Our generous donors

October 2023 to December 2024

In Memory/Honor of:
Deceased members of the class of 1964
Members of the class of 1979
Margaret Bazata
Francis Baumert
Marguerite Brodecky
Rich Belina
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ONE CONTRIBUTION in full: $ _____ .

ANNUALLY: $ _____.

SET UP RECURRING PAYMENTS ONLINE AT: www.nebcommfound.org/give/howells-community-fund

☐ This is an anonymous gift ☐ This gift is made in memory of / in honor of:_____

Donor Information:

Donor Printed Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

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

MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Howells Community Fund | PO Box 63 | Howells, NE 68641

CONTRIBUTIONS MAY ALSO BE MADE ONLINE: **www.nebcommfound.org/give/howells-community-fund**

SCAN TO DONATE

Howells Community Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All monetary gifts are tax deductible.

"Roots to Grow"

HOWELLS COMMUNITY FUND

2024 Newsletter | Published Spring 2025

AN AFFILIATED FUND OF NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Our vision

Howells is a caring, thriving community with a place for all to call home.

Our mission

Creating a lasting impact by inspiring the generosity of our community to support educational, social, recreational, economic opportunities, and services.

Our values

The Howells Community Fund is a hardworking team supporting our community's future and progressive goals. We are dedicated, positive, compassionate and always work with integrity.

Our volunteers

We welcome fresh ideas and different viewpoints! Don't hesitate to visit with any of our volunteer members to share yours!

Gary Brester	(402) 833-8061
Janelle Brester	(402) 350-9027
Austin Coufal*	(402) 380-4862
Hailey DeMers	(402) 380-2231
Bernie Hegemann	(402) 750-7512
Marti Brichacek*	(605) 323-9197
Laura Mejstrik*	(402) 631-7322
Trent Mastny*	(402) 750-9218
Marilyn Sindelar*	(402) 750-7401
Billie Wisnieski*	(402) 380-7635
Susie Pokorny (Emeritus)	(402) 615-3838
Kathy Heard (Emeritus)*	(402) 380-8290
Joan Mastny (Emeritus)*	(402) 750-7639

** Denotes Legacy Donors who have made planned gifts to the Howells Community Fund in their wills.*

Find us on Facebook!

Howells Community Fund Members. Bottom Row: Marti Brichacek, Marilyn Sindelar, Susie Pokorny, and Billie Wisnieski. Top Row: Austin Coufal, Bernie Hegemann, Laura Mejstrik, Kathy Heard, Trent Mastny, and Gary Brester.

An internship with impact

Hometown Intern Blair Fiala preps and paints the newest addition to Howells Park—a pickleball court!

This past summer we were honored to have Blair Fiala serve as our intern. Blair was a phenomenal addition to our team and jumped right in ready to make a difference in her hometown! During her summer with us, she dedicated her time to research and outreach for park planning and development. The work Blair completed has laid out some great foundational steps for us to build upon as we look to develop a plan for park enhancements in the coming years. In addition to the research and outreach she completed, she was also assigned the task of prepping and painting a new pickleball court laid over top of the existing tennis court! As with any project, some deadlines were outside of her control, but she did not let that stop her. She diligently kept progress moving along and came back home during her fall break at college to complete the painting and sealing of the new court (with an extra set of helping hands, Cathy Fiala)! The net will not be installed until next spring, but now we all have something new and exciting to look forward to next summer!

Pooling our resources

Local youth step up for their pool, contributing the revenue from their sweet corn sales.

This past summer the Howells Public Pool took on new management under the lead of Meredith Crogan and Kim Freed. These ladies generously stepped up to the plate to help ensure that one of the main assets of our community remained open. As the women began their first season of management, they were met with more challenges than they anticipated. It became quite clear that our town pool was in need of some major attention to make it a safer and better facility for staff and patrons alike. Crogan and Freed brought their concerns to the biannual Unity Council meeting and were met with lots of encouragement from those in attendance to hold steadfast in their efforts and that the town would rally around them. The Howells Community Fund felt this was a great effort for us to join and do our part to help because while the town boards were in support of the needed pool improvements and fundraising, existing resources were needed for other projects.

