacy Fund
PO Box 51 ■ Leigh, NE 68643

An affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation
PO Box 83107 ■ Lincoln, NE 68501
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Follow us at Leigh Legacy Fund

LLF RECEIVES GIFT FROM BILL AND THERESA EGGERS FAMILY TRUST

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the Leigh Legacy Fund received the wonderful news that it would be the recipient of a \$250,000 gift from the estate of William (Bill) and Theresa Eggers.

Bill, the son of Alvin and Olga (Renner) Eggers, was a 1968 graduate of Leigh High School. After graduating, Bill served as a radio technician in the United States Marine Corps from 1969–1974. He married Theresa Bowman of Louisville, Kentucky in 1970. Following his discharge from the Marines, Bill worked for the Metropolitan Sewer District in Louisville as a clerk, union president, equipment operator, and wastewater treatment operator, level 4. Theresa worked as a computer programmer for Blue Cross & Blue Shield insurance company. After retiring, Bill and Theresa moved to Leigh and operated Bill's Bar from 1999–2012. The bar was a "Family Tradition" loved by many. Bill was also a member of the Leigh Volunteer Fire Department for 13 years, Civil Defense Coordinator for 10 years, and a member of Sucha Post 302 of the American Legion, Leigh, Nebraska.

Bill passed away in 2017 and Theresa in 2020. Above all, they had a love of family and community, and their gift will impact the community of Leigh for generations to come. The Leigh Legacy Fund wishes to express its utmost gratitude to Bill, Theresa, and their family for their generosity. A gift of this magnitude in the first year of the Legacy Fund's inception is truly inspiring and humbling.



Bill and Theresa Eggers (standing) are pictured with Bill's parents, Alvin (Butch) and Olga Eggers (seated)

The Leigh Legacy Fund will work closely with the family of Bill and Theresa to honor their intended use of the funds. At this time, it is the family's wish that a portion of the gift be used on a recreation project in the near future and the rest be allocated to the Legacy Fund's permanent, unrestricted endowment where it will continue to grow and impact the community in perpetuity. ■



Cal Lierman and Chris Herink, along with Gerard T. Forget, attorney, present a check from the Bill and Theresa Eggers Trust to Legacy Fund members.

LEIGH ALUMNI REUNION SUCCESS



THIS YEAR, the Legacy Fund, in coordination with the Leigh Alumni Association, was fortunate to be able to plan and host the Leigh All-Class reunion at the Colfax County Fairgrounds on Sunday, May 30.

All proceeds were used to fund the Leigh Alumni Association scholarships. It was a great way for Legacy members to be of service to the community and increase our visibility.

The day's festivities started at 3 p.m. with tours of the new high school given by members of the Leigh Youth Advisory Committee.

Social time and dance with the Duffy Belorad Orchestra began at 4 p.m., followed by a Windsor Loin meal prepared by Park Place and served by members of the Legacy Fund. Timberwolf provided a cash bar throughout the evening. Special thanks to Citizen's State Bank for sponsoring the Duffy Belorad Orchestra!

This was followed by a short program featuring dancers from Steps at Tiffany's, and the presentation of the scholarship winners: Trevor Zulkoski and Emily Loseke. Some Leigh High trivia was shared, and members of the honored classes were announced. Special recognition was given to Adeline (Reininger) Brown, Class of 1940, who was honored as the oldest living Leigh alumni.

Leigh Legacy Fund tumblers were awarded as door prizes. Any former Leigh cheerleaders in attendance led the singing of the Leigh school song. To round out the program, Justine Fischer and Ryan Hillen shared information about LLF, followed by a special alumni video created by Emily Loseke.

Special thanks to Chuck and Sue Folken for helping with the sound and video throughout the evening. Around 170 people were in attendance for the banquet. Following the banquet and program, Red Delicious Band with Leigh alum Elise (Korte) Quance played until midnight. Norma's Kitchen served food and another 100 people joined in attendance for the dance. ■



Justine Fischer and Ryan Hillen provide closing remarks for the Alumni Banquet program.

OUR VISION

Leigh is a thriving, caring community committed to enriching the quality of life for present and future generations, preserving our heritage, nurturing our sense of community, and fostering a culture of giving back.

