Turn Up Your Dream Switch... Brighter
Dear Friends: It’s our pleasure to share this report with you. It conveys the remarkable community-building stories happening in so many of our hometowns. For many years we’ve talked about the potential of community-led philanthropy to change our conversations about the future—the “we can” aspiration to build and grow.

This report contains many “we are” stories—aspiration turned to accomplishment.

Community-led philanthropy is part of this good news.

Last year, Nebraska Community Foundation and its affiliated funds received 8,833 contributions, the highest annual total in our history