

• Diller Community Foundation Fund Newsletter • An Affiliated Fund of Nebraska Community Foundation



2023 Serviceship

The Youth Serviceship Camp was held in Diller on July 19. Attendees took a tour of the Diller Rural Fire Department and students learned about the volunteer commitment involved with such an asset to the community. Both the ambulance and Fire Departments are staffed entirely by volunteers.

Diller hosted the 2nd annual Youth Serviceship Camp with the theme, "the future is BRIGHT." Twenty-two youth from across the area came to Diller on July 6th. First through sixth graders came to dream about how they might make the future of their communities brighter.

Activities included a Community Asset Tour which pulled the curtain back for the campers about how their community really works. Kids had the chance to visit businesses that have been successful entrepreneurs and organizations that have been successful because of dedicated volunteers. They toured

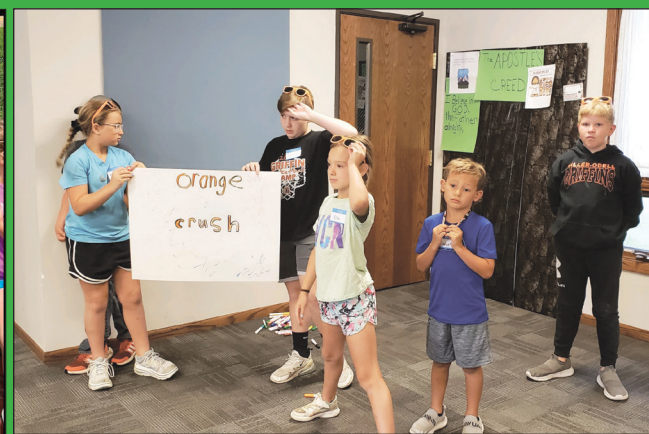
the museum and learned where Diller's story started. During the I Spy tour the campers were invited to lift up WOWS and key into WHAT IFS. The tour helped them SEE the Assets and recognize the places they could engage in change.

The day was topped off by a Pitch Presentation from the two teams. Each team dreamed about a project they could complete in the next six months and then took time to brainstorm possibilities, partnerships, money needs, and much more.

Every camper left with paint under their fingernails. They GAVE

BACK by painting four garbage barrels for the park. They also headed home with a themed tee shirt, application to participate in the DCFF Youth Philanthropy Contest, and the knowledge that they are making the future Brighter.

The camp was organized and facilitated by Jadyn Schultis and Allison Engelman who are serving as Hometown Interns for the Diller Community Foundation Fund this summer. They were assisted by Kayla Schnuelle and Beth Roelfs who serve as intern mentors. The project was funded by DCFF.



Diller Bank Museum Upkeep

With monetary support from the Diller Community Foundation Fund, the Diller Old Bank Museum Committee was able to provide much needed continued up keep to the 120-year-old building. After replacing the main steps to the building two years ago, new hand railings were installed the past year for safer access, and the exterior windows and doors of the building received new paint. Our latest project was just completed. The interior walls on the main floor were repaired, plastered, and brightened up with a new coat of paint.

This building has been a great home for the history and artifacts of the Diller Community, enabling many to trace their roots to the early days of the community's growth. For others, it provides a step back in time to appreciate the progress that has taken place in the area.

Without the support of the Diller Foundation Fund, it would not be possible to maintain the quality museum Diller has today.



Above: New railing on the front steps installed last spring, as well as the painted door and trim.

Top Right: Members of the museum committee hanging a picture after the museum walls were recently repaired and painted.

Diller Community Foundation Funds were used to complete both of these projects.

D-O Youth Survey Meeting 23



DILLER-ODELL YOUTH SHAPE COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

Members of the Diller-Odell FFA met with leaders from Diller, Odell, and the Nebraska Community Foundation on May 10 to review the results of a recent survey that polled students from the school in grades seven through 12. Kara Asmus, youth survey coordinator from NCF, led the group through a discussion that 'dug down deeper' into how the young voices envision their future communities by identifying current strengths, recognizing what makes progress difficult, brainstorming what businesses and services to add, and imagining what their dream community looks like.

Survey results will be shared with stakeholders by Diller Community Foundation Fund youth members, Tatum Schroeder and Mikayla Krieger, as well as board members. The survey was funded by the DCF which is an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Diller Park Is Great For Everyone

Tony has Down Syndrome as well as a global delay as a result of 15 years spent in a Bulgarian orphanage. Some days are not easy for Tony, physically or emotionally. When Tony and I recently visited Diller park together, he struggled to walk across the park and had to stop several times to rest.

