



SEHNERT CHALLENGE

Arts, Culture & Community



“This particular challenge is my opportunity to honor Walt and Jean Sehnert for their love of community and cultural arts in a way that yearly gives back to McCook, forever.”

- Don Harpst,
Campaign Co-Chair



Photo by Emily Karr

A TRADITION OF SHARING

People of McCook have a long and rich history of giving back to the community. Maybe it is volunteering to make costumes for the latest community theater production. Perhaps it is donating time to coach a child's baseball team. Or possibly it is helping a neighbor plant their garden each spring.

McCook is a place where everyone can be involved, in a large or small way. Where everyone is doing their part to make McCook a better place to live, work and raise their families.

With this tradition, McCook has a wonderful opportunity to increase its harvest for future generations; one we believe can literally transform our community and, in particular, the cultural arts.

Susan Sehnert Stuart has created a challenge grant for McCook Community Foundation Fund

to raise \$200,000 in unrestricted endowment funds. In return, she will provide an additional \$100,000 in matching funds to honor her parents, Walt and Jean Sehnert, and to recognize the impact they have had on McCook, along with arts and culture in our community over the past 60 years.

That \$300,000 increase in the permanent endowment will enable MCFE to make a larger impact in the community immediately. More importantly, it is a gift to future generations to realize their dreams.

“ In recognition of the leading challenge match gift of \$100,000 from Susan Sehnert Stuart, a grant will be made annually honoring Walt & Jean Sehnert, to be used for a purpose consistent with the manner in which Walt & Jean live their spirited life and express their love for our community.”

- Dale Dueland, MCFE Vice-Chair
and Campaign Co-Chair

MCFF INVESTS IN THE COMMUNITY

The McCook Community Foundation Fund invests in people and their ideas, having granted more than \$300,000 to community organizations since 2003.

During 2017, MCFF grants were given to the Southwest Nebraska Habitat for Humanity program to rehabilitate a house, to the Missoula's Children's Theater program, as well as scholarships for both traditional and non-traditional students.

Leadership programs are also important to MCFF because of the impact on the community. In 2017, MCFF partnered with McCook Community College (Mid-Plains CC) for a leadership series which included national speaker John O'Leary, author of the national best-selling book, "On Fire." Other grant recipients over the years have included the Heritage Senior Center, the Ed Thomas YMCA and the City of McCook.

MCFF also supports area youth programs including the the HomeTown Competitiveness Youth Task Force, which presents gifts to graduating high school seniors every year to remind them of their hometown.

Youth Change Reaction (YCR), a high school group mentored and supported by MCFF, is very involved in the



community, including hosting a junior high dance with proceeds given to a local student who is fighting cancer.

They also created "Bags of Sunshine" to be given to local students by fellow students who they feel may need a bit of encouragement.

YCR members also serve as guides for McCook's 7th grade Heritage Tour, which highlights historic McCook sites and places; meet monthly with elementary students during lunch and recess; and help with local events, such as the Prairie Roots Festival.



"McCook has meant a lot to our family. And the arts have made it especially meaningful. As the next generations take the lead, I would like my parents' love of music and community to continue to grace the landscape of McCook. I think the McCook Community Foundation Fund is just the group to help this happen!"

- Susan Sehnert Stuart

“The Sehnert Challenge Grant is an exciting example of how a McCook family, with some members living here and some living away, can leave a legacy for the future good of our community. By allowing all of us to join in the effort, we can multiply the impact of their gift to enhance the quality and enjoyment of life in McCook for all residents.”

- Peggy Been, MCFF Advisory
Committee Secretary



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Susan Sehnert Stuart chose a challenge grant as a way to honor her parents, Walt and Jean Sehnert, who have promoted and fostered the cultural and performing arts in McCook for the past 60 years – many of which helped shape her childhood in McCook and gave her a lifelong appreciation of the arts. She chose to make this gift through the McCook Community Foundation Fund to help McCook continue to grow and thrive for generations to come.

The funds will be added to MCFF’s current unrestricted endowment account with the principal retained and only the interest used to make annual grants. These funds will be used without restriction to provide community grants to improve the quality of life in McCook and Southwest Nebraska.

In addition, MCFF will make an annual grant in honor of Walt and Jean Sehnert to a project or organization which reflects their interests and passions in McCook.



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

The Sehnert Challenge is led by Dale and Mary Dueland and Don and Alice Harpst, who have volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the campaign.

The challenge also includes campaign committees with dozens of community members who have stepped up to support the Sehnert Challenge.

These individuals have volunteered for the Sehnert Challenge because they realize the impact this challenge can have on McCook.

MCFF has an opportunity to reach those who are excited to invest in McCook's future and who love to call McCook home.

Through the Sehnert Challenge, donors will have the opportunity to honor Walt and Jean and their tremendous impact on McCook's community and southwest Nebraska.

There is no way we can predict future needs of the community. But by contributing to this campaign, MCFF will be able to serve our community for decades to come as well as build a community we can only imagine at this point.

“Using only the earnings from the unrestricted endowment, the McCook Community Foundation Fund will be able to provide larger community grants every year to support programs and improving the quality of life in McCook and southwest Nebraska.”

- Dale Dueland, MCFF Vice-Chair and Campaign Co-Chair

WAYS TO GIVE:

Your generous gift will not only help today; it will continue to grow and keep giving tomorrow. Below are a number of ways you can support the Sehnert Challenge:

Cash – A gift of cash may be eligible for income tax deductions as prescribed by current law. Your cash gift may be by check, credit card or electronic funds transfer, which authorizes the automatic transfer of funds each month from your checking or savings account. Pledging a gift over several years may allow you to increase its size and effect, while adjusting the timing and amount of each payment to optimize your tax position.

