The Mission of the Keith County Community Foundation Fund is to enrich the quality of life in our countywide community by:

...providing a means for citizens to give something back to the community they love; supporting and strengthening local nonprofit organizations; identifying needs and making grants in areas of human services, education, environment, art, culture, recreation and civic improvements; participating in partnerships with other community groups in the county; and building an endowment to help meet future community needs for generations to come.
Fund Advisory Committee Members Attend NCFs Annual Conference

Six members of the Keith County Community Foundation attended the Nebraska Community Foundation Annual Training and Expo in McCook in November. Members attending included Mary Weber, Ken Snyder, Pam Abbott, Eric Duhachek, Jolene Robinette and Ron Hollman.

Built on the belief that the only people that can build and sustain a place are those who live and work there, and that adults learn best from one another, this year’s affiliated fund training featured a mix of workshop-style breakouts, place-based learning, and peer group consultation to help make tangible, substantial progress on fund development and community impact and grant-making.

The McCook Community Foundation, this year’s event host, has become one of NCFs most influential and successful affiliated funds. The community and the result of its powerful partnerships and fundraising campaigns were showcased in a community wide event Wednesday night, ‘Night on the Bricks’, where downtown businesses and it’s Heritage Square were open to 400 community foundation members from across Nebraska. Homes of Senator George Norris and former governor Ben Nelson and the historic Fox Theatre were among the featured.

“For a long time, we’ve been talking about potential. We’ve been talking about the fact that we can. What’s so fun about today - about now - is that we are! People are dreaming about the future in a way they haven’t dreamed in a long time. People are investing in their future. That’s exciting. That’s inspiring.”

~Jeff Yost, NCF

“In our breakout sessions on Thursday, common talking points in most communities were youth action committees and early childhood needs,” Ken Snyder reported.

“We learned that a child’s brain capacity develops 80-90% by the age of five. These young mothers are very aware of the importance for developmentally appropriate education during the birth through three years.”

Many of the younger families that are relocating to rural Nebraska communities are genuinely concerned about the lack of education for the birth to 3 year olds.
Foundation awards $20,500 in grants

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund recently distributed $20,500 to civic projects and organizations during its 13th year of grant giving.

With the most recent gifts, KCCF Fund Advisory committees have distributed more than a quarter million dollars to civic projects and organizations.

Fourteen years ago, the foundation established a permanent endowment designed to be used for civic projects in Keith County.

Investment earnings from the endowment are used each year to award grants to organizations for special community projects.

During its initial year, the foundation awarded $6,500 in grants and distributed a high of $31,000 in 2007. Since 2004, the foundation has awarded about $263,000 in grants.

This year, the largest grant went to Keith County Area Development, $6,000 of a $12,000 request for a tuition reimbursement program for students attending higher education institutions who committed to coming back to work within the community.

Although the FAC had more than $28,000 available to be granted to organizations, the committee decided to hold back some money in hopes of funding some larger, more problematic-to-the-community projects.

With the grants that were made, the FAC decided to hold back $8,334 from this year’s investment earnings for other projects.

KCCF Vice Chairman Eric Duhachek said, “The Keith County Community Foundation Fund recognizes the long-term needs of our rural communities. Housing, workforce development and infrastructure needs are some of the important issues that our community visioning meetings have identified, and we are eager to help with some of the long term solutions to our common problems.”

“Starting this year, the fund will set aside part of its grant distributions from the unrestricted endowment to be used for larger community development projects. By setting aside part of our grant distributions for long-term goals, we will be able to make a lasting impact on Keith County,” Duhachek said.

The following is a list of Endowment Fund grant recipients. They include:

- Brule Volunteer Fire Department, $3,500, truck and tank size enhancement project
- Keith County Area Development, $6,000, tuition reimbursement program.
- Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department, $2,500, air quality monitors.
- Keystone-Lemoyne Volunteer Fire Department, $4,000, truck-mounted LED light system.
- Lemoyne Senior Center, $2,000, treadmill.
- Keith County Senior Center, $2,500, chairs with arm supports.
Reiselman honors wife, community with Legacy Endowment contribution

Even though Ruth Reiselman passed away more than a decade ago, her husband has gone above and beyond to honor the memory of her and, at the same time, benefit the local community in which they both lived for more than half a century.

