**Stimulus checks can make big difference for our community**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to alter daily life for many Nebraskans, but a third round of stimulus payments made possible by the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act will help as we navigate the first half of 2021.

The bill includes a one-time direct cash payment of $1,400 to those making $75,000 a year or less, or $2,800 for a couple with a combined income of $150,000 or less. For business owners struggling to stay afloat, furloughed and unemployed workers, or those who have contracted or are caring for family members with coronavirus, these checks will help alleviate some of the stresses that continue to beset American families.

But for the luckiest among us—those who are comfortably retired, still employed, still healthy – members of the [FUND NAME] Advisory Committee urge you to consider reinvesting that money, or a portion of it, into local charitable causes and the community we cherish.

A contribution to the [FUND NAME] is a simple and extremely effective way to improve and invest in our hometown. We are a dedicated group of volunteers that, like many reading this article, care deeply about the future of [COMMUNITY NAME]. Some our proudest accomplishments and most important work include: [LIST FAVORITE PROJECTS OR GRANTS YOUR FUND HAS COMPLETED]. A gift to the [FUND NAME] can help ensure these efforts continue and that our community continues to grow, prosper and thrive.

Donating your stimulus check doesn’t just benefit the community—it benefits you, the individual making the gift. In December, lawmakers extended charitable tax provisions from last year’s CARES Act, including:

1. A deduction for charitable donors who do not itemize when filing their tax returns. If you do not itemize but make a gift to charity, you will be allowed to take a special tax deduction, up to $300, to reduce your tax liability. Joint filers can deduct up to $600.
2. An increase in the deduction limit up to 100% of a donor’s annual income for cash gifts (previously the deduction was capped at 60% of annual income). If you make a gift you will be able to deduct more this year.

The past year has demonstrated the invaluable roles our family, friends, neighbors and community play in our lives. A contribution to [FUND NAME] is one way to give back all you get from living, working, raising a family, running a business and enjoying a life in this community. If you need your stimulus check to make ends meet, by all means, that was the intended purpose. But for the fortunate ones among us, think of this as an opportunity to do your part in building a stronger, more resilient hometown, better prepared for the next unanticipated event the future inevitably holds.

**About [FUND NAME]**

[INSERT FUND DESCRIPTION OR MISSION STATEMENT]