OUR MISSION

LLF is a vehicle for the philanthropy of individuals, businesses, and organizations that desire to make a lasting contribution to the community of Leigh. We act as a catalyst for growth to provide leadership and resources to strengthen our community both now and for future generations.

OUR VALUES

■ PASSIONATE

We are positive and enthusiastic about the Leigh community. We take great pride in who we are and where we live.

■ RESPONSIBLE

We are respectful as we care for the legacy of the community and its members. We take into consideration the thoughts, feelings, and life experiences of all community members in making decisions.

■ TRUSTWORTHY

We are dependable, honest, accountable, and transparent. We can be counted on to keep our word and our promises.

■ GENUINE

We are compassionate and dedicated to building our community. We approach our work with integrity and a positive attitude.

■ COLLABORATIVE

We believe in creating partnerships in our community that foster teamwork, maximize our ability to fulfill our vision, and create a culture of giving.

■ FORWARD-THINKING

We think ahead, are open to the changing needs of our community, and are proactively working to improve our future.

■ GRACIOUS

We sincerely appreciate each and every gift of time, talent, and treasure to improve our community.

OUR MEMBERS

Justine Fischer, *Chair* 402.910.2561
 Tara Dlouhy, *Vice-Chair* 402.276.3620
 Tricia Mullenhoff, *Secretary* 402.910.0805
 Landon Wietfeld, *Treasurer* 402.750.7287
 Melissa Brabec 402.992.0287

Michele Clausen 402.750.8079
 Heather Held 402.276.1068
 Kamin Held 402.276.1765
 Megan Hillen 402.910.1391
 Ryan Hillen 402.276.3320

Paige Ritz 402.276.6831
 Thomas Urban 402.942.1746
 Brent Wietfeld 402.750.0140

FUND SPONSORS “BEAR HUNT”



The Rayback family poses next to their big panda bear. Clockwise from top are Cassandra, Payje, Brinx, Kyleigh, and Matelyn.

AT THE ONSET of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nebraska Community Foundation urged local affiliated funds to find creative ways to help community members stay connected. In late March 2020, LLF organized a “Bear Hunt” for the Leigh community. LLF Chair Justine Fischer read the story *We’re Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen, and it was posted on the Legacy Fund Facebook page the night of the event.

The fund then asked residents to place stuffed teddy bears in their windows or on their property and encouraged families to cruise through town searching for them. Nearly 100 homes and businesses participated in the display and over 150 bears and other animals were counted overall.

The event was featured in Nebraska Community Foundation’s Summer 2020 newsletter. This was just one example of how the Leigh community showed strength, resilience, support for one another, and support for local businesses during the pandemic! ■

COMMUNITY CLUB DONATES TRACTOR PULL PROCEEDS TO LLF



ON AUGUST 29, 2020, Leigh Community Club hosted a farm tractor pull, graciously donating the proceeds to the Legacy Fund. Despite a mid-afternoon thunderstorm, over 50 entries pulled that day. Crews worked hard to get the track back into shape and finish out the pull. Between sponsorship, entry fees, donations, and a raffle, \$5,000 was donated to the Legacy Fund!

Thank you to these sponsors: Laredo Enterprises, Magsamen Repair, Svehla Custom Spraying, Citizens State Bank, Koliha Trucking, Mullenhoff Attachments, County Line Trucking, Groteluschen Trucking, Tredas, Redstar, Sobota Seeds, Kabes Farms, Kit Held Seed & Chemical, Indra Trucking, Wietfeld Trucking, Lazy J Land & Cattle, Heartland Nutrition, Settje Transportation, Mike Brabec, CSI, Wayne’s Repair, Pinnacle Bank, Went Trucking, Sieke Trucking, Park Place, JAMM, Wietfeld Electric, J&L Automotive, and The Leigh World.

Thank you to the many who attended the free event and made freewill donations to the Legacy Fund! Also, thank you to Kyle Dlouhy for organizing and running the event and everyone who assisted to make this event a success. ■

REGIONAL TRAINING HELD IN LEIGH

ON JUNE 28, 2021, LLF was honored to be asked to host a regional training with the theme of “Active Hope” at Park Place in Leigh. Members of the Legacy Fund and Youth Advisory Committee enjoyed a night of learning and networking with members of seven different affiliated funds and NCF board members and staff. Over 40 people from the Leigh, Howells, Lakeview, Boone County, David City, Norfolk, and Newman Grove funds were in attendance.

