



*"Inspired by the past,  
focused on the future"*

## 2022 NEWSLETTER



Leigh Legacy Fund Members (Front Row, L to R): Michele Clausen, Melissa Brabec, Justine Fischer, Paige Ritz, Tammy Wendt; (Middle Row): Megan Hillen, Tara Dlouhy, Kamin Held, Tricia Mullenhoff, Chris Herink, Heather Held; (Back Row): Landon Wietfeld, Thomas Urban, Brent Wietfeld, Ryan Hillen

## HELLO FRIENDS OF LEIGH LIVING BOTH NEAR AND FAR!

**IN JANUARY 2020**, Leigh Legacy Fund (formerly the Leigh Area Foundation) became an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), a nonprofit umbrella organization providing shared ideas and resources to over 250 affiliated funds across the state. Since our affiliation with NCF, we cannot overstate the fantastic support in finance, planned giving, community development, education, and communications they have provided us. The best part? All grantmaking decisions are made at the local level by members of the Leigh Legacy Fund Advisory Committee.

NCF doesn't subscribe to the old, tired, urban cliché that small towns are dying, and we don't either! Instead, they endlessly encourage us to "change the narrative." Nebraskans possess many noble character traits like determination, ingenuity, humility, and perseverance, but we aren't great at singing our own praises. In fact, it makes us downright uncomfortable. But NCF and the Leigh Legacy Fund believe it's something we need to do for our hometowns much more often! Instead of focusing on what Leigh doesn't have, let's take pride in what assets it DOES have and put in the sweat and elbow grease to plan to improve and add to those assets for the future.

Our small town has SO MUCH to be proud of! Our thriving school district in its brand-new facility provides our kids with a top-notch education. Our fantastic recreation opportunities are ones most small towns would love to have. Our churches are strong. Our fire and rescue first responders are second to none. Our businesses are thriving and growing in number. Construction continues on four new homes within city limits with a handful more in the surrounding rural area. Two new housing developments are in the works—one east of the cemetery

and one at the old high school site. More and more people are choosing to return to Leigh or make a home in Leigh for the first time to raise their families . . . so many, in fact, that a four-classroom elementary school addition is scheduled this fall to keep up with growing class sizes.

But Leigh's biggest asset? It's people! So many people—both those who live in Leigh and also friends of Leigh living elsewhere—work tirelessly to make Leigh the great place it is to live, work, and visit. We take pride in our roots and know that working together and supporting one another is the best way to accomplish anything. We all want Leigh to continue to grow, improve, and be a great place to raise a family both today and in the future.

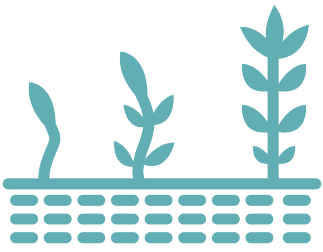
Speaking of great people, this past year we expanded our fund advisory committee (FAC) from 13 members to a max capacity of 15 members by welcoming Tammy Wendt and Chris Herink! We could not be more thrilled to have their leadership and expertise on our team.

"Inspired by the past, focused on the future." This is the Leigh Legacy Fund's guiding principle that motivates us to dream big dreams and actively work to make them a reality. This is what we will continue to do in the year ahead as we grow our unrestricted endowment and grantmaking capacity. We hope you find our 2022 newsletter informative and enjoyable. Above all, we hope it is a CELEBRATION of Leigh. We wish you all a happy and healthy year ahead! ■

Leigh Legacy Fund ■ PO Box 51 ■ Leigh, NE 68643

An affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation  
PO Box 83107 ■ Lincoln, NE 68501  
[info@nebcommfound.org](mailto:info@nebcommfound.org)

# EXCITING HOMEGROWN CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITY!



**FROM DAY ONE** of becoming an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, the main goal of the Leigh Legacy Fund has been to increase charitable giving among those who love this community as much as we do and make grants that enrich the quality of life for present and future generations, preserve our heritage, and nurture our sense of community.

