

‘Oh, there’s no place like home for the holidays’

... and there is no better place to call home than Rock County! Rock County Community Fund uses philanthropy today as a tool for building a prosperous future so this can be home for generations to come. We have a great community fund team that truly has a heart for our area. Together with donor support, we have made many exciting things happen in 2023!

The unrestricted endowment started out with just over \$40,000 to give back this cycle! Some of the projects we granted to this year include: the Rural Workforce Housing Fund to create a revolving loan fund for the construction and rehabilitation of new homes in our region and hiring Jillian Buell this summer to work with RCCF through the Nebraska Community Foundation in our Hometown Intern program. We were also able to invest in our local youth by granting for the “Value Up” leadership program presented to grades 7-12, furniture for a student collaboration room at Rock County High School, granting for the Foundation for Full Potential scholarship, and to the Student of the Month program where each month we recognized a deserving student or group of students and gave them the opportunity to grant \$100 to a 501c3 of their choice. Our growing endowment has been able to grant to many projects benefiting Rock County this year.

As you rush around with your shopping list this Christmas season, remember to add Rock County to the list and consider supporting your community through the Rock County Community Fund Endowment. There are many ways to contribute, and all gifts are tax-deductible. We can accept gifts of cash or pledges, appreciated property, life insurance or bequests in wills. Our affiliation with Nebraska Community Fund even makes it possible to give gifts of real estate, livestock, grain and more. Another way to show your support is by making a donation to the future Rock County Community Center. We are in the final stages of fundraising and you still have the opportunity to be included on the donor wall. This wall will recognize donors by the following levels: Explorer, Pioneer, Homesteader, Leader and Innovator. Checkout the link on our website or visit with a member of our team if you’d like to make a tax deductible gift. After all, what a GIFT a new Community Center will be to Rock County!

‘For the holidays you can’t beat home sweet home’...especially if you are lucky enough to call Rock County home. So, remember to give back to Rock County! Let’s invest in the future so it can be the kind of community where our children and grandchildren can have opportunities to live, work and raise their families.

Merry Christmas,
Teresa Wiest
2023 RCCF Chair



ROCK COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER

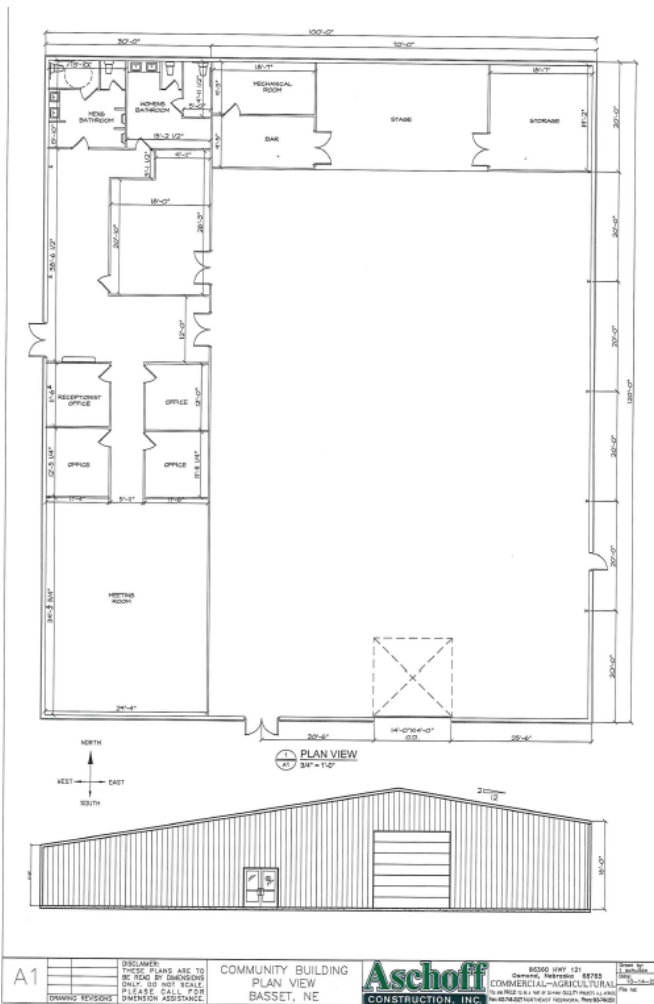
Moving forward and closing in...

