

# CARLY REXING IS AT HOME IN EUSTIS



## For you personally, what has been the most valuable part about moving to your community?

The most valuable part of moving to Eustis has been the ability to feel a part of something larger than ourselves. The village takes on newcomers with open arms and makes you feel included. It really feels like one big family.

## Any surprises?

I am surprised every day at how much our community has to offer. There is so much for all ages; a K-12 school, multiple playgrounds, a pool, two churches, a daycare, a grocery store, a restaurant, a bar, two hair studios, a tire shop, a mechanic shop, two gas stations, a library, a boutique, a German market, and so much more.

## What excites you when you think about the future of your community?

I am so excited for the baby boom we are having! A lot of young people are returning or moving to Eustis and are starting to build their families. We are keeping the town alive and I can't wait to raise my children here.

## How would you describe your experience serving on your local affiliated fund?

As a member on the EACFF, I have enjoyed seeing what we are capable of. It is incredible the things you can do when your community really cares about making a difference and continues to show growth. ●

## What is the best thing about living in our community?

From growing up in a large city in Indiana to living in a village in rural Nebraska, I have to say one of the best parts is knowing each and every smiling face as I take my son on a walk. There is just something about the small town that comforts me and makes me feel included into something so amazing. Our booming town of 400 people somehow continues to prosper and grow. I love how everyone gets involved in making the small businesses thrive.

## I would like to make a forever gift to Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund's unrestricted endowment!

ONE CONTRIBUTION in full: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid by \_\_\_\_\_.

ANNUALLY: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year for \_\_\_\_\_ years beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

QUARTERLY: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per quarter for \_\_\_\_\_ quarters beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

MONTHLY by ACH withdrawal from my bank account: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_\_\_ months beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

Please request and complete a Donor ACH Authorization form.

I would like to fulfill my pledge with:  Cash  Marketable securities  Other

Donor Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: PO Box 75 | Eustis, NE | 69028-0043

Or save a stamp and donate online:

<https://www.necommfound.org/give/eustis-area-community-foundation-fund/>



Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.



## 2020 NEWSLETTER

Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund is proud to share its new vision and mission statements. These guiding principles are referenced routinely as we do our work and grantmaking.

### OUR VISION

Elevate Eustis community pride through collaboration and create endless opportunities.

### OUR MISSION

To enrich the quality of life in Eustis by utilizing the giving spirit and commitment to live and prosper in our community.

### OUR FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Troy Ruda, Chair

Alan Rieker, Vice Chair

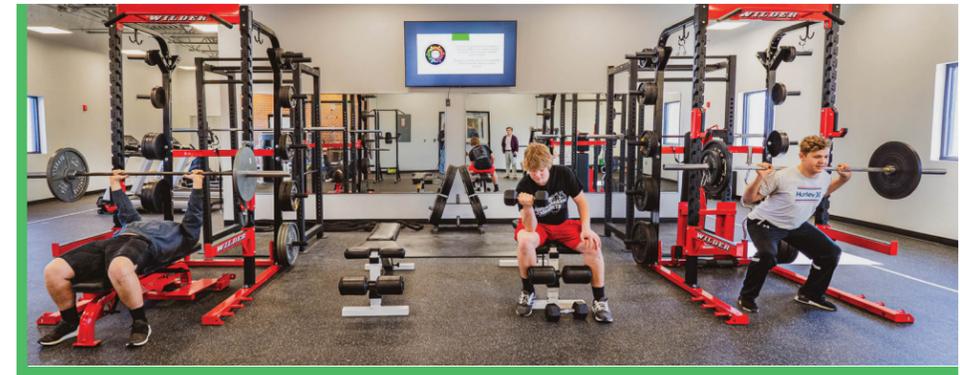
Kimberly Pinkerton, Secretary

Judy Brockmeier, Treasurer

Jerud Banzhaf, Becky Busboom, Dustin Fischer,

Kristen Jack, John Puls, Carly Rexing,

and Julie Rupe.



## EUSTIS-FARNAM COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTER REPRESENTS HOMETOWN PRIDE

Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund has officially completed a \$700,000, multi-year fundraising effort to build and equip a 3,500 square foot, state-of-the-art wellness center open to both Eustis-Farnam students and community members. The new Eustis-Farnam Community Wellness Center stands as a new point of pride for all who call this area home.

In 2013, members of the Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund hosted a community visioning session facilitated by Nebraska Community Foundation. Dozens of interested community members attended the meeting which challenged participants to voice their hopes and dreams for the future of Eustis. A new community wellness center quickly emerged as one of the top priorities and members of the Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee began formulating a plan to make this community dream a reality.

The committee began its work by conducting extensive research both on community support for the project and building options. It also worked to forge a partnership with Eustis-Farnam Public Schools which had both a shared interest in providing new facilities for its students and the space to house the new center.

Local students have shown their enthusiastic support of the community wellness center, in particular, the group known as E-Unit. Early on, E-Unit adopted the wellness center project as its own and shared fundraising duties with the adult committee through a number of events including cake auctions, concession stands, and a "dive-in" movie.

Numerous local businesses, families and individuals contributed generously to meet the ambitious fundraising goal. The project also received \$100,000 from the Sunderland Foundation, which awards grants for planning, design, construction, renovation, repairs and restoration of facilities to benefit communities throughout the United States.