Bernard “BJ” Reiselman of Ogallala recently donated $10,000 to the Keith County Community Foundation Fund as a memorial to Ruth, who passed away in 2003. Although he had made donations to the foundation in the past, they had never been as large as the one he recently donated in Ruth’s honor.

“I just wanted to give a little money back to the community, and I thought that would be the best way to do it,” Reiselman said. “I noticed that they’re doing a lot of good things.”

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund accepts financial donations and then distributes the interest earnings from the endowment fund to various organizations around the county, such as to the fire departments, senior centers and schools, among others.

Ruth, originally from Orchard, moved to Ogallala to begin a job as a teacher in 1944. During her career of more than 40 years, Ruth had taught kindergarten, and first and fourth grades at both Ogallala and Brule.

Unlike Ruth, BJ had grown up at Ogallala since shortly after he was born. After being discharged from the Navy, with which he served during World War II, he returned to Ogallala. He eventually began his own business, called the Reiselman Sign Co., which he ran for 40 years before selling the business.

Not long after Ruth moved to town, her path crossed with BJ’s, which would eventually lead to a lifetime spent together.

According to Jane, the couple’s daughter, Ruth, got the first glance of the man who would be her husband for 56 years during a local football game when BJ and some of his friends grabbed the football and ran for the end zone. Their efforts, however, were not received as well as they may have hoped.

“They weren’t supposed to be playing,” Jane said with a laugh.

Sometime after that, Ruth caught BJ’s attention, too. He was riding down the street in his car with a friend and saw Ruth walking by. Smitten with Ruth, BJ pointed her out, and his friend decided to see whether or not BJ would be up for the challenge of asking her out.

“I dare you to get a date with her,” his friend said.

Almost 70 years later, an entire lifetime for some, it was a dare well spent. The couple went on to get married in June 1947. They had two children, Jane and Jim, and would stay at Ogallala for the rest of their lives together.

At 91, BJ still lives at his hometown and has lived to see his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even multiple great-great grandchildren.

During their lifetimes, both Ruth and BJ were active in their community, and beyond. Ruth was a Cub Scout den mother, taught a Red Cross home nursing course, was involved with the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, and was a part of both the Nebraska and National Education associations.

BJ was an officer with the Elks Club, the Lions Club, and was a member of the Jaycees. He also was a member of the Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce board of directors. Like Ruth, BJ also was involved with the Episcopal Church.

With BJ’s recent donation to the foundation, given in Ruth’s memory, it is one more way in which both have impacted their community and its future.
A Digital Library

Now that we have the Internet and Google, do we really still need public libraries? According to John Palfrey, director of Harvard University’s Berkman Center for Internet & Society, the need is greater than ever. “Libraries are more important, not less important, and both as physical and virtual entities, than they’ve been in the past,” says Palfrey. He adds, “If we do not have libraries, if we lose the notion of free access to most information, the world of the haves and the have-nots will grow further and further apart. Our economy will suffer, and our democracy will be put at unnecessary risk.” Palfrey is the author of “BiblioTECH: Why Libraries Matter More than Ever in the Age of Google.”

Christopher John Farley of the Wall Street Journal agrees, and adds that librarians themselves fill a vital need. “In a digital age, we need librarians more than ever to help sort through it all. Libraries of the future shouldn’t be bookless because, like endangered species, the non-digitized physical texts of the past, and the ones that are still being printed, need a protected space,” says Farley.

Ogallala Public Library
Turn up your Dream Switch

Over $586,000 has been raised for Ogallala’s much needed new library. According to Library Director Kendra Caskey, accessibility is one of the current building’s greatest problems. “This building has served us faithfully since 1954, but it is simply not accessible to all patrons,” says Caskey. “Patrons must either go up or down steps to access either level, which is a serious issue to anyone with mobility issues or parents with small children in strollers. Our outdated elevator has inadequate weight limits for modern wheelchairs and scooters, and our doors and bathrooms are not all ADA compliant. The two level structure also causes staffing inefficiencies.”

In addition to accessibility issues, the old building has an outdated boiler system that is costly to repair and maintain. The flat roof with improper drainage causes water leaks on a continual basis, and there are numerous other problems. The planned $4.2 million new one-level building would address these concerns, as well as provide vital community meeting and program space. Please contact Kendra Caskey at 308-284-4354 with any questions about donating to the new facility.