As 2023 is winding down, we are coming into the home stretch of making the dream of the Rock County Community Center a reality. This past year we have made huge strides in accomplishing our fundraising goals! To date, Rock County Community Fund (RCCF) and the City of Bassett have secured \$1,037,000 in grants and \$1,087,925 in donations, pledges, and gifts for a total amount of \$2,124,925. With this new total, we are excited to announce we are officially moving on to the next stage of the project...Construction Time!

The dirt work for the Rock County Community Center is officially underway. The old cottonwood trees have been removed and site prep has begun. The City of Bassett has officially opened their bidding process and is expected to name a contractor in January of 2024. The project timeline is to have concrete poured this coming spring and the facility to be open by November of 2024.

The final dollar amount of the project will be determined once the city officially names a contractor. At this time we are continuing our fundraising efforts to ensure we have enough money to cover the construction cost of the facility and to create a permanent endowment for the maintenance and upkeep of the community center. Our goal is to fund 100% of the construction of the facility and to create a minimum of a \$250,000 endowment to ensure the facility will be a long standing asset to our community without being a tax burden to our residents.

That being said, this dream is finally happening! Our excitement is overflowing as we begin to see movement on this long awaited project. We are so thankful for everyone's patience and commitment to seeing the community center come to fruition. We know there is still a lot of work ahead, however, we can all see the finish line in sight. We cannot wait for next year to come and to celebrate the community's accomplishment as we cross the finish line together!



Rural Workforce Housing

Rock County Community Fund granted \$30,000 to The North Central Development Center to support Rural Workforce Housing (RWFH) to aid in their participation in the 2022 round of Nebraska's Rural Workforce Housing Fund. This fund is authorized by the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act of 2017, and helps communities create quality, affordable housing to accommodate growth.

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development announced they awarded \$22.82 million in awards through the 2022 round of Nebraska Workforce Housing Fund. This year, the grants awarded were a 2:1 matching grant. The North Central Development Center was one of the organizations awarded, with the NCDC receiving \$327,000 in Rural Workforce Housing Funds by providing \$163,500 in matching funds for a total of \$490,500 to go toward housing construction and rehabilitation. Rock County Community Fund is ecstatic to see such a valuable return on our \$30,000 grant. Our gift alone resulted in a return of \$60,000 for a total of \$90,000 that can be used towards workforce housing projects in our area.

"We are excited to be partnering with private businesses and our area foundations to construct homes in Brown, Rock and Keya Paha counties," NCDC Executive Director Kristin Olson said. "Once we receive the contract, we will be looking for applications for interim construction financing to support those interested in building housing. Thanks to all the generous donors who provided matching funds for this project in a short period of time."

"Growing rural Nebraska is a priority for our agency," said DED Interim Director Joe Fox. "The RWHF supports job creation and helps attract residents to our rural communities through strategic investments in affordable, high-quality housing. We had an outstanding batch of applicants for this cycle of RWHF awards. Congratulations to the awardees."

Over the years Rock County residents have identified the need for housing in our community. Rock County Community Fund is proud to assist in being a part of the solution and opening up a funding source to assist in bringing in new housing or for the rehabilitation of existing housing.

Library Internship

The Rock County Public Library greatly benefited from a grant received from the Rock County Community Fund to be able to have an intern at our library this past summer. The goal of our internship program at the library is to have the intern develop a greater understanding of the behind the scenes operations and joys of the librarian career. In a rural area sometimes the public library can be overshadowed by the health and social services job opportunities. This internship allows a student to be exposed to a firsthand view of the library profession as a job opportunity for their future. Our intern gets to view the role of a public library, see what happens behind the scenes and how technology in the library serves as an important purpose for the community. Our summer reading program has grown over the past years and the intern plays a vital role in helping with activities and programming for this. We think it is so important to show young people in our community that the library is not an outdated place, but rather alive and well on the inside and full of possibilities! This would not be possible without the generous support we receive from the Rock County Community Fund, believing in us and our ideas for the community!