We were encouraged by a kind mother and daughter who greeted Tony with smiles and the words "Hi friend!" When we arrived at the equipment, Tony really enjoyed riding the new merry-go-round. He rode it independently while I pushed, and then let me join him for a few spins!

Tony then spent a long while relaxing in the pod chair. He loved being enclosed, yet still having a view of the park and hearing construction sounds from down the street. He even smiled and giggled a time or two.

When we left the park, Tony was a different guy than when we arrived. He was so relaxed and happy that he walked all the way to the van with no stops.

Thank you, Diller, for considering your friends with disabilities when updating your park. It means the world to families like ours.



Grace Tegtmeier and her son, Tony, recently visited the park in Diller and were very pleased with the new playground equipment available for those with disabilities.

Honor Society Members Give Back

Members of the Diller-Odell Honor Society and their sponsor, Mrs. Rita Becker, spent a day of volunteer service to paint full and half court lines in the Diller Park.



Finish The Race

PARK PROJECT

\$ 152,000

\$ 139,000

FINISH

THE

RACE

Diller Park Update

Many more exciting items have been added to the Diller Park this past year. Memory benches around the walking path, double sided benches in the plaza area, and a picnic table close to the Tot Zone were all added this year. Ground cover was added in the Spin Zone for easier access to the activities.

Equipment and ground cover has been ordered for the Motion Zone which includes a group swing, a large climbing net, a standing seesaw, and an ADA swing. A thermometer sign has been placed in the park showing how many dollars are still needed to finish the project.

We are almost there so please consider helping us "Finish the Race".

Plan Now AND Give Later

Planned Giving is a powerful way to continue your impact on the community beyond your lifetime.

DCFF is working very hard to educate the public about the power they have now to impact tomorrow.

During the Gathering Event and meal the guests are asked to name the important characteristics of Diller that they want to continue past their lifetime and they are encouraged to ACT NOW through estate planning. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE CONTINUE?

Take action to make that happen.



Would you like to move to Diller? Well, you can't. There isn't any housing. That is the issue confronting Diller. There is a shortage of housing for sale or rent.

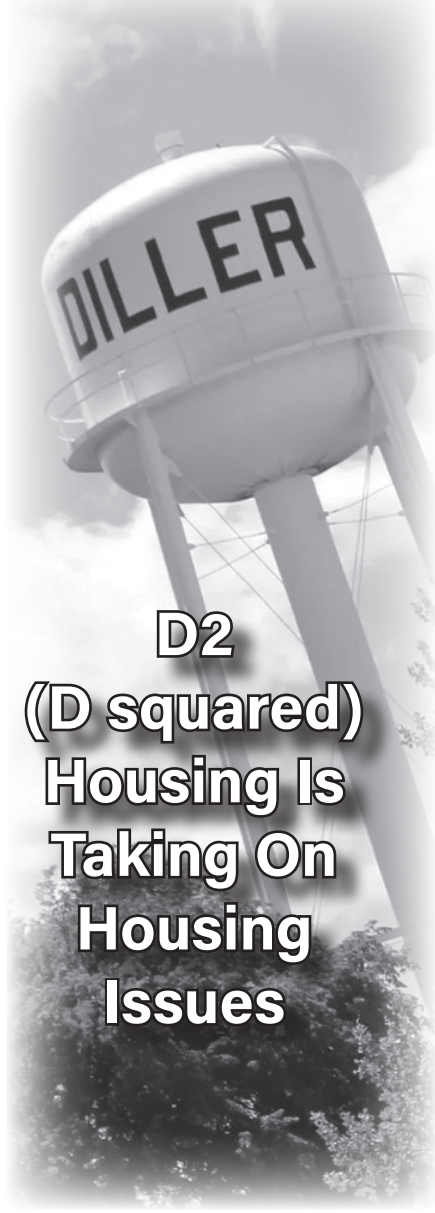
A new group of concerned community members have formed Diller Developing Housing: *One Family At A Time*.

This stemmed from a summit held by the Nebraska Community Foundation in November. During the initial gathering team members set a mission to address the need for new construction, work on renovation of existing housing, and the removal of dilapidated properties with preparation for development.