Marketable securities – A gift of publicly-traded stock, bonds or mutual fund shares is eligible to be matched by Susan Sehnert Stuart at the full fair market value. Such a gift may provide you with additional tax benefits, as you will not pay capital gains tax on the appreciation in the value of the securities.

Gifts of IRA – Individuals who have reached age 70 ½ may contribute up to \$100,000 directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA), without having to recognize the IRA distribution in taxable income. If married, each spouse can transfer up to \$100,000 from his or her IRA each year.

Agricultural commodities – Gifts of grain or livestock may provide significant income tax savings to a producer. Because the property is gifted, no revenue is recognized, and the cost of production may still be deducted as a business expense.

Checks may be made payable to:

McCook Community Foundation Fund (MCCFF)

and mailed to:

MCCFF-Sehnert Challenge

PO Box 525

McCook, NE 69001

An affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation



Nebraska Community Foundation

serves communities throughout Nebraska with a range of services, including financial management, strategic development, education, training and peer learning. NCF works with community leaders and donors to help them achieve the impacts that charitable giving can have on community economic development outcomes. By building permanent community assets, NCF reaches out to help everyone deepen or rekindle their belief in the future of their hometown.

www.nebcommfound.org

“This endowment will help perpetuate the impact to our community in McCook made by the Sehnerts in time, talent and treasure over these last 60 years.”

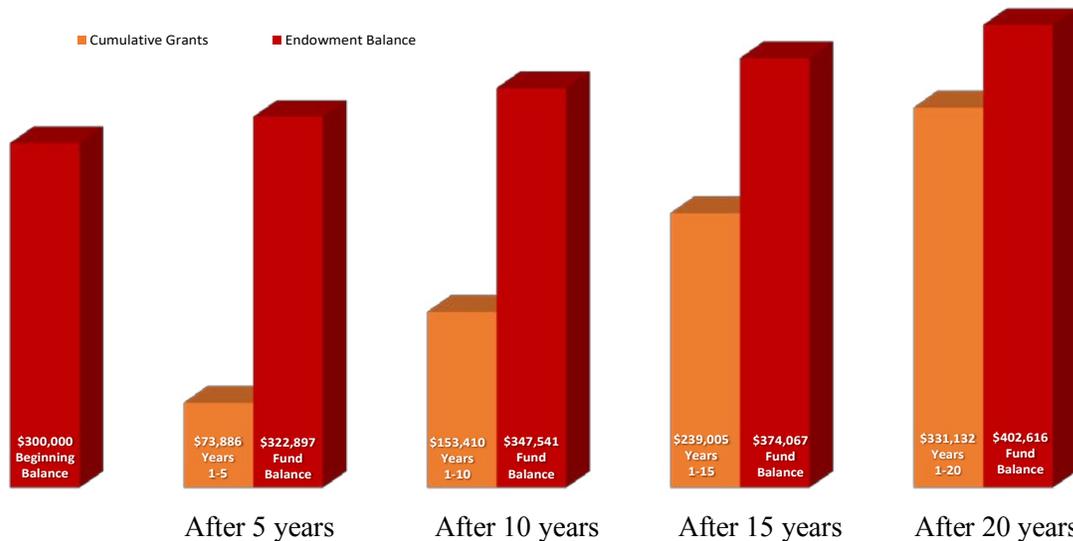
- Mark Graff, MCCFF Treasurer

THE POWER OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENTS

Like a 'community savings account,' an unrestricted endowment can be used to support community projects, programs and people. The endowment is a permanent fund that will be held and invested in perpetuity, creating an asset for the community that will remain for generations to come.

Your contribution to an endowment is a "forever" gift that increases over time. While MCFF grants out a portion of the income earned by the unrestricted endowment each year, the principal – and your gift – is left intact to continue to build the fund. Long-term, the endowment will assure financial support for community needs we cannot even envision today. This provides unlimited possibilities to future generations.

The chart below shows the growth of, and cumulative amount, that can be granted from a \$300,000 endowment over 20 years.



This is an example using the following assumptions: 7.5% return (net of fees), 4.5% annual endowment payout, asset allocation: 75% equities, 25% fixed income

Our Leadership:

Dale and Mary Dueland, Campaign Co-Chairs

Don and Alice Harpst, Campaign Co-Chairs

Fund Advisory Committee Members:

Cynthia Huff, Chair

Dale Dueland, Vice Chair

Mark Graff, Treasurer

Peggy Been, Secretary

Dennis Berry

Linda Frank

Dr. Bill Graves

Gavin Harsh

Doug Skiles

Pam Wolford

Ronda Graff, Fund Coordinator

mcffund@gmail.com

Our Mission:

Inspiring investment in the quality of life for the people of southwest Nebraska.



“MCFF offers everyone the opportunity to create a better community.”

- Cynthia Huff, MCFF Advisory Committee Chair

WHAT IS MCFF?



The McCook Community Foundation Fund supports a wide variety of organizations and causes and is able to help when the opportunity or need arises.

The Fund Advisory Committee is made up of citizens from McCook and southwest Nebraska who provide oversight of the fund and direct our community investment. All the members are active in the community and have a strong sense of community pride.

MCFF is excited about the opportunity we have been blessed with from Susan Sehnert Stuart and the Nebraska Community Foundation. To show their support, each and every member of the Fund Advisory Committee has pledged his or her financial support to this endowment campaign.