



895 Cottonwood Street
Bennet, NE 68317

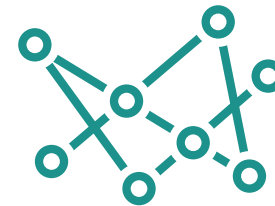
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BENNET COMMUNITY FUND

2022 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

OUR VALUES



Connection of donors, volunteers, citizens,
and area groups



Impact through sustainable,
endowment-supported community projects



Stewardship of resources and
accountability to donors



Pride for our community

Bennet Community Fund has a new logo! The design depicts the Fund's roots in the community, the dedication of the Fund to produce opportunities for the area, and its purpose to help the community grow.

AFFIRMING OUR PURPOSE

The Fund has simplified its name to the Bennet Community Fund (formerly the Bennet Area Community Foundation Fund). The emphasis to enhance the quality of life in Bennet and the surrounding area is still the same.

OUR VISION

Inspiring our community to give and grow

OUR MISSION

To encourage philanthropy and charitable giving through gifts of time, talents, and resources for our growing Bennet community.

OUR FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE


 Doug Jose, *Chair*

 Lisa Dowding

 Julie Hippen, *Vice Chair*

 Jennie Ernest

 Linda Jensen, *Secretary*

 Adam Humeniak

 Larry Kramer, *Treasurer*

 Drew Moyer

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FOREVER GIFT TO BENNET'S COMMUNITY 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 ☐ Grain ☐ Other

Donor Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: 895 Cottonwood Street | Bennet, NE 68317. Or save a stamp and donate online at www.nebcommfound.org/give/bennet-community-fund

Bennet Community Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

OUR IMPACT

WHISPERING PINES PARK DISC GOLF COURSE

BCF's Youth Philanthropy project aims to enlist young people's enthusiasm to build a stronger sense of community and to instill a culture of giving among local youth. The Whispering Pines Park Disc Golf Course was a direct result of that program. BCF offered two \$1,000 grants for youth philanthropy projects. Two sixth-grade students, Owen Rameakers and John Hippen, proposed constructing a disc golf course in the newly established park on the east side of Bennet. BCF decided to award them the full \$2,000. Nebraska Community Foundation matched this with a Youth Engagement Grant. Once the project was initiated, community members volunteered to sponsor holes. With this funding secured,



the developers expanded the original design of a six-hole course to nine holes. Other donations in-kind included labor to construct the forms and install the concrete for the tee pads, labor to help

install the baskets, hole signs, and rock benches and other labor to assist with the course construction. BCF held a ribbon cutting and official opening of the course in June 2021.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK



BCF initiated this project in 2020 with the planting of a tree in the Village Park. BCF dedicated the tree to the late Dee Maas, former resident of Bennet and wife of the charter chair of the Fund. In 2020, BCF decorated the park with lights and other seasonal decorations for the festival on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. COVID restrictions limited the activities to a drive-by format. Santa and Mrs.

Claus waved to the occupants of the more than 400 cars that circled the park and delivered treat bags to the children from a chute.

In 2021, the Fund hosted the festival the first Saturday of December. BCF and other volunteers decorated the Park for a full participation festival. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived on a Bennet Fire truck, visited with children in the gazebo and



handed out 250 treat bags. Students from the Bennet-Palmyra schools played seasonal songs and sang in small groups beside the Christmas tree. Children did crafts in the shelter.

The 2022 Christmas in the Park festival is scheduled for December 3. The goal of BCF is to make it a broader community event. We will ask other community organizations to participate.

OUR IMPACT

GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY

Give to Lincoln Day is a 24-hour event that encourages contributions to Lincoln and Lancaster County nonprofit organizations through a single online platform. The event, organized by the Lincoln Community Foundation, is on May 26, 2022. The Bennet Community Fund is one of the participating nonprofit organizations.

Contributing to BCF through Give to Lincoln Day is a great way to increase your donation. Every participating organization will receive a proportional share of a \$500,000 challenge match based on the dollars the organization receives. More information will be available on the BCF Facebook page before May 26.

FOCUSING ON OUR YOUTH

BCF's activities and projects emphasize the importance of youth in a growing, caring community. In addition to supporting youth through the grants we make (for instance, to the splash pad), the Fund reserves a position on its governing body, the Fund Advisory Committee (FAC), for a youth member.

ADDRESSING FUTURE CHALLENGES



The Bennet area has changed significantly, even in the past 10 years. As of the recent census, Bennet is now a city. With increased population, the needs of a community evolve. Technology is rapidly changing how we shop, communicate, take care of ourselves, and work. Our vision is to

help the community grow with a high quality of life. We can do that by having the resources available to respond to the future needs and aspirations of our hometown. We will do this by building an unrestricted endowment fund.

An endowment is like a savings account for the community. A portion of the income earned by the endowment is available each year to fund projects to benefit the community as the needs arise. The principal remains untouched, allowing it to grow indefinitely.

Although Nebraska Community Foundation manages the principal for BCF, Bennet volunteers, who are members of our Fund Advisory Committee, decide how to award grants for community projects. Your gift to the unrestricted endowment account is an investment in the economic future and wellbeing of the Bennet community. Visit www.nebcommfound.org/give/bennet-community-fund to learn more and contribute to the growth of our community's endowment.

OTHER 2021 EVENTS



BCF had an entry in the Bennet 4th of July parade.



Doug Jose, Chair of the FAC, made a presentation on youth philanthropy and the Bennet disc golf project at Nebraska Community Foundation's Annual Celebration & Training in McCook, Nebraska on November 18, 2021.