To meet these goals the group applied to the Diller Community Foundation Fund for \$10,000 as well as an Innovation Grant from NCF to begin a collaboration with City County Solutions. This partnership will lead to a new assessment of current housing stock, a pipeline of interested clients wishing to move into the community, and guidance in partnering with a developer to begin construction on housing units to meet the Community's need.

Work has already begun. Watch for a public media blitz to announce the program. The D2 committee welcomes new members. Contact B.J. Stein.

D2
(D squared)
Housing Is
Taking On
Housing
Issues



Save The Date

D.R.E.A.M.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund held its annual D.R.E.A.M. Event at the Opera House on Saturday, November 19, 2022. It was the sixth event since our inaugural auction in 2016. It was held on a Saturday for the first time due to a conflict with a Nebraska Community Foundation fund training that many of our fund members attended. We plan to revert to the Friday evening prior to Thanksgiving, which for 2023 is November 17th. Ricky's of Hanover will cater this year's event.

The 2022 D.R.E.A.M. was our best yet, with the most items available for auction and the highest proceeds, which exceeded \$32,000 for the night. Snapper's of Hanover catered the meal and Beth Roelfs delivered "The Why" message prior to the auction. It has been a tradition for a community member to be selected to say a few words as to why the community is important to them.

The Auctioneers of Beatrice ran the auction and we thank them again for their expertise and entertainment. The Diller-Odell Student Council provided table service and we thank them for all of their help not only that evening but for setup and cleanup also. Thanks also goes to advisor Rita Becker for her leadership of this group.

We hope you can attend this year's event. If you have never attended a D.R.E.A.M. event, we start the evening with a social hour at 6 p.m. with a cash bar and at this time all silent auction items are available to be bid on. The meal starts at 7 p.m. with the live auction starting at 8 p.m. Tickets will go on sale shortly after Labor Day and can be purchased individually or as a table of eight. If you reserve a table, you also are able to select the location of it.

Please consider donating or helping if you are interested. Planning is currently underway so if you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please reach out to Scott at sdpretzer@gmail.com.

Finally, we would like to thank the many donors that make each event possible. We would not be able to have successful events to raise funds for our community without their help and donations.

Follow us on Facebook for more information as the date draws near. We hope to see you and your friends on Friday, November 17th!



The Veterans Memorial at Prairie Home Cemetery on Memorial Day 2023.

Improvements For Veterans Memorial

The Veterans Memorial at Prairie Home Cemetery was greatly enhanced this past year. In May, 2022, flagpoles were installed on the memorial for flags representing the six branches of service—Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force. The flags are flown on such holidays as Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veteran's Day. In the fall of 2022, two sidewalks were added for better access to the memorial along with a pad for a bench facing the memorial. The Diller Community Foundation Fund provided funding through a donation from Eldean and Norma Banahan In Memory of Jeanette Banahan. The American Legion Post #282 of Diller conducts services at the memorial on Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year.

Prairie Home Cemetery Uses Grant to Purchase Lawn Mower

Maintaining the tranquil beauty of Prairie Home Cemetery will be easier now with the purchase of a new Exmark lawn mower. The cemetery board applied for an Endowment Grant and combined that with their own funding to make the purchase.

DCFF is pleased to support their efforts.



Ambulance Upgrades Benefit Patients And Paramedics



Safety of patients and EMT personnel is always a priority for Diller Fire and Rescue on ambulance calls. Sometimes they find that patients are not always in a space that a stretcher can be taken such as in a basement area or upstairs. A grant from the Diller Community Foundation Fund of \$4,800 was used to purchase a Stryker

Stair-PRO that allows paramedics to move patients safely and securely up or down stairs and to the stretcher. This will also prevent potential back injuries to personnel. The grant was also used to purchase a Pedi Mate and child restraint system. The Pedi Mate system attaches to the cot securely in the ambulance and the child can

be restrained properly for a safer ride to the hospital. This system is designed for pediatric patients ranging in size from 10-100 lbs. THANK YOU to the Diller Fire and Rescue for continuing to provide their services to the community. We appreciate your dedication and all that you do!



Wildland Gear Used By Diller Firefighters

During the spring and summer months, Diller Fire and Rescue conduct controlled burns and also deal with grass and wildland fires. During these months, their regular bunker gear can be extremely hot and can take a toll on the firefighters' ability to perform. With a grant from the Diller Community Foundation fund of \$6,100, Diller Fire and Rescue purchased 12 sets of Wildland Gear. The Wildland Gear is made of a thinner fire retardant material that is cooler but still protects the firefighter on hot days. This helps prevent the firefighter from getting overheated which can be a hazard to them and others on the scene.