Primarily, we will do this by establishing an unrestricted endowment. Funds that go into LLF's unrestricted endowment are invested. The beauty of an endowment is that the principal is never touched and the invested earnings increase over time. In other words, any gift made to LLF's unrestricted endowment is a "forever" gift. It will continue to grow and benefit the community in perpetuity. A portion of the invested earnings serve as "payout" and LLF will grant the payouts to programs and projects that benefit the community of Leigh and surrounding rural area.

"Unrestricted" means that anyone who donates to the Leigh Legacy Fund's unrestricted endowment has not put forth any specific guidelines on how the money is used beyond benefitting the people and community of Leigh. Donors to the unrestricted endowment trust the LLF Advisory Committee to decide how the money is spent (with welcome input from the community!) Unrestricted gifts provide ultimate flexibility for the future as we cannot anticipate community needs 10 years from now, 50 years from now, and beyond.

The community of Leigh has so much going for it right now! But imagine if we had a sizeable endowment to build on these assets and invest in new ones? If our endowed funds were to reach \$500,000, we would be able to grant over \$20,000 back into the community every single year. If it were to reach \$1 million, that would be over \$40,000 we would be able to grant annually – every single year forever! Think of the new businesses and people even more new amenities could attract to our community!

**With that in mind, we are excited to announce that the LLF is planning to begin a fundraising campaign in the near future to substantially grow our small endowment. The proven way to maximize this fundraising opportunity is through a challenge! A group of "Distinguished Leigh Alumni" living outside of Leigh have joined together to help create a substantial "match" that they have challenged the Leigh Legacy Fund to meet on a 2:1 basis!**

We are so grateful to the group of Leigh alumni who have signed on to be part of the challenge match! We would also like to thank Greg Vasek for his efforts in coordinating this first part of our fundraising campaign. Vasek is a 1969 Leigh grad and an executive member of Nebraska Community Foundation's Board of Directors, and we are immensely appreciative of his efforts on our behalf.

At this time, we plan to host a community dream session and campaign kickoff night late this fall, with the fundraising campaign officially beginning on January 1, 2023! We look forward to sending you more detailed information about the campaign in the near future! ■

## OUR VISION

Leigh is a thriving, caring community committed to enriching the quality of life for present and future generations, preserving our heritage, nurturing our sense of community, and fostering a culture of giving back.

## OUR MISSION

LLF is a vehicle for the philanthropy of individuals, businesses, and organizations that desire to make a lasting contribution to the community of Leigh. We act as a catalyst for growth to provide leadership and resources to strengthen our community both now and for future generations.

## OUR VALUES

### ■ PASSIONATE

We are positive and enthusiastic about the Leigh community. We take great pride in who we are and where we live.

### ■ RESPONSIBLE

We are respectful as we care for the legacy of the community and its members. We take into consideration the thoughts, feelings, and life experiences of all community members in making decisions.

### ■ TRUSTWORTHY

We are dependable, honest, accountable, and transparent. We can be counted on to keep our word and our promises.

### ■ GENUINE

We are compassionate and dedicated to building our community. We approach our work with integrity and a positive attitude.

### ■ COLLABORATIVE

We believe in creating partnerships in our community that foster teamwork, maximize our ability to fulfill our vision, and create a culture of giving.

### ■ FORWARD-THINKING

We think ahead, are open to the changing needs of our community, and are proactively working to improve our future.

### ■ GRACIOUS

We sincerely appreciate each and every gift of time, talent, and treasure to improve our community.