Hometown Intern: Jillian Buell

This summer, Rock County Community Fund, took part in the unique program of “Hometown Interns” that is offered through the Nebraska Community Foundation. The program’s intent is to have affiliated funds hire a local college student with at least one year of schooling who has committed to returning home for the summer. This Hometown Intern works directly with their affiliated fund on a variety of projects tailored to their community and the interests and skill sets of the intern.



Rock County Community Fund (RCCF) was fortunate enough to have Jillian Buell sign on to be our first Hometown Intern. Jillian, a junior at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is an advertising and public relations major who was eager to use her knowledge and experience to assist RCCF in promoting our numerous projects we had planned for this summer. Jillian worked collaboratively with RCCF members to develop marketing plans and coordinate numerous activities for the Rock County Community Center. She kicked off her summer in planning several events that took place during the Rock County Alumni weekend. Jillian developed various flyers, banners, and postcards, spoke at the Rock County Alumni Brunch, and coordinated the “Race to the Finish” 5K. She also assisted in numerous projects leading up to the Rock County Community Center Groundbreaking Ceremony that was held during the Sandhills Ranch Expo and on the Community Center “Open House Tours” that were given during Rock County Fair Week. In addition, Jillian would spend the majority of her time working on developing and enhancing RCCF’s social media presence. Jillian shared, “My experience this summer as a Hometown Intern allowed me to gain skills in asset mapping and fundraiser marketing. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with community members and explore what makes Rock County so special!”

“Hometown Internships are intended to connect young adults with the goodness and abundance that exists in their hometown,” said NCF President and CEO Jeff Yost. “Their work is to discover through conversations and relationship building, all of the assets, skills, and talents in their home place and begin to help other community members appreciate this abundance and use it to build communities of choice for every generation. Rock County Community Fund thoroughly enjoyed having Jillian Buell serve on our foundation this summer. It was a great learning experience for all involved and we are thankful we had the opportunity to participate in the Hometown Intern program.



FULL POTENTIAL

Full Potential Scholarship

The Foundation for Full Potential is a nonprofit organization that exists to assist youth in pursuing their passions for growth in a wide variety of capacities. The Foundation for Full Potential received a grant from the Rock County Community Fund. Those dollars have been utilized to fund entrepreneurial endeavors as well as educational opportunities for area youth. To date, the Foundation for Full Potential has assisted youth in Rock, Holt and Brown counties by awarding just over \$4,000 in scholarship. Youth have used these funds to start a concession based business, participate in horse riding lessons, expand a leather working business, start a poultry project, take specialized courses in art, and much more.

Although this is a new organization, the Foundation for Full Potential has been fortunate to have many area leaders and organizations assist in helping the Foundation promote our area youth in exploring and achieving their Full Potential! We are always accepting donations and youth can also apply for assistance by visiting our website: <https://www.schoolhouserockacton.com/fullpotential>

Value Up, Building a Positive Culture

Through the support of the Rock County Community Fund, Rock County Public Schools was able to bring the Value Up Program by Speaker and Author Mike Donahue to Rock County High School on Monday, August 14th. Mike Donahue is a youth specialist, author, speaker, and popular podcast host. He has been speaking to and mentoring young people for over three decades. He has worked with young people worldwide, including in the United States, Asia, South America, and Europe. He is the founder and director of Value Up, a non-profit company dedicated to helping young people understand their true intrinsic value.



Mike understands that many teen issues directly relate to how students view themselves. If students believe they have intrinsic value, they will make life choices that match their perceived value.

Mike has three main messages: Embrace Your Value, Make Choices That Match Your Value, and Value Others. Along with Mike's presentation, the school will be receiving the Value Up School Culture building tool kit to ensure that the powerful message, stories, and training will not just fade away. The culture-building toolkit includes media resources, classroom discussion guides, print material, and additional culture-building training. High school teachers will be using this curriculum during their advisory time, which will help them to get to know one another on a much deeper level and strengthen their groups as a whole.