Diller Fire and Rescue helped control one of the largest grass fires ever in Jefferson County from April 11 through April 15, 2023. The original fire started on April 10 in the Steele City Fire District and rekindled on April 11 due to extremely strong winds. Diller Fire and Rescue joined the effort along with more than 30 other volunteer fire departments responding with equipment and firefighters to battle the flames and contain the threat to Rock Creek Station Park and local residences. The State of Nebraska also requested assistance from the National Guard to provide water drops to control the fire. The wind-driven fire burned approximately 2,400 acres in southern Jefferson County.





Diller-Odell Youth Sports

2022-2023 Season kicked off with a End of Summer and Back to School Pool party, looking forward to getting the kids back in the gym to sharpen their skills and fundamentals during open gym after school. In September, the Diller-Odell Youth Sports volunteers kicked off their first open gym for 3rd-6th graders to build fundamentals of teamwork, hard work, sportsmanship while working on volleyball and football during the fall. The youth volleyball and football teams competed in leagues through out their fall weekends. The youth football boys were able to

experience playing "under the lights" this fall. In November they kicked off the basketball season focusing on ball handling, agility, pivoting and other core basketball fundamentals. The 5 & 6 grade boys were league champions at Tri County while the 3 & 4th boys were lead champions at Hanover. The 3rd and 4th girls took 2nd place in the silver bracket in their league.

The Spring Season kicked off with the kids focusing on their softball and baseball skills during open gym. In May, the kids started ball in the Kansas/Nebraska League. The summer started

with many nights spent traveling from Tee-Ball to 12u traveling from Diller, Odell, Wymore and Bremen. The Stem Club members volunteered to run the concession stands during games at both Diller and Odell. The boys coach pitch black team ended the season as third in the league tournament while the Orange Team took Gold. The 12u boys team also brought home the Gold.

Special thanks to all the Coaches, Parents and volunteers that make the Youth Sports Program grow in the Diller-Odell Community.



Successful Season For Shooting Stars

The Bullet's Shooting Stars completed another successful season in 2023. A total of 19 youth with disabilities ages 5 - 18 were able to participate in an organized and fun summer ball league with the help of the Beatrice Bullets baseball teams.

The Beatrice Bullets teams provide on-field support, instruction, mentoring, and safety for the Shooting Stars players.

There is no cost to the Shooting Stars participants thanks to generous donations.

A donation from the Diller Community Foundation Fund provided funding for T-shirts for each participant.



HOMETOWN INTERNS SUMMER OF 2023

The Diller Community Foundation Fund embarked on its third consecutive year of having hometown interns. Jadyn Schultis, and Allison Engelman applied, interviewed, and were invited to be the 2023 interns. One of the goals of the Hometown Intern program is to hire individuals who graduated high school from Diller-Odell and who will come home from college over the summer and have an intensive experience with a few big community development projects.

The duo, hit the ground running. One of their primary projects was to build on a success from the past summer and host another Youth Serviceship Camp for ages first through sixth grade. The camp was held on July 6th, 2023 and the aim was to gather youth from the entire region and activate learning around philanthropy and service in the community.

Another primary project for the interns is researching and drafting rec-

ommendations to the Diller Community Foundation Fund around the possibility of hosting a pilot 'BIG GIVE' fundraiser which is a grassroots fundraising opportunity for community related projects and non-profits to help garner financial support. The primary goal for the interns is to help assist the Foundation board in prioritizing next steps and potentially launching a BIG GIVE campaign in future years. Additionally, the interns spent some time working with the Diller Bank Museum committee to serve as catalysts for a few major summer projects that the museum was embarking upon.

The intern team this summer was a dream team and a wonderful chance for Diller to shine bright. If you know of a college student who is interested in being a future summer intern, please have them contact the Diller Community Foundation.



Post Prom '23

This year the Diller-Odell post prom was held at the YMCA in Beatrice. The kids had access to the pool, gym, inflatables, card, and board games. They all really enjoyed their time there and the variety of activities they had. DCFE was one of the many sponsors that made this event successful.