Members of the Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee agree that the community center has instilled a new sense of pride in the community, along with a realization that even our wildest dreams were within reach.

"A new wellness center will not only improve the quality of life for current residents of our community, it is the kind of facility that will make the Eustis-Farnam area more attractive to returners and newcomers in the future," said Chair, Troy Ruda. ●

## INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH



Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund is strongly investing in youth through its E-Unit, a high school group focused on making their school and community even better. Advisor and FAC member, Julie Rupe admits, "COVID-19 has affected our meeting frequency yet these talented students are the recipients of a \$15,000 Youth Engagement Grant from an anonymous donor through Nebraska Community Foundation for their Wellness Center fundraising efforts." E-Unit members

identified a new weight room as a goal. They diligently worked in concession stands and held several fundraising dinners to help the Wellness Center become a reality.

One of the ways Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund shows its gratitude to E-unit members is through scholarships of \$500 and \$1,000 to attend the school of their choice. The hope is that these investments in local youth will also serve as an invitation home in the future. ●



## SUPPORT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Keeping a quality workforce and recruiting young families to the area is important to the success of Eustis and the surrounding area. "Supporting the Kinder Haus childcare center is vital for enriching the quality of life in our community," explains EACFF Treasurer Judy Brockmeier. "Keeping high quality early childhood education available in Eustis is an investment in our current and future residents."

Kinder Haus continues to have facility updates, their most recent being carpet removal and installation for which EACFF provided funding. ●

## DOWNTOWN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

When a downtown area fell into disrepair, a group approach worked again for Eustis. Through volunteer efforts, new landscaping replaced the weeds and the space is now an asset for the community. "When residents in Eustis identify a problem, they figure out a way to solve it, together," said EACFF Advisory Committee member Kristen Jack. ●



## A CHALLENGE FOR THE SENIOR CENTER

In an effort to support the important work of the Senior Center in our community, Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund issued 1:1 challenge grant to the organization. Through hard work, excellent promotion, and strong relationships with their donors, they raised an impressive \$2,623.74 and doubled their efforts with the EACFF match for a total of \$5,247.48 to further their good work. ●

## ELECTRONIC SIGN PROJECT

During a gathering to thank donors and celebrate 20 years of EACFF, many great ideas for the future of Eustis were discussed. "Energy began to develop around Eustis having an electronic sign for positive messaging," shares Chair, Troy Ruda. "With can-do attitudes, \$36,000 was raised and the school became a partner for the sign."

EACFF has contributed \$10,000 towards the sign, which will be located in the school parking lot. ●

## LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT

This year EACFF made several grants with the potential to save lives through the purchase of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). All seven units in town—one at St. John's Lutheran Church, United Methodist, Eustis Senior Center, American Legion, Eustis Agriculture Building, and two at Eustis Farnam School—needed to be replaced. Additionally, two are being purchased for Eustis EMT and another will be placed in the Eustis-Farnam Community Wellness Center

EACFF is granting \$5,000 for this important project and will help provide training to community members on how to use the units in the future. ●



## LOCAL BEEF IN SCHOOLS

Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee member John Puls has coordinated bringing locally produced beef to the Eustis-Farnam schools for three years and EACFF is proud to provide support for this initiative. "It's important to have our students eating beef and understanding their agricultural heritage," said Puls. "Our Fund Advisory Committee sees this as a wise investment in our community assets—the school, beef producers, and our future leaders of Eustis—today's students."

"The kids look forward to the roast beef dinner as it is one of the highest attended meals of the month," said Nancy Bellamy, Eustis-Farnam Head Cook. ●

## EUSTIS HOSTS NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION REGIONAL TRAINING

Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund hosted a regional training in February for community leaders from Axtell, Bertrand, Eustis, and Overton. Nebraska Community Foundation staff and volunteer peer mentors led training sessions on fundraising, marketing, partnerships and grantmaking, highlighted with successful experiences in all communities. Training participants were inspired by EACFF and E-Unit's accomplishments during a tour of the new wellness center. ●



## BRIDGING THE LEARNING GAP

Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund is part of a nearly \$1.2 million statewide effort to bridge the learning gap in the face of COVID-19. Through a funding opportunity available exclusively to affiliated funds of Nebraska Community Foundation, EACFF received \$5,000 in funding to benefit Eustis-Farnam Public Schools. When combined with the required 1:1 match, that's a \$10,000 investment in local students.

Nebraska Community Foundation's Bridging the Learning Gap initiative was capitalized by an anonymous donor and the Alice DeVoe Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of NCF, as well as several NCF donor-advised funds, and numerous local donors who have stepped up to help meet the 1:1 local funding match required of the opportunity. In Eustis, \$1,000 in funding was donated by Consolidated Telephone Company, with the other \$4,000 being contributed by

the EACFF. This amount was matched 1:1, bringing the total to \$10,000. The money was then used by the school to purchase additional student Chromebook laptop computers use to ensure all students have access to learning technology, especially in the event of another school shut-down.

"We are deeply proud of the way the NCF network of affiliated funds came together to meet this need," said Jeff Yost, president and CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation. "We are so grateful to the visionary donors who are supporting this important work and to the local leaders and educators who are rolling up their sleeves to ensure our kids receive the educational experiences they deserve, even in the midst of a global crisis." ●