Student Collaboration

Rock County Community Fund loves to support Rock County Public Schools. So when a grant came in to help put together a collaboration room at the high school, we eagerly accepted. The room is being used as a key tool to build the school culture. Kayla Fischer, the dean of students at RCHS offers this room to the kids that provides a safe and positive environment. This room is open for school meetings, testing and to the kids for a place to go if they are frustrated or need a break for a few minutes.

\$2500 was granted for furniture and cubicles for the new collaboration room.



BGS Running Club

BGS Running Club began in 2010 with just a handful of kids running, walking, and exploring on the Cowboy Trail. My goal was to get kids to realize, understand, and truly feel that running a mile wasn't all that difficult. As the Running Club began to grow in popularity and numbers, I decided it would be safer for the kids to circle the block around Bassett Grade School. Then a couple years ago, the kids decided to set a goal of logging 100 miles. The school then purchased a program that allows the kids to scan a QR code every time they go around the block, and it tracks their mileage. And thanks to the grant from the RC Community Foundation, we were able to get shirts for each kid that reaches the 100 mile goal and granola bars and Gatorade for rewards at the end of each Running Club day. Last year we had 2 runners make it to 200 miles, and we have several more getting close to that this year already! I'm almost positive that this year we'll have a few make it to 300 miles! This year has definitely been the most rewarding, with 50-65 kids and numerous adults participating! I absolutely love it when I hear kids say, "Today I'm ONLY going 2 miles," or "Today I'm going to shoot for 3 (or even 4) miles!" I truly believe these kids think that running a mile is just a walk in the park!



STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Gracie Swanson

Gracie was nominated because of her dedication to give back to her community. Gracie has been a member of the Rock County Community Granting Committee where she helps support projects for the betterment of our community.

Gracie chose to donate her \$100 to the Rock County FFA Chapter.



Sydney Sybrant

Sydney was nominated because of her good-hearted, generous, and helpful nature. After basketball games, Sydney always helps the janitors pick up trash in the stands. She is always willing to help someone in need. Sydney chose to donate her \$100 to the Newport Fire Department.

Sydney was also nominated because she was phenomenal help and took initiative where needed during Alumni & Expo helping clean up the fair grounds before and after expo and volunteering at the Alumni banquet . Sydney Chose to grant her \$100 to the Rock County Community Center.



Bassett Lifeguards

The Bassett Lifeguards, (Adisyn Anderson, Mason Hagan, Allie Cosgrove, Madeline Corkle, Hunter Craven, Olivia Strand, and Ella Mitchell.). These Students were nominated for their dedication to the pool and our community.

The Bassett Lifeguards chose to grant their \$100 to the Bassett Pool.



Jaxton Wright

Jaxton was nominated for always being kind and respectful and always willing to help.

Jaxton chose to grant his \$100 to the Sandhills Cancer Fund in honor of the Ellermeier Family.



Tatelyn Smith

Tatelyn was nominated for her kind- hearted, ambitious, and generous personality. Tatelyn is always trying to be a positive influence in our community whether that be volunteering or working at the pool or the long term care.

Tatelyn chose to grant her \$100 to the Long Term Care.



Bridget Lewis

Bridget was nominated for her ability to always put others before herself and for her hard work and being a positive influence in our community whether being a leader among her peers or being a part of many activities and sports.

Bridget chose to donate her \$100 to the Rock County Community Center.



Addie Wiest

Addie was nominated for her helpful and kind spirit. She welcomed each new challenge with a smile and positivity as she was interning for the Historical Society.

Addie chose to grant her \$100 to the Rock County Historical Society.



Collins Cozad

Collins was chosen because she shares her smile and kind heart with everyone she encounters. She is helpful and friendly to everyone. Collins cheers on her classmates' successes and shows empathy to those who may be struggling or just having a bad day. She is a good listener and is always willing to include others.

Collins chose to donate her \$100 to the Bassett Grade School Running Club.