Reading Rally Books

The Odell Public Library is providing the books that have been selected for 2023-2024 Reading Rally. Reading Rally is an event that has replaced Reading Classics at the elementary level. Reading Rally is set up for two levels—Grades grades three and four and grades five and six. The

Diller Community Foundation Fund provided funding to purchase 46 books that will be available to the students at the Odell Public Library this summer to get a start for the 2023-2024 Reading Rally. The Odell Public Library also offers a summer reading program to all area children.

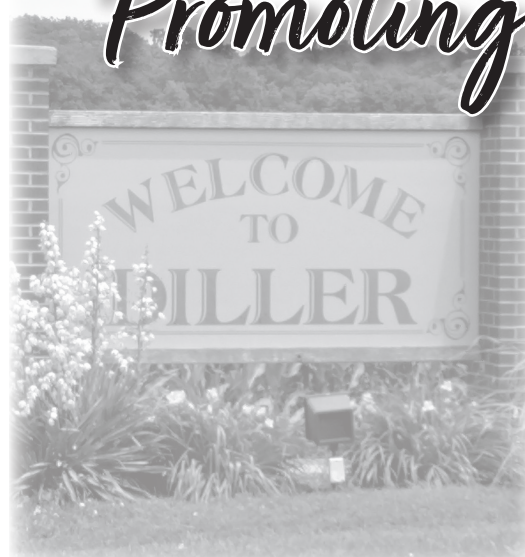


Fed from the farm

The Diller-Odell FFA Alumni is in its fourth year of providing locally raised pork and beef for lunches at Diller-Odell Public Schools.

They accept cash donations to offset the cost of processing and to purchase beef or pork if needed. The Diller Community Foundation Fund provided funding in 2022-2023 to pay for processing. Tax-deductible donations for the benefit of Fed From the Farm are accepted by the Diller Community Foundation Fund.

Promoting Our Town



For the second year, the Diller Community Foundation Fund purchased a full-page ad in the Jefferson County Tour Guide to promote the annual Diller Picnic, retail businesses located in Diller and the full-service camper pads available.

The guide is distributed state wide and regionally for tourists and local residents alike to see all that Jefferson County has to offer.

God's Work Shines Through CROSSWALK

CROSSWALK, the weekly community after school program offered by St. Paul hosts about 35 kids each session.

During 2022/23 the children have a chance to give and receive.

They gave back by collecting 12 gallons of pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Omaha, made and sent Valentine cards, gathered baby items for Mother to Mother Ministry, and cleaned the park.

They received snacks, music, games, and learning around the 23rd Psalm and Sermon on the Mount. Everyone there received love through fellowship. DCFF is happy to sponsor this powerful program.



HUGS, or Helping Us Grow Spiritually, is an after school youth group hosted on Wednesdays at the Ellis United Methodist Church.

The group, made up of four-year olds through 8th graders, meets every Wednesday that Diller-Odell has school from 4:30-5:30. At the beginning of the afternoon, the students have a snack and some free time to wind down after school.

They do a craft that is related to the bible story and lesson of the day. The students also take part in various community service activities/projects.

A few of their favorites are making cards for veterans and older members of the church for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and hosting a Live Nativity around Christmas time.



Kids READ S'MORE BOOKS at Summer Reading Camp

Camp fires, fishing, reading, star gazing and animal antics were only part of the 2023 summer reading program held weekly during June at the Diller-Odell Elementary Library.

Campers had the chance to hear from Homestead staffer Valerie who shared a program about Skins, Skulls and Tracks.

Local anglers, Tom Carpenter and Keith Bartlett shared fishing know-how and helped young fishermen practice casting. Ghost stories, s'mores, bird identification, crafts and LOTS of Laughter rounded out the sessions.

Everyone could brag that they got to pet a skunk (skin) and fish in the gym. Over forty children participated in the four sessions. A special thank you to the Diller Community Foundation Fund and Diller-Odell Schools for sponsoring this worthwhile youth program.

V.B.S '22



Diller Community Holds "Hay Day" VBS at Camp Jefferson

Thirty-two kids from different towns and churches all gathered for an awesome day at the Diller Community Vacation Bible School on August 3. The one day experience at Camp Jefferson was sponsored by St. Paul Lutheran Church. While it was hot, the kids, staff and families had a great time. This year's theme was "Hay Day", a farm theme.

The day was filled with crafts, story time, music and games. If that wasn't enough we even had time for Gaga ball and the kids favorite, SWIMMING!

The evening ended by having a short program with numerous family and congregation members present. The grill out meal was greatly enjoyed by all!