Dot Hagge of Ogallala was a longtime board member of the Ogallala Library Foundation and passionate advocate of reading and literacy. According to her daughter Angie Kolste, Ogallala’s new library project was a natural fit for Dot’s memorials. “The library was such a happy place for her and she adored the women who worked there,” says Angie. “Mother’s avid love of reading and the Goodall City Library prompted our family to choose the Library Foundation’s new building fund for her memorial contributions. She spent a lifetime promoting the library.”
KEITH COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND

November 2016

Charitable giving does not require great wealth...

...it requires generosity of spirit – the desire to share what you have for the benefit of others. So many of us have a desire to help in other ways – the challenge is how to best realize it. The KCCF Fund Advisory Committee is working together to design a broader range of gift options where donors can select your personal giving choices.

IN MEMORY OF
(April 2016 – November 2016)

Randy Blessing
Mike and Pam Abbott, Ogallala
(General Fund)

Mel Butler
Beverly PoRock, Ogallala
(General Fund)

Betty L. Chada
David Chada, Rapid City, SD
(Brule Cemetery Fund)

Billy O’Connor
Bill Franken and Kay Franken Garet
Ogallala
(Paxton Library Endowment)

Ken and Chris Snyder, Paxton
(Legacy Endowment)

Beverly PoRock, Ogallala
(General Fund)

Scott and Mary Weber, Ogallala
(General Fund)

Bob Edgar
Marcia Butler, Ogallala
(General Fund)

Carl and Zada Jensen
Thomas C. Jensen, Tucson, AZ
(General Fund)

Bruce McNeff
Jeanne McNeff, Brule
(General Fund)

Ruth E. (Saxson) Reiselman
Bernard J. Reiselman, Ogallala
(Legacy Endowment)

Pat Smith (General Fund)
Adams Bank & Trust
Terry Annable, Ogallala
Marge Blaase, Ogallala
Gerald and Melinda Dealey, Ogallala
Norvin and Jean Elmsheuer
John and Penny Feltz, Ogallala
David and Gloria Fowler, Ogallala
Bill Franken and Ray Garet, Ogallala
Doug and Linda Fuller, Ogallala
John and Kay Garet, Ogallala
Merva Hansmeier, Ogallala
Gail Hayford, Ogallala
Roberta Hildebrand, Ogallala
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Holscher, Ogallala
Myron “Bud” and Judy Jasnich

(Pat Smith Memorials cont’d)
Keath County News
Kathleen Lute, Ogallala
Thomas Malone, Ogallala
Barbara Moore, Ogallala
Robert and Darcy Moran, Beatrice
Mrs. Or Mrs. Donal Most, Ogallala
Beverly Pollock, Ogallala
Cindy and Kevin Reiss, Ogallala
Dennis and Susan Schilz, Lemoine
Mrs. Dean Schow, Paxton
Dr. Gary and Cherry Schreiner,
Paul Schwaiger, Ogallala
Ron and Evelyn Siffering, Ogallala
Diane Wipperling, Ogallala

Margaret Stevenson
(Mother to Brian Stevenson)
Mike and Pam Abbott, Ogallala
(General Fund)

GIFTS
Maxine Kolste, Ogallala
(General Fund)

Library Building Account Donors 2016

In Memory Of (Library Building Account)
Dr. Albert Albee
Lucille Andrews
Allen Bellinger
Marita DeVoe
Dorothy Hagge
Karen McQuillan
Joyce Medina
Rita Paulus
Jack Pollock
Marjorie J. Rice
Roger C. and Mildred M. Smith
Dr. Bert W. Spencer
Jean Stanbery
Walter and Letha Stewart
Irene Vian

In Honor Of (Library Building Account)
Jayce & Jasper Gardner
Kathleen Lute

(Donors)
Mike and Pam Abbott
Mel and Huberta Adams Family
Todd and Kandy Adams
Adams Bank & Trust Employees
Lucille Andrews
C.W. and Sharon Balthell
Gay and Bonnie Bechtel
Bunnie Gifts
J. Matt and Cherlyn Byrd
Jim and Mary Callen
Larry and Mary Lynn Callen
The Clothing Closet
Dennis J. and Teresa J. Davis
Leonard A. and Josephine Davis
Norman and Rhonda Duba
Doyle and Mary Duggan

(List name of person memorialized or honored and fund of choice in line item on)