Thank you for your contribution & support in making Rock County a vibrant community!

Bronze

\$1.00-\$499.00

William and Ofelia Ramirez Andersen • Kari Anderson • Branson Anderson • Bobbie Anthony • Allen and Evelyn Armstrong • Cheryl Arrowsmith • Renee & Jim Adkisson • Rebecca Bearson • Bjarn Bearson • Steve Bearson • Macy Bearson • Erik Bearson • Judy Bello • Brittany Bolte • Jayma Brown • Keenan Brown • Cameron Brown • Bruce & Roxann Boettcher • Brain C. and Elaine Buescher • Ernest and Connie Bussinger • Billy and Sara Butler • Jessica Clark • Leanne Cook • Kimberley Cooper • Charles Corkle • Jennifer & Kelly Corman • Richard Cosgrove • Linda Coulter • John Dohrman • Nicole Ebert • Donald Fritz • David and Becky Fritz • Corey & Megan Frizzell • Frontier Communications • Marc Gentele • Dean Gilg • Greater Sandhills Family Healthcare • Justin and Leah Hagan • Rachel Hall • Allen Harlen • Joe and Cheryl Hazel • William R. and Becki J. Herrington • Shawn Heyden • Andrew Hollenbeck • Debbie Hollenbeck • Levi & Saresse Hollenbeck • Scott and Dorrann Hultman • Douglas and Carol Ann Jilg • Sherry Kahrhoff • Mark and Mary Kay Keck • Ginny Kepler • Jane Klemesrud • David and Linda Knoetzel, Town & Country Construction • Courtney Knox • Krotter Home & Auto Center • Mary Ann Spann Kucjrek • Ken Kunz • Joanne Laine • Caleb & Macey Lackaff • Howard A. and Josephine K. Lamb • Dennis and Cynthia Lane • Brooke Larson • Bridget Lewis • Joan Lewis • Kristin Linse • Craig Lorenz • Bryce and Elizabeth Lund • Alex McCleary • Ross Morgan • Curtis and Michele Nelson • Kelly Nelson • Jack and Connie Olson • Philomena Pape • Dennis and Susan Parr • Douglas H. and Rita Sue Parr • Roxann Robinson • RCHS Class of 1967 • Mariel Fegley, Rock County Leader • C. Jane Rumbaugh • Flair Styling Salon • Jenessa Sawyer • Rebecca Sawyer • Charles E. and Ann Shaw • Emily Shook • Larry Socha • Susan Stibor • Delmar Spoering • Matthew Stoltenberg • Jo Swanson • Sydney Sybrant • Frances Walkes • Steve and Teresa Wiest • Brooke Zeman

Silver

\$500.00-\$2,499.00

Andy & Abbie Albrecht • Jerry and Rhonda Ammon • Joann Panzer-Anderson • Joey and Tricia Anderson • James Arnholt • Bar 7 Inc. • Bassett Livestock Auction • Vaughn and Teresa Beed • Gary Bucholz • Bullet, INC • Steven A. and Kristie J. Camp • Martha Clark • Karan Clay • Colby Coash • Craven- Gordon, Inc. • Raymond and Margaret Davis • Steven L and Margaret M Davis • Allen and Deb Fischer • Ben and Lisa J. Fischer • Mike and Jan Foster • Rick and Karen Foxworthy • Duane and Marcia Fritz • Naomi Frizzell • Kayti Gordon • Dustin and Becca Gordon, Gordon Electric Inc. • Joan Hall • Phyllis Harlan • Beau J. and Shelly R. Herrington • Brandi Hollenbeck • Robert and Sue Huffman, Huffman AI Service • J Bar J Operations, LLC • Nicholas J Desiderio and Michele R Johns • Erin Johnson • Jimm G. and Betty L. Johnson • Kay Lynn Kalkowski • Kalkowski Enterprises Inc • KDS, LLC • Eric R. and Brittany A. Kauffman • James Keller • Richard and Margaret Kinney • Paul and Kay Knox • La Vern & Anita Krieger • William Kurzenberger • Richard and Genevieve Lackaff • Janet Lear • Ashley Leonard • Junn Lepaopao • Bob R and Patsy P Lewis • Loren and Marilyn Lund • Sally Mauch • Richard McCall • Joyce Menzel • Terri Moorman • Todd Mundhenke • Northern Plains Supply Inc • James Panzer, M.D. • Kryn Buckley-Pechous, MD • Don W and Mary Roggasch • Steven Rumbaugh • Sandhills Allied Health Services • William and Bonnie Sanger, Sanger's Market, G&V's Market • Rebecca Sawyer • Donald Schmaderer • Jon D. and Jennifer L. Schmaderer • Scott's Place • Frank and Pamela Seberger • Lee and Deborah Seberger • Gary and Jeanie Shankland • Tim and Penni Shaw • Larry Skrdla • Kent and Faye Smith, Smith Angus • Scott and Nancy Steinhauser • Brock and Karen Stoltenberg • Rod and Lori Stolcpart • Swanson Brothers • Richard Terry • Kimberly Theisen • Howard E and Patricia A Thompson • Joan Thorne • FHL Bank Topeka • Susan Tracy • Robert Van Norman • Marcia Weber • The Whistle Stop • Michole Yaw Agency

