

2023 NEWSLETTER



INVESTING IN BERTRAND'S FUTURE

Recent work by Bertrand Area Community Fund is centered on developing connections between the community and the hearts and minds of the young people here.

Engaging with students through the support of Bertrand Community School is yielding fruit. Colby Gardine, a Bertrand alum, wrestling coach, and the youth engagement contact for BACF, is cultivating collaboration among BACF, businesses, and students on both group and individual levels.

A year ago, Bertrand High School was one of seven schools in the state to participate in the Nebraska Community Foundation's Youth Survey and a follow-up session for students to talk over opportunities they saw in the intersection of their own future with that of their hometown.

"The partnership with the BACF and Bertrand Community School has been both collaborative and productive," said Gardine. "The insight from the community youth is very valuable to our vision of the future Bertrand."

Eliciting the students' ideas revealed a wide, creative range of interests, with imaginative and substantial insights about Bertrand from retail and restaurants to infrastructure and housing.

"After doing the survey with our students, the BACF took that information and looked for ways to get our youth to come back to Bertrand," said BCS Superintendent Jason Brown. "They were looking for opportunities to serve and help businesses stay going or even start new business opportunities here in Bertrand."

Using the students' ideas as a jumping-off point, BACF applied for and received a Nebraska Community Foundation People Attraction Grant of \$10,000 and, with the required match of an additional \$10,000, launched the Hometown Career Mentorship

program to perhaps enable students to make some of these suggestions a reality.

"We had a planning meeting in February or March. We found that we wanted to have a career fair/mentoring opportunity for our juniors and seniors," said Brown. "We felt it was a good opportunity for our kids."

The mentor career fair April 14 at the school drew 20 Bertrand area businesses to talk about their industries and the opportunities for joining an established business or becoming an entrepreneur in the field.

BACF encouraged people to talk about their careers as they related to coming to or staying in Bertrand — how they started, education requirements, what niche they fill, their vision for the future of the career, and how other people and businesses helped them along the way.

"We had it set up so they had about 80 minutes. We did four rotations with the businesses and the students met with four of their choice," said Brown.

Nurturing students' vision of their future in a way that includes their own hometown can sometimes be as simple as explaining *Continues inside . . .*

“There is a great need to inspire future entrepreneurs and leaders for our local businesses. The mentorship program is a great start to fulfill this need.”

– COLBY GARDINE

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that the option exists, or even providing that opportunity in the form of an internship or job shadow.

As a result of the Career Mentorship event, a student lined up a summer job shadow with a crop adjuster with Great Plains Crop Services in Bertrand. This initial sign of progress in the mentorship program is an encouraging sign that the fund is supporting an initiative that's both needed and wanted in the community.

"This was a great opportunity for our juniors and seniors to see what is available for job and career opportunities. They got great insight from all the businesses and employers that were there," said Brown. "I think this is a great way to get our students interested in a career field and back to the area one day to work and be successful."

Gardine agreed. "I am excited to see how partnerships like this will help accomplish dreams for a thriving Bertrand," he said.

OUR WORK AND IMPACT



JANUARY 2022: BACF hosted a celebration event for the Holthus Challenge Campaign. Kelly and Virginia Holthus challenged community members to raise \$300,000 to receive a \$150,000 match and increase BACF's unrestricted endowment by \$450,000. We exceeded our goal and doubled our endowment payout which will be used for high impact grantmaking in our community.



MARCH 2022: BACF facilitated a 2022 Nebraska Community Foundation Youth Survey for all Bertrand Community High School students. Bertrand was one of seven Greater Nebraska communities to participate in the online survey. (See sidebar for details)

APRIL 2022: BACF made a \$500 grant to the Bertrand Lions Foundation for the Bertrand Easter Community Food Box Project.



MAY-AUGUST 2022: BACF granted \$1,000 in support of SCEDD, Inc. and the Bertrand Community Builders' efforts to conduct a local housing survey.



JUNE 2022: Bertrand Area Community Fund was proud to serve as a \$600 sponsor for the Bertrand Days Swimming Pool Games which raises funds for the Bertrand Aquatic Center.



OCTOBER 2022: BACF provided \$1,000 in support of the Bertrand Area Christmas Project for the Bertrand Holiday Food Box Project.