Our affiliation with NCF allows us to connect with other funds to share ideas and advice. Thank you to NCF for the great evening and Park Place for the delicious meal and hospitality! ■

WHAT IS ACTIVE HOPE?

ONE OF THE MANY THINGS we believe Leigh has going for it is a vibrant culture of “active hope.” Those with regular hope simply sit back and wish things were better. Those with active hope continually set goals and actively work to make them reality. Along with a culture of active hope comes a culture of dreaming, and NCF gives us the network of rural leadership to believe all these dreams are possible! ■

HOUSE OF YESTERYEAR UPDATE

THIS PAST SUMMER and fall, LLF worked in cooperation with the Village of Leigh and Leigh Community Schools to preserve all historical items within the House of Yesteryear.

With the 1875 structure in extreme disrepair, Legacy Fund members, Youth

Advisory Committee student volunteers, and many other community members worked diligently to remove all items within the House of Yesteryear for temporary storage in a modular building at the old Leigh High School site. This was a bittersweet process, as many dedicated individuals and organizations

put so much time and work went into preserving the museum through the years. Although there are no immediate plans for the structure itself, the Legacy Fund and Village Board agreed that steps needed to be taken to preserve the living history of Leigh before it is too late! ■

GIFTS FOR LEIGH 2021 GRADUATES



LHS Senior Emily Loseke holds her tumbler.

THE LEGACY FUND gifted all the 2021 graduating seniors of Leigh High School a Legacy logo tumbler and \$15 in Leigh Bucks. The Fund wishes this year's seniors the best of luck in their future endeavors, and we hope many of them will someday make the choice to bring their talents home and raise their families in Leigh! ■

COMMUNITY VISIONING SESSION HELD



LEIGH LEGACY FUND hosted a series of Community Action Planning meetings from October 2019 to February 2020—another big accomplishment for our fund. NCF led these meetings, which focused on creating a “Dream List” for the community’s future; defining the group’s mission, vision, and values; and setting goals for what the Legacy Fund wants to accomplish in the future.

For now, the primary goal of the Legacy Fund continues to be to create a permanent endowment that will enrich the quality of life for present and future generations. ■

COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

LEIGH LEGACY FUND would like to give special thanks to our special collaborative partners, the Leigh Community Club and Leigh Youth Advisory Committee.

The Legacy Fund works closely with both groups. The Community Club is an amazing community asset with dedicated volunteers who sponsor community-building programs such as Santa, Easter Bunny, Trunk or Treat, Movie in the Outfield, and Winterfest. The Community Club fully supports LLF’s mission to build a permanent unrestricted endowment and has not held its annual membership drive for the past two years.

Instead, they ask you to support the Legacy Fund with future donations. The Community Club will continue to use the money in their existing account until it is exhausted. From that point on, they will be funded solely by LLF.



Community Club members pictured at Winterfest 2020 from left, Nellie Urban, Bri Wietfeld, Jenica Dietrich, Midwest Mentalist David Fox, Paige Ritz, and Michele Clausen.

The Leigh Youth Advisory Committee (founded in 2015) is a group of students in grades 10–12 who care deeply about the community of Leigh and about community in general. The group considers itself the youth component of LLF. YAC’s mission is to help students foster a sense of pride in their community and learn more about civic responsibility and leadership. The YAC group for the upcoming 2021–22 year is the biggest ever at 31!

These students are required to observe numerous community meetings throughout the year, including Legacy Fund meetings. They also take part in various community service projects each year such as painting street lines and other various paint projects, as well as organizing the biannual Leigh Christmas Festival and Tour of Homes. All profits the students raise through the Christmas Festival and working concession stands throughout the school year are donated back to the community with the students deciding fully how to spend the money they raise. The group’s most recent projects include a new scoreboard for the ball field in 2019 and a wallpaper mural celebrating the history of Leigh in the main entrance of the new high school that was installed this spring. ■



Members of YAC dedicate their history mural. From Left, School Board Member Megan Folken, School Board President Kamin Held, Superintendent Stephanie Petersen, 2020–21 YAC officers Natalie Brabec, Makenna Held, Kanyon Held, Alissa Kasik, Cassidy Hoffman, Emily Loseke, and Justine Fischer, YAC sponsor.