## OUR MEMBERS

Justine Fischer, *Chair* 402.910.2561  
Tara Dlouhy, *Vice-Chair* 402.276.3620  
Tricia Mullenhoff, *Secretary* 402.910.0805  
Landon Wietfeld, *Treasurer* 402.750.7287  
Melissa Brabec 402.992.0287

Michele Clausen 402.750.8079  
Heather Held 402.276.1068  
Kamin Held 402.276.1765  
Chris Herink 402.276.7315  
Megan Hillen 402.910.1391

Ryan Hillen 402.276.3320  
Paige Ritz 402.276.6831  
Thomas Urban 402.942.1746  
Tammy Wendt 402.276.0585  
Brent Wietfeld 402.750.0140

## GIFTS FOR LEIGH 2022 GRADUATES



LHS Senior Makenna Held holds her tumbler.

**THE LEGACY FUND** gifted all 15 2022 graduating seniors of Leigh High School a Legacy logo tumbler and \$15 in Leigh Bucks. LLF wishes all of this year's smart and talented graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors! We are so proud of them for the way they have represented our community in their high school endeavors, and we hope many of them will someday bring their talents home and raise their families in Leigh! ■

## LLF BENEFITS FROM "DOLLARS FOR DOERS"



### LLF MEMBER KAMIN HELD

has been a proud employee of Becton Dickinson (BD) in Columbus since 1995. In addition to being a global leader in the

medical supply industry and a great place to work, Held learned BD is also a leader in philanthropic efforts both worldwide and locally.

Through the "Dollars For Doers" program within BD's Matching Gift Program, Held was able to log the hours she spent volunteering for the Legacy Fund in the past year for a company match of \$500!

LLF encourages everyone to check with their employer about company matches for charitable donations and volunteer service. In Held's words: "What an exciting way to grow the Leigh Legacy Endowment Fund and forever support the community of Leigh! Thank you, BD!" ■

## LHS ALUMNI REUNION SUCCESS

**FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW**, the Legacy Fund, in coordination with the Leigh Alumni Association, was fortunate to be able to plan and host the Leigh All-Class reunion at the Colfax County Fairgrounds on Sunday, May 29.

All proceeds were used to fund the Leigh Alumni Association scholarships. It was a great way for Legacy members to be of service to the community and get the word out there about our organization.



The day's festivities consisted of tours of the new high school given by members of the Leigh Youth Advisory Committee, social time, and dance with the Duffy Belorad Orchestra. A roast beef meal prepared by Norma's Kitchen was served by members of the Legacy Fund. Dessert was provided by Leigh alum Angela (Bruhn) Hathaway, who runs With Love, Home-Crafted Confections. Park Place provided a cash bar throughout the evening.

This was followed by a short program featuring dancers from Steps at Tiffany's Dance Studio, owned by Leigh alum Tiffany (Mullenhoff) Malena. This was followed by the presentation of the 2022 scholarship winners: Jacob Eisenmann and Kennedy Settje. Some Leigh High Trivia was shared, and the members of the honored classes were announced.

Special recognition was given to Rita Hogendorn, Class of 1942, who was honored as the oldest Leigh alumnus in attendance, celebrating her 80th class reunion.

Leigh Legacy Fund tumblers and potted plants from Bluebird Nursery were awarded as door prizes. Any former Leigh cheerleaders in attendance led the singing of the Leigh school song. To round out the program, Justine Fischer and Ryan Hillen shared information about the Leigh Legacy Fund and their hope for the future of Leigh.

Following the banquet and program, Duffy Belorad Orchestra continued to play, and then Chuck and Sue Folken played "Music from throughout the Decades" until midnight. Special thanks to them for their time and the use of their sound equipment.

The Leigh Alumni Association and Leigh Legacy Fund wish to express their sincerest thanks for helping make this event a success! ■

## LLF HOSTS "ESTATE PLANNING" SEMINAR



FAC Chair Justine Fischer introduces Mr. Gerard Forget as he begins his estate planning seminar.

**LEIGH LEGACY FUND** hosted a free informational seminar entitled "Estate Planning Strategies to Successfully Plan for Your Heirs" in March at the Leigh Public Library.