NOVEMBER 2022: Bertrand Area Community Fund participated in the 2022 Phelps County Give2Grow event hosted by the Phelps County Community Foundation. BACF raised over \$3,000 with an additional match of over \$1,000.

DECEMBER 2022: Bertrand Area Community Fund granted \$7,500 to the Bertrand Community School for East Gym technology which included a large screen and projector.

2022 SPRING GRANT CYCLE



- **\$2,600** granted to Bertrand Agricultural Society, Inc. for Concrete Disability Parking, Delivery Pad and Curb Installation Project
- **\$18,745** granted to the Village of Bertrand for Field Renovation and Batting Cages Project for the youth softball and baseball program

2022 FALL GRANT CYCLE



- **\$3,700** granted to Bertrand Community School Media Technology Department for the Promotional Project to purchase a DJI Mavic 3 Fly More Combo-Camera Drone, Black Camera, and Gimbal Stabilizer
- **\$3,176** granted to Bertrand Community School Industrial Technology Department for an Origin shaper tool and accessories. **To view these tools in action scan the code above.**
- **\$3,924** granted to the Village of Bertrand for a video security system for Hi-Line Golf Course
- **\$500** granted to the Young at Heart Senior Center for computer, software, and technology support



LISTENING TO LOCAL YOUTH

In the spring of 2022, Bertrand Area Community Fund sponsored a Nebraska Community Foundation Youth Survey of local high school students. Here are just a few of the findings from that survey:

- **86%** of students are getting together at least a few times a year to do something positive for our community
- **71%** say they are invited to share their opinions or get involved in town projects
- **80%** say they feel connected to the place they live
- Only **26%** say they play a role in this community
- Safety, good schools, and proximity to family are the most important factors of their ideal community
- **63%** report their ideal community is "small, like my hometown"
- **82%** say there is no negative stigma with returning to/staying in your hometown

ADDRESSING A CRITICAL NEED



Bertrand Area Community Fund has been working on ways to address a critical local need—housing.

BACF first worked to convene a group of thoughtful community leaders and experts on the topic which led to the formation of a new LLC called Bertrand Community Builders, an organization focused on investing in the future of Bertrand—already 60–70 community members have stepped up to the task.

BACF was proud to provide support for a local housing study conducted by Bertrand Community Builders as well as funding for the village to complete a demolition project which will make space for new construction.

Annual Bertrand Days BERTRAND FAIR AND RODEO

JUNE 24–27, 2023

Join us for this annual celebration of our community as Bertrand comes alive with excitement for a few days of fun, traditions, community support, and all the feels of nostalgia from years past.

On the Friday leading up to Bertrand Days, our community begins its transition for each event that will be coming in the days ahead. Volunteers spend months preparing behind the scenes for the multi-day affair with fun and activities for all ages.

SATURDAY: Viking Booster Club Fun Run, Bermis FFA Horse Show, Sand Volleyball Tournament, Corn Hole Tournament, Carnival, Bertrand Brews & BBQ, and Street Dance

SUNDAY: Flower Exhibits, Antique Tractor Pull, Community Worship Services, Antique Tractor Parade, Bertrand Community Serving Food and Drink, VBS Singing, Crowning Miss Bertrand, Music in the Park, and Carnival

MONDAY: Blow and Show Beef Show, Games in the Park, Bertrand Aquatic Center Games, Carnival, and Bertrand Rodeo

TUESDAY: Bertrand Annual Parade, Walk Down Medina, Pedal Tractor Pull, Carnival, and Bertrand Rodeo



Bertrand Area Community Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation



OUR VISION

Empowering people of all ages to build the “Good Life” now and for generations to come.

OUR MISSION

Connecting passionate people with resources to accomplish dreams for a thriving Bertrand.