Jasper and Tara Fanning
JoAnn M. Flores
John and Debbie Fouat
Paul and Mary Kay Foy
Norman and Katherine Hansens
Steve and Joan Hartscock
Ron and Ann Ivers
J Dawgs Junk and Embroidery
George and Lora Jenkins
Bruce and Mary Jensen
Leonard D. and Marietta Johnson
Just 4 You Fitness
Thomas G. and Tracey J. Kehn
Herbert D. and Karen M. Knuens
Bart and Angie Kolte
Gerry and Shari Knus
Laurence M. (Smith) Knuke
Marylin A. (Smith) Lehenbauer
Kevin and Elise Lockhart
Kathleen Lute
Lute Family Foundation, Inc.
Kaye McLeroy
Timothy and Marilyn Magness
Susan Reese Miller
Petal Pushers
F.E. (Pete) and Jennie Peterson
Pinnacle Bank
James and Becky Plate
Beverly Pollock
Nelson and Diane Prager
Shirley J. Regan
Retail Committee of Ogallala/Keith Co.
Chamber
Russell B. and Barbara A. Richardson
Rotary Club of Ogallala
Don and Sue Schauda
Rita E. Shimmin
Silver Thimble Sewing Center
Ann M. Smith
Charles and Patricia Smith
Lawrence C. Smith
Robert and Colleen Smell
Jerrry and Joan Speck
Spectra Energy
Barbara Spencer
Dorothy A. Spicer
Patty C. Spencer
Marcia Stewart
Frank Svoboda
Lucille A. Swick
Doug and Jo Teaford
Harry and Margaret Tinnell
Trail’s End Gifts
Johnny and Christine Vian
George G. Vinton
Tim and Lori Vinton
Scott and Mary Weber
Mike and Karen Welsh
Richard D. and Jeanne M. Wooden
Jason and Teresa Zoelbier

In Kind Donations (Library Building Account)
Rick and Shelly Andersen
Andersen Sign Co.
Lance and Carly Larington,
Nebraska PrintWorks

KCCFF is dedicated to the improvement and long-term viability of our communities
Donor Information

Business/Organization/Group: ____________________________
Name(s): ____________________________________________
Street Address: _______________________________________
City: ___________________________ State ______ Zip Code: ______
Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________
FUND DESIGNATION: _________________________________

□ I would like to make this donation anonymously.
□ Optional: This gift is made: _____ In memory of _____ In honor of
    (Name) ____________________________________________

The Keith County Community Foundation Fund is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

All monetary gifts are tax deductible.

Mail to: KCCFF, POB 104, Ogallala, NE 69153
## Keith County Community Foundation Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berryman Education Account</td>
<td>Provides scholarships to Keith County students for post-secondary education. Visit website for more details: nebcommfound.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brule Cemetery</td>
<td>To support the charitable purposes of the Brule Cemetery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship of Christian Athletes</td>
<td>To provide funds to promote educational and training activities for youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>An account used by the local Fund Advisory Committee to support and maintain affiliated fund’s activities within the county.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodall Recreation Center</td>
<td>To provide funds to improve and maintain the Goodall Recreation Center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hermance Scholarships (2)</td>
<td>Provides scholarships to Keith County students for post-secondary education. Visit website for more details: nebcommfound.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holzfaster Board Endowment</td>
<td>Permanent endowment for the benefit of the advancement and promotion of the KCCFF.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogallala Children’s Library Account</td>
<td>To provide support to the Goodall City Library (Ogallala) for the benefit of youth library and youth reading programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogallala Library (Building Account)</td>
<td>To help support the library construction project to be owned by the city of Ogallala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogallala Library (Endowment)</td>
<td>To provide funds to support the activities of the Goodall Public Library above and beyond the normal operation and maintenance expected to be provided by the city of Ogallala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogallala Library (General)</td>
<td>To provide funds to support the activities of the Goodall Public Library above and beyond the normal operation and maintenance expected to be provided by the city of Ogallala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogallala Regional Arts Council</td>
<td>A permanent endowment that provides funds to support the Ogallala Regional Arts Council, a 501(c)(3) organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paxton Library Endowment</td>
<td>A permanent endowment that provides funds to support the Paxton Public Library.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Endowment</td>
<td>The fund that keeps on giving…A permanent account which assets are invested to generate an ongoing source of income year after year. Investment earnings from the endowment are used to support community improvements and programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>