FUND UPDATES

GRANT APPLICATION ADOPTED

In November 2020, the Leigh Legacy Fund adopted an official application for organizations to apply for funds for charitable purposes. We can begin accepting applications for grants July 2021!

LEGACY FUND UPDATES "FRIENDS OF LEIGH" INFORMATION

Beginning last summer, LLF began the process of creating a master database of addresses and contact information for all current residents of the Leigh area, as well as alumni and other "friends" of Leigh living elsewhere. Thank you to all of you who responded to our address update questionnaire on Facebook! The addresses will be used for future alumni banquet contact as well as LLF newsletters and updates. If you or anyone you know has a new address or contact information, we encourage you to share it with a Legacy Fund member so we can continue to build and update our list!

GENERAL FUND AND ENDOWMENT BALANCES

Beginning Balance,
January 1, 2020:

\$12,000.00

Donations/Income:

\$268,124.67

Expenditures/Fees/Payouts:

\$2,132.60

Ending Balance, July 1, 2021:

\$277,992.07

OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

July 2019–June 2021

GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Charles Arnold
Charles Bare
Gary Blessen
Gary Brabec
Frankie Charipar
Connie Dittberner
Ruth Feye
Adella Fuhr
Gordon Fuhr
Margaret Hobza
Doris Hoff
Steve Jenki
Marilyn Kasik
Harry Korte
Janice Kucera
Diane Moeller Lukert
Audrey Malena
Don McKelvey
Ron Mohnsen
Charlie Mullenhoff
Ruth Pieper
Amy Policky
Frank Reichmuth
Emma Schroeder Rosendahl
Ernie Spanhake
Linda Tiedtke
Adolph "Duffy" Vitek
"All of the Wonderful People of Leigh"

GENEROUS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

Gary and Diane Belohrad
Citizens State Bank
Clarkson Bank
Bill and Jill Becher
Dustin and Melissa Brabec
Kevin and Trina Brabec
Linda Cattau
Darlene Charipar
Heath and Michele Clausen
Kyle and Tara Dlouhy
Darrell and Beth Anne Dinneen
William (Bill) and Theresa Eggers Family
Trust
Ken and Janet Eisenmann
Eisenmann Farms
Loretta Engelbart
Cole and Justine Fischer
Darwin and Lois Franzen
Gordon and Norma Fuhr
Larry Fuhr
Matthew and Michele Gotschall
Keal and Heather Held
Kip and Kamin Held
Glen and Karen Hillen
Ryan and Megan Hillen
Doug Hobel
Regina and Rita Hogendorn
Oliver and Marjorie Johnson
Norene Kuhr
Theresa Kumpf
Anson and Cheryl Korte
Leigh Community Club
Leigh Farm Pull organizers
Cal and Nancy Liermann
Roger and Margean Littelman
Loren and Doris Loseke
Sean and Tiffany Malena
Don and Sherri Maliha
Thomas and Jill Martin
Steve McKelvey and Jan Wietfeld
Mike and Sandy McMullin
Randy and Linda McMullin
Carolee Mullenhoff
Richard and Tricia Mullenhoff
Dick and Marilyn Murloski
Amy Nelson
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Thomas Urban
LaVern and Joyce Wendt
Terry and Spring Wendt
Wallace Wendt
Hank and Lowene Werkmeister
Brent and Kacy Wietfeld
Landon and Michkayla Wietfeld
Vicki Wilke

**Our sincerest apologies if any names were inadvertently overlooked in this printing. Please let us know if we missed you. Some donations are not listed on this page due to anonymity. Please let us know if you wish to donate anonymously. LLF respects all private donations and will never post anonymous contributions.*

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION

WE WISH TO THANK all our donors and contributors! We are just beginning our journey with Nebraska Community Foundation as they dare us to dream big dreams for our community and surrounding rural area. One thing NCF stresses is that gifts come in more forms than just money. They come in the form of "Time, Talent, and Treasure." One thing our fund has discussed time and time again is that we want the word "grateful" to be synonymous with Leigh Legacy Fund. We wish to

extend our sincerest gratitude for every monetary donation given to our fund, great or small. Just as importantly, we want to thank everyone who helps us in the giving of their time or talent. This type of gift is just as important. There are so many Leigh community heroes, living both close and far away, working to make this a better place for all to live and visit. To all of you, thank you for believing in the importance of community, the power of dreams, and the future of the Village of Leigh. ■

WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

WHETHER THROUGH FAITH, family, friends, or community, each of us has had an impact on the lives of others through the gifts we give. Our legacy is the impact that lasts long after our lives have ended. How do you want to help shape the future? What charitable work must continue? Leigh Legacy Fund and NCF can help you put your assets to work with tax-efficient charitable strategies while also supporting the causes most important to you. Some popular ways to give include:

■ GIFTS IN A WILL OR TRUST

You can make a charitable gift by designating a percentage or a specific dollar amount of your estate. This type of gift is flexible and revocable.

■ BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS

Many financial accounts, CDs, mutual funds, annuities, and life insurance policies allow you to make a charitable gift using beneficiary designations.

■ RETIREMENT PLANS

You can make a charitable gift using the beneficiary designation of your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement plan. This type of gift avoids estate and income

taxation on the assets accumulated tax-free during your lifetime.

■ GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

Life insurance offers flexible ways to make a charitable gift of an existing policy or new policy.

■ GIFTS THAT PROVIDE INCOME

You can make a gift now, get immediate tax benefits, ensure that you or a loved one receives income payments for life, and make a future charitable gift.

■ REAL ESTATE

When you make a charitable gift of the real estate, you pay no capital gains tax when it is sold by the charity.

■ GRAIN OR LIVESTOCK

Allow a farmer or rancher to avoid claiming the sale price of the commodity as income and deduct the cost of production as a business expense.

Reach out to Jim Gustafson, NCF Director of Advancement and Gift Planning (402.323.7341) or any member of the Leigh Legacy Fund Advisory Committee for more information!



WHAT IS NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?



LEIGH LEGACY FUND

is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation, a statewide nonprofit organization working to unleash abundant local assets, inspire charitable giving, and connect ambitious people. NCF works with 246 affiliated funds benefitting 272 hometowns in 83 Nebraska counties. All members of the NCF network are working toward one shared vision – to build stronger communities and a Greater Nebraska.

Our affiliation with NCF allows LLF to receive tax-deductible contributions and complex gifts like real estate and agricultural commodities. NCF also handles all gift receipting, accounting, legal work, investments, and audit and tax filing to ensure we are fully compliant with IRS rules.

But our affiliation with NCF is about much more than fiduciary management. NCF’s support and services help communities across Nebraska go further faster—from training for volunteers on fundraising, community

visioning, asset mapping, and leadership development, to furnishing a full-service marketing department, robust web presence and capabilities, the industry’s foremost software products, and much more. Affiliating with NCF also opens doors to opportunities to connect with statewide partners, major funders, donors, and a community of professional advisors in every corner of the state. Most importantly, our NCF affiliation connects our volunteers to a network of ambitious Nebraskans—peers across the state who are also working to better their places, too. ■

“ *Even the name of the Leigh Legacy Fund is a reflection of their focus, as they intentionally use the word ‘Legacy’ to reflect their desire to make a lasting impact on the community of Leigh through a permanent endowment.* ”

K.C. BELITZ, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER,
NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

WHAT IS AN UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT?

LEIGH LEGACY FUND is focused on building a permanent unrestricted endowment, an important tool to keep our hometown growing, thriving, and improving for future generations. It creates a steady stream of revenue for community needs today and those that arise in the years to come.

Funds that go into LLF’s unrestricted endowment are invested and continue to grow. The principal is never touched, and the investment earnings increase over time. Any gift made to the LLF endowment is a “forever” gift.

As the endowment grows, so will the investment earnings. A portion of these earnings will serve as a “payout” for future grants the Fund will be able to give to area groups to support projects and programs that enhance quality of life in Leigh and the surrounding area. The principal—and your gift—remains intact and grows forever.

What are your hopes and dreams for the future of Leigh? With an unrestricted endowment, those dreams are within our reach! Together we’ll create a community our children and our children’s children are proud to call home. ■