Gold

\$2,500.00-\$4,999.00

Thomas and Carol Becker • Dale and Audrey G. Caskey • Don & Paige Coash • Chad and Sonja Corkle • Matt and Ann Dvorak • Ernest A. and Betty J. Hasch • Lynn & Shirley Hickman • James J. & Ann M. Hoch, Hoch Funeral Home • Jake E. and Tiffani J. Maurer • Stanley J and Barbara Hughes McLaughlin • Mark & Stacy Otten • Jay and Kaye Stewart, Stewart Hereford Ranch • William and Carolyn Sybrant

Diamond

\$5,000.00-\$9,999.00

William B and Alice M. Allen • Keith & Tamara Cosgrove, Cosgrove Farm & Ranch • Paul Engler • Tom and Debra Frank • John Hladky • Frank & Donna McGuire • Morrison K-Lawn • Arlen and Jeri Nelson • James and Judy Nelson, Bassett Motors Corp • Shovel Dot Ranch • Richard Steskal • Donald & Therese Swanson

Platinum

\$10,000.00-\$25,000.00

Lawrence and Nickie Buell • Homer and Darla Buell • David & Kristine Gale • Richard Mauch • Dennis and Teri Swanson • West Central Initiative • Lynn E. and Joy D. Zumbrunn

Platinum Plus

\$25,000.00+

DBA First Bank or Colorado National Association • James E. & Lori G. McClurg • Rock County Growth INC • Sandhill Equipment • Tri County Bank • The Vetter Foundation

PLEDGE CARD

If you would like to contribute to the Rock County Community Fund Endowment, Community Center, or if you would like more information on 5 to Thrive (estate planned giving) please fill out the form below and return it to PO Box 506, Bassett, NE 68714.

NAME (as you would like it to be listed): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DONATION: _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other

- YES! I want my donation to go towards the community center building project.
- YES! I want my donation to go towards the endowment fund.
- I am interested in automatic withdrawal on a monthly or quarterly basis.
- I would like more information on 5 to Thrive.
- I would like more information on the RCCF.



The Rock County Community Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation ("NCF, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All contributions to our Fund are tax-deductible.

Please direct all inquires to Homer Buell, Treasurer of the Rock County Community Fund, at either (402) 760-0615, or via email to homer@nntc.net.



PO Box 506
Bassett, NE 68714

POSTAL PATRON

www.rockcountycommunityfund.com

 www.facebook.com/rockcountyfund

OUR VISION

Rock County is a progressive, vibrant community welcoming residents, visitors and businesses alike.

OUR MISSION

Serving as a leader, catalyzing progress and building financial resources to meet the immediate and long-term needs of Rock County.

July 1 began a new granting cycle with over \$40,000 to grant to our community.

If your organization would like to apply for endowment funds follow the link to the grant application at **rockcountycommunityfund.com**.