MEET OUR FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Being a part of BACF has helped me see how many different groups there are working to make Bertrand a better place and how much of an impact we can make when we all work together. – LIZ FORD

It is very important to have active people and organizations to continue pushing the community forward with new and innovative ideas to adapt and thrive in the changing world. The Bertrand Area Community Fund is a great resource for the community of Bertrand to make new and innovative ideas become reality. I look forward to the lasting impact that we can have on Bertrand. – COLBY GARDINE

It's been such a fulfilling experience to be part of BACF. To be able to give back to my community by volunteering, and to really see the difference our group is making in Bertrand, is incredibly gratifying. – MELISSA VINZANT

It's rewarding to us as an FAC to see various efforts the fund supports really take off and do well. Two amazing examples are the Communities 4 Kids work to get more daycare opportunities in town and the first couple projects of the Bertrand Community Builders. The reason we build an endowment is exactly this — to be able to do something when a need arises. – KAREN NELSON

Being a part of the BACF is a fulfilling experience to work towards goals to help make our community a better place for generations to come. – PAM LONG

OUR VALUES



STRATEGIC: Intentional and purposeful about connecting passionate people with our resources to build a thriving Bertrand for the present and into the future.



COLLABORATIVE: Inviting people and ideas to strengthen our community and empowering others by building ownership.



INNOVATIVE: Open and responsive to new opportunities while honoring the past.

Before I became a member, I wasn't sure exactly what the BACF was all about. Now I'm so thankful to be a small part of helping our little town be successful and thrive. Our team really focuses on building Bertrand for the future, to keep our town growing, advancing and desirable to both newcomers and our younger generations to continue to be a great place to call home! – JESSIE OLESEN

The Bertrand community was instrumental in my personal development growing up. It's important for me to give back to ensure future generations get the same quality opportunities I had. – TANNER NELSON

My work with the Bertrand Area Community Fund is my passion. Serving as a Fund Advisory Member of BACF provides me the opportunity to help build “The Good Life” now and for generations to come. This fund is nearing \$1,000,000 which provides us the ability to make impactful grants to keep Bertrand progressing and thriving. – BEVERLY HANSEN

I think the sky is the limit! There is no shortage of good people around here. I think this will continue to grow and bring in many new faces in doing so, giving them the opportunity to make a positive impact within the community in which they reside. Excited for what the future holds. – CHRIS DAVISON

ABUNDANCE IN OUR HOMETOWNS

Phelps County's 10-year transfer of wealth is approximately \$720 million. Gosper County's is \$241 million. If 5% were captured to benefit our communities, that would be \$48 million to reinvest in the places we love.

We are experiencing the largest intergenerational transfer of wealth in Nebraska's history. Over the next 10 years, \$100 billion will transfer from one generation to the next. In 50 years, that number exceeds \$950 billion. The wealth may be held in real estate, securities, retirement accounts, life insurance, and other assets.

Some will go to taxes. Most will go to heirs. Due to outmigration, many of these heirs no longer live where they grew up and where the wealth was built and accumulated.

In 71 of Nebraska's 93 counties, including Phelps and Gosper, the wealth transfer will peak before 2045. There is real urgency to act now – the opportunity will never be greater.

To this end, Nebraska Community Foundation has created the Five to Thrive campaign. We are asking every generous Nebraskan to consider gifting just 5% of your estate to benefit your

hometown and/or your favorite charitable causes. This collective act could be a game changer for our hometowns. In Phelps and Gosper Counties, it would

result in over \$48 million over the next 10 years to be reinvested in education, health, prosperity, quality of life, and our community's ability to attract quality talent and young families..



REMEMBER:

**Once wealth leaves the community,
it is gone forever.**

**Once wealth is endowed in our community,
it is here forever.**

**The time to act is now—the opportunity
will never be greater!**

Learn more about the transfer of wealth and how you can ensure some of this abundance remains in the communities we love at www.fivetothrivene.org.

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE BERTRAND AREA COMMUNITY FUND UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT!

ONE CONTRIBUTION in full: \$ _____.

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 complete a Donor ACH Authorization form found here: <https://www.nebcommfound.org/resources/forms/>

Donor Name(s) _____

How would you like your names to be listed for donor recognition? _____

Please make this donation anonymous

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I would like to learn more about leaving a legacy in Bertrand through planned giving.

Checks may be made payable to "Bertrand Area Community Fund" and mailed to:

Bertrand Area Community Fund | P.O. Box 153 | Bertrand, NE 68927



SUPPORT OUR WORK ONLINE:

www.nebcommfound.org/give/bertrand-area-community-fund

CONTACT US:

bertrandfoundation@gmail.com