The seminar featured Mr. Gerard T. Forget III of Forget Law Group, which has satellite offices in Clarkson and Schuyler. Mr. Forget presented information about the importance of planning for unexpected death and catastrophic illness, the importance of having a will, how to utilize a trust to avoid probate, the medical power of attorney vs. a living will, financial power of attorney, tax implications and the importance of planning, nursing home expense, and proper planning to protect assets.

Drinks and snacks were provided by the Leigh Legacy Fund. The LLF was pleased to bring this useful information to the good-sized crowd in attendance and thank Mr. Forget for his presentation! ■



## PHASE ONE OF BALLFIELD IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE



Members of St. John's Lutheran Church use the newly improved concession stand for the Leigh Men's Fastpitch softball tournament.

**LAST YEAR,** Leigh Legacy Fund received the wonderful news that they were the recipient of an over \$250,000 gift from the estate of William (Bill) and Theresa Eggers.

Because of Bill and Theresa's love of family and community, their gift will impact the community of Leigh for generations to come. It was their family's wish that a portion of the gift be used to support the Leigh baseball/softball field and the rest be allocated to the Legacy Fund's permanent endowment.

This spring the Legacy Fund made the first of a series of improvements to the ballfield by renovating the concession stand and bathrooms. The interior of both was painted white. Two toilets and stalls were added to the women's restroom, and a urinal and stalls were added to the men's. A wall was removed from the concession stand to make the space bigger and more functional. New countertops, stainless steel sink, shelving, cabinets, refrigerator, Pepsi cooler, and popcorn machine were also purchased and installed.

Much volunteer effort went into planning and carrying out this project. Thanks to Ryan Hillen, Brent Wietfeld, Kamin Held, Paige Ritz, Scott Kurpgewit, Chris Kurpgewit, Jarrett Koch, Andy Bachman, Chris Herink, and Justine Fischer, as well as Hamernik Plumbing, Wietfeld Electric, Patti Pieper for painting, and Nancy Schaad and Karen Hillen from the city office for their help coordinating! Extra special thanks to Ryan Hoffman and Cole Fischer for spearheading this project and for all the time they put into it!

The concessions and bathrooms were just the first improvements made to the ballfield as a result of the Eggers' estate gift. Look for more significant improvements in the future! ■

## COMMUNITY CLUB DONATES FARM PULL PROCEEDS TO LLF FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

**FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW,** the Leigh Community Club hosted a tractor pull in August 2021, and graciously donated the proceeds of the pull to the Leigh Legacy Fund Endowment Account. There were a record number of hooks with 125 registered, and \$1,700 donated!



Mike Fuhr was one of the many local pullers that day.

In addition to the Community Club, the Legacy Fund would like to send a big thank you to Kyle Dlouhy, Brad & Katrina Bruhn, Dustin Marty, Dave and Rod Jedlicka, the Leigh Fire & Rescue Departments, and Zion Church food stand for making this event happen.

The event also could not have happened without the support of these sponsors: Citizens State Bank, Redstar, Pinnacle Bank, Sobota Seed, Platte Valley Equipment, Mullenhoff Attachments, Wayne's Repair, Mitchell Equipment, Wietfeld Trucking, Cooperative Supply, J&L Automotive, Kit Held Seed & Chemical, Settje Transportation, Agri-City, Groteluschen Repairs, Groteluschen Trucking, County Line Trucking, Kabes Farms, and Koliha Trucking.

Thank you to the many in attendance of the free event who made freewill donations to the Legacy Fund! ■

## LEGACY FUND AND YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEATURED ON 10/11 NEWS!

**AT THE END OF LAST SUMMER,** the Leigh Legacy Fund was honored and privileged to have Channel 10/11 News' "Pure Nebraska" with Jon Vanderford visit our community to do a feature on the Leigh Legacy Fund and our collaborative partners, the Youth Advisory Committee!



The six-minute segment was filmed mostly in Leigh High School and focused on the work the Legacy Fund is doing to improve the community as well as engage young people in Leigh in the process. The segment further noted the results of NCF's statewide youth survey, which found that Nebraska youth have the desire to return to and be involved in their hometowns.

The segment featured interviews with Legacy Fund members Justine Fischer and Ryan Hillen; Leigh Youth Advisory Committee members Kanyon Held, Natalie Brabec, and Jessica Hoffman; and the Nebraska Community Foundation's President and CEO, Jeff Yost and Chief Operating Officer, K.C. Belitz.



*If you haven't seen this inspiring video, we encourage you to watch it using this QR code!* ■

# THANKS TO OUR COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS!

**LEIGH LEGACY FUND** would like to thank our special collaborative partners, the Leigh Community Club and Leigh Youth Advisory Committee. The Legacy Fund works very closely with both of these groups.

The Community Club is an amazing community asset with dedicated volunteers whose mission is to bring people in Leigh together. They facilitate annual community-building programs such as Santa, Easter Bunny, Trunk or Treat, Movie in the Outfield, Winterfest, and the Farm Pull. The Community Club fully supports the mission of the Leigh Legacy Fund to build a permanent unrestricted endowment and has not held its annual membership drive for the past three years for that reason. Instead, they ask you to support the Leigh Legacy Fund with future donations. The Community Club will continue to use the money in their existing account until it is exhausted. From that point on, they will be funded solely by the Leigh Legacy Fund.



YAC members Brianne Kuhr (left) and Tanyin Larson (right) give the swingset at the park a coat of fresh paint in one of the many community service projects YAC completed this past year.

The Leigh Youth Advisory Committee (founded in 2015) is a group of high school age students who care deeply about the community of Leigh and about community in general. They consider themselves the youth component of the LLF. YAC's mission is to help students foster a sense of pride in their community and learn more about civic responsibility and community leadership. The YAC group for the upcoming 2022–23 year is the biggest ever at 40 members!

These students must apply to be in the group and are required to observe numerous community meetings throughout the year, including Leigh Legacy Fund meetings. In addition to attending meetings, this past year, they also organized and ran the biannual Leigh Christmas Festival. They also completed numerous paint projects, including painting the bathrooms at the park, the ballfield bleachers and dugouts, the playground equipment at the park, the propane tank by the swimming pool, and the parking lines on Main Street.

Other highlights of the year include being featured on 10/11 News' Pure Nebraska series as well as a leadership-building day this past spring. Just before senior members graduated, they were able to travel to Albion to meet with various community leaders and entrepreneurs about all the things Albion is doing to make their town a better place. Then the day wrapped up with all YAC members taking part in a Hometown Leadership Workshop with KC Belitz of Nebraska Community Foundation and Lisa Kaslon from UNL Extension. Students mapped out Leigh's greatest assets and learned that they themselves are part of those assets and what makes Leigh great.

All of the profits the students raise are donated back to the community with the students deciding fully how to spend the money they raise. They have already raised over \$5,000 for their next future project!

The Leigh Legacy Fund is very proud to be partners with these two groups! ■

## BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS



**OVER THE PAST YEAR**, the Leigh Legacy Fund has sought to promote city-wide beautification efforts. One way of accomplishing this was by donating three signs to the Village of Leigh. The first and largest directional sign was put up by the Coop last fall, and the other two signs were put up at the park and ballfield this summer. We think they were a nice improvement to town!

In addition to the Legacy members helping with this project, thanks to Cole Fischer, Jarrett Koch, Ron Schroeder, Kevin Becerril, Mike McMullin, Ty McMullin, Sean Malena, Logan Schroeder, Wendy Rahtz, the Coop, the Village of Leigh, and Schieffer Signs for their help! ■

## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON IN LEIGH!

**WE HAD FUN** throughout the year participating in smaller ways with numerous community events like Trunk or Treat, the Leigh Community Christmas Festival, and the Colfax County Fair parade! ■





## LEGACY FUND UPDATES "FRIENDS OF LEIGH" INFO

**BEGINNING IN 2020**, Leigh Legacy Fund began the process of creating a master database of addresses and contact information for all current residents of the Leigh area, as well as alumni and other "friends" of Leigh living elsewhere. Thank you to all of you who have continued to provide us updated contact information. The addresses will be used for future alumni banquet contact as well as Leigh Legacy Fund newsletters and updates. If you or anyone you know has a new address or contact information, we encourage you to share it with a Leigh Legacy Fund member at any time so we can continue to build and update our list! ■

## NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS

**WE WANT TO REMIND EVERYONE** that as of July 2021, we can officially accept grant applications! Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and we will contact you about your request within 30 days of a submitted application. If your organization has a project idea that will benefit the community of Leigh, we encourage you to apply for funds using our grant application found on the Nebraska Community Foundation website: [www.nebcommfound.org/give/leigh-legacy-fund](http://www.nebcommfound.org/give/leigh-legacy-fund) ■

## GENERAL FUND AND ENDOWMENT BALANCES

Beginning Balance,  
January 1, 2021:

**\$277,992.07**

Donations/Income/Market Gain:

**\$33,906.54**

Grant Payouts/Expenditures/Fees/  
Market Loss:

**\$33,879.95**

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Ending Balance, July 1, 2022:

**\$278,018.66**

## THE POWER OF ENDOWMENT

**LEIGH LEGACY FUND** is focused on building a permanent unrestricted endowment. The endowment is an important tool to keep our hometown growing, thriving and improving for future generations. It

creates a steady stream of revenue for community needs today and those that arise in the years to come.

Funds that go into the LLF's permanent endowment are invested and continue to increase. The principal is never touched, and the investment earnings increase over time. Any gift made to the LLF endowment is a "forever" gift.

As the endowment grows, so will the investment earnings. These earnings will serve as a "payout" for future grants the Legacy Fund will be able to give to area groups to support projects and programs that enhance quality of life in Leigh and the surrounding rural area. The principal—and your gift—remains intact and grows forever.

What are your hopes and dreams for the future of Leigh? With an unrestricted endowment, those dreams are within our reach! Together, we can build a brighter future for Leigh and create a community that our children and our children's children are proud to call home and others are proud to visit and call their hometown! ■



Building an unrestricted endowment is an investment in our youth and community's future! Pictured left to right: Lucy Koch (3), Kinlee Dlouhy (4), and Micah Wietfeld (5).

BEGINNING BALANCE	PAYOUT YEAR 5	PAYOUT YEAR 10	PAYOUT YEAR 15	PAYOUT YEAR 20
\$100,000	\$5,065	\$5,871	\$6,807	\$7,891
\$250,000	\$12,662	\$14,679	\$17,017	\$19,727
\$500,000	\$25,324	\$29,357	\$34,033	\$39,454
\$1,000,000	\$50,648	\$58,751	\$68,067	\$78,908

# OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

July 2021–June 2022

## GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Charlie Ahrens  
Kay Barjenbruch  
Marcelline Foltz  
Mark Foltz  
Myron Franzen  
Ed Gall  
Roger Hake  
David Harder  
Lorraine Held  
Arlen Herink  
Janet Janssen  
Leonard Krings  
Randy Larson  
Norma Maliha  
Harvey Nauenburg  
Tanner Norman  
Gene Novak  
Kathy Schneider  
Agnes Thalken  
Brandon Urban  
Marcia Vasek  
Helen Wiemer

Dale and Mary Dueland  
Kyle and Tara Dlouhy  
William (Bill) and Theresa Eggers Family Trust  
Ken and Janet Eisenmann  
Cole and Justine Fischer  
Darwin and Lois Franzen  
David and Cari Franzen  
Cal and Sue Fuhr  
Larry Fuhr  
Roger Fuhr  
Mark and Linda Graff  
Marlene Groteluschen  
Jolene Hake  
Kenlon and Maureen Hake  
Jeff and Deb Harding  
John and Cynthia Hanzel  
Kathy Heard  
Keal and Heather Held  
Kip and Kamin Held  
Blake and Anne Hellbusch  
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Leigh Farm Pull Organizers  
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Sean and Tiffany Malena  
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Bonnie Spanhake  
Thomas and Mallory Urban  
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Randy and Tammy Wendt  
Terry and Spring Wendt  
Willard and Sharon Went  
Wes and Maribeth Went  
Brent and Kacy Wietfeld  
Landon and Michkayla Wietfeld  
Mike and Lois Wilke  
Lyle and Carrie Wurdeman  
Jeff Yost and Cindy Ryman Yost

## GENEROUS SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

Michael and Pamela Abbott  
Ronald and Ruth Asche  
Carol Bayer  
Dan and Beth Bahensky  
Gary and Diane Belohrad  
Bessler Family Eyecare LLC (Deb Bessler)  
Jon and Dianne Botsch  
Dustin and Melissa Brabec  
Kyle and Whitney Brabec  
Sharon Bradley  
Harold and Joan Brown  
Robert and Beth Caldwell  
Heath and Michele Clausen  
Travis and Jennifer Dicke

*\*Our sincerest apologies if any names were inadvertently overlooked in this printing. Please let us know if we missed you. Some donations are not listed on this page due to anonymity. Please let us know if you wish to donate anonymously. LLF respects all private donations and will never post anonymous contributions.*

## WITH DEEP APPRECIATION

**WE WISH TO THANK** all of our donors and contributors! We are still just beginning our journey with Nebraska Community Foundation as they dare us to dream big dreams for our community and surrounding rural area. One thing NCF stresses is that gifts come in the form of more than just money. They come in the form of “time, talent, and treasure.” One thing our fund has discussed time and time again is that we want the word “grateful” to be synonymous with the Leigh Legacy Fund. We wish to extend our

sincerest gratitude for every monetary donation given to our fund, great or small. Just as importantly, we want to thank everyone who helps us in the giving of their time or talent. This type of gift is just as important. **YOU ARE SO APPRECIATED!** There are so many Leigh community heroes, living both close and far away, working to make this a better place for all to live and visit. To all of you, thank you for believing in the importance of community, the power of dreams, and the future of the Village of Leigh! ■

# WHEN WE ALL LEAVE FIVE, LEIGH THRIVES!



PEAK TRANSFER YEARS  
**2046 and after**

As of November 2021

10-YEAR TOW

**\$673 million**



5% OF 10-YEAR TOW

**\$34 million**

**Colfax County's 10-year transfer of wealth is approximately \$673 million. If 5% were captured to benefit our communities, that would equate to \$34 million.**

**WE STAND AT THE THRESHOLD** of 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, the wealth transfer will peak before 2045. In other words, there is real urgency to act now. The opportunity will never be greater.

To this end, Nebraska Community Foundation—with which the Leigh Legacy Fund is affiliated—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 gamechanger for our hometowns.

## 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 in Colfax County and how you can ensure some of this abundance remains in the communities we love at [www.fivetothrive.org](http://www.fivetothrive.org).



## WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

**LEIGH LEGACY FUND** and NCF can help you put your assets to work with tax-efficient charitable strategies while also supporting the causes most important to you. Some popular ways to give include:

- **GIFTS IN A WILL OR TRUST**
- **BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS**
- **RETIREMENT PLANS**
- **GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE**
- **GIFTS THAT PROVIDE INCOME**
- **REAL ESTATE**
- **GRAIN OR LIVESTOCK**

Reach out to Todd Mekelburg, Director of Gift Planning at Nebraska Community Foundation (402.323.7343) or any member of the Leigh Legacy Fund Advisory Committee for more information!