Howells Community Fund decided that the funds we would raise at two of our annual events would be granted to the Howells Pool for their improvements. Each year HCF hosts a burger night at the summer sand volleyball league championship, and we also host our annual Feed Your Dreams Breakfast in August. The generosity of our community exceeded expectations. The burger night raised $2,000 while the breakfast meal raised $5,000! But the generosity did not end there! A group of younger community members also wowed us all with their dedication to their hometown. This group of kids got together and challenged the Howells Community Fund to match the $287 they raised selling sweet corn! We were delighted to see such service and generosity from these young people that we granted them a 2:1 match and donated $574 from the endowment, for a total of $861 to further pool improvements.

With the generosity and commitment of those in our community we were able to help the pool raise a total of $7,861 for the first phase of their improvements! If you would like to know more about the Howells Pool project, please reach out to the pool managers or the town board to learn what's next!

Lifesaving support

There are two new locations in Howells that will now have a highly important piece of emergency equipment. The Saint John's Catholic Social Hall and the American Legion Hall were both recipients this past month of a grant from the Howells Community Fund for Automated External Defibrillators (AED). Eugene Brester and Kevin Marik were presented with the AED on behalf of the Legion Hall. Fund members Gary Brester and Austin Coufal installed the AED at the lower level of the Social Hall with guidance from the church and daycare for ideal placement for all building participants.

Austin Coufal and Gary Brester of the Howells Community Fund install the AED in the St. John's Social Hall.

Caring for our community

Each fall the Howells Community Fund likes to acknowledge a group of individuals in the community with a small token of thanks for their commitment and service to our town. This year those who provide care and a safe place for the children of Howells were the recipients. The providers at Little Angels Daycare (Laura Mejstrik, Chris Risch, Geri Eikmeier, Ann Brodecky, and Beth Fiala) and Shirley Dostal were given baskets of goodies as a token of appreciation for all that they do.

Howells Community Fund continues learning

Nebraska Community Foundation affiliated funds from Dodge, Leigh, Clarkson, and Coleridge attended the Regional Training event hosted by the Howells Community Fund and Nebraska Community Foundation.

This past year the Howells Community Fund Advisory Committee made a commitment to continued growth and education as a focus for 2024. We kicked this goal off in January and February by completing Nebraska Community Foundation's Impact Planning process. This consisted of three separate training sessions where we studied community data and conversations, reviewed completed grants, analyzed the assets and key relationships in our community, and identified our group goals and priorities. These training sessions helped our team to set forth into the new year reenergized and full of big ideas!

Our next opportunity for growth came in the form of peer learning. In August HCF was able to host a Nebraska Community Foundation's Regional Training where members from the Leigh Legacy Fund, Dodge Community Fund, Clarkson Future Fund, and Coleridge Area Fund gathered for an evening of conversation. There was a great deal of ideas and information shared amongst the groups, and it was a wonderful opportunity to learn about our neighboring communities, the work they are doing, and the big dreams they all have.

Finally in November, Howells Community Fund members attended the Nebraska Community Foundations Annual Celebration and Training event. At the event Fund members attended sessions to learn about work being done by other communities throughout the state. Members were also able to foster and build connections with leaders in many communities and exchange ideas for projects, growth, and community building. In addition, we were honored to have three of our own members of the Howells Community Fund invited to present during sessions at the event. Joan Mastny (emeritus member) presented on developing community connections and conversations via the Coffee & Conversation event held in town each month. Trent Mastny and Marti Brichacek presented on the internal work that the Howells Community Fund has been doing since completing the Impact Planning training sessions.

Howells Community Fund volunteers work through training at the Impact Planning event.

Endowment and General Accounts Balance Sheet

Beginning balance, October 1, 2023	$992,432.10
Donations/Income	$24,280.00
Expenditures (includes grant payouts)	($12,106.51)
Market value change	$98,949.08
Ending balance, December 31, 2023	$1,103,554.67
Beginning balance. January 1, 2024	$1,103,554.67
Donations/Income	$45,042.63
Expenditures (includes grant payouts)	($62,121.61)
Market value change	$118,340.77
Ending balance, December 31, 2024	$1,204,816.46