Along with financial support from St. Paul and donations, the Diller Community Foundation Fund was also a supporter of the event.

DCFF

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE DILLER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND June 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023

Keith & Ramona Andrews	<i>IMO Keith (Rube) Pralle</i>	Connie Trawny
Eldean & Norma Banahan	Dean Pretzer	Greg & Tamara Weers
<i>In Memory of Jeanette Banahan</i>	Fred Regnier	Dell D. Wehling
Pamela Stephens Busboom	Dean and Elizabeth Roelfs	Robert & Diane Wellsandt
Franklin Damrow Memorial	Sandman Family Foundation	Several Anonymous Donations
Bev Hecox	Joe & Kayla Schnuelle	<i>Thank you to all those who made donations to the Diller Community Foundation Fund this past year in support of the Bank Museum, Diller Opera House, Main Street, the Park Improvement Project and the General Fund. Donations designated to the unrestricted Endowment Fund build a lasting legacy for our community.</i>
<i>In Honor of Chaz Engelman in Army Reserve and Fireman</i>	Jona (Meyer) Simonson	
Clarence and Cleo Henrichs Family	<i>IMO Elmer & Bonnie Meyer</i>	
Husker Rehab and Wellness Center	Mike Stephens	
Kathy Pralle King	Roger Stephens Memorial	
Doug and Cindy Lottman	Larry & Cindy Svajgr	
Dr. Sharon D. Ocker	Richard Timmerman	
Michael Pralle	Thomas C. Tinstman & Nance Tinstman Remington	
	<i>In Honor of the Tinstman Family</i>	

Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers that help to keep our community looking great. Thanks to Sandy Kotas and B J Stein for the upkeep around the north and south "Welcome to Diller" signs. We thank Bob Wellsandt for caring for the mini park on Main Street. Thank you to Randy Peitzmeier for keeping the town looking so good throughout the year. Thanks also to all who mow the roadsides coming into town. We are proud to have such a clean and pretty town.

DILLER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND 2023 GRANTS

D2 Housing: One Family at a Time	\$10,000
Funding for housing study and develop plan To upgrade existing housing and/or develop lots	
Diller Park Improvement	\$10,000
Funds will be used to complete the Motion Zone	
Prairie Home Cemetery Association	\$5,000
Applied to purchase of Exmark 2023 Lazer Z X-mower	
Diller Fire & Rescue	\$4,800
Purchase Stryker Stair Pro & Ferno Pedi Mate + Restraint System	
Diller-Odell Youth Sports	\$4,050
15 Football Helmets and 30 Volleyball Jerseys	
Old Bank Museum	\$2,000
Print pictures on board/canvas for display and Produce videos	
Village of Diller	\$2,500
Refacing brick on Post Office	
Diller Picnic Committee	\$2,500
Kids Activities—blow-up carnival events	
Whispering Acres Tails and Treasures	\$1,550
Camp G.R.I.T.	
Fed From The Farm	\$1,900
Beef and Pork Processing	
Diller Community Club	\$500
2023 Community Christmas	
Shooting Stars Baseball	\$450
Shirts, Medals, and end of season celebration	
American Legion Post #282	\$200
Purchased U.S. flags for military memorial at Prairie Home Cemetery	
Diller-Odell Elementary Summer Reading Program	\$300
Funding for prizes and program materials for four-week Program for preschool and elementary-aged students	
St. Paul's CrossWalk and Community VBS	\$400
Funding for curriculum materials	
	TOTAL
	\$46,150
YOUTH PHILANTHROPY GRANTS	
Ellis UMC HUGS	\$500
Funding for costumes and materials for live nativity	
Happy Harbiners 4-H Club	\$500
Funds to fill Main Street Planters	



Diller Picnic 2023

DCFF is HUNTING FOR WEALTH in this outdoor depiction for the Diller Picnic Parade. Hunters are Delayna Craig and Riley Stohs.



Succulent Plants For Main Street

The Happy Harbiners 4-H Club filled the nine large planters on main street with an array of beautiful succulent plants in May and will maintain the planters until fall. Pictured from top to bottom are Kellen Schlichtman, Joely Weers, Preston Engelman, Josie Hennerberg, Kiera Hennerberg, Sydney Engelman, Aubrey Roelfs, and Wyatt Peitzmeier. Funding for the succulents planted is provided by the Diller Community Foundation Fund through a Youth Philanthropy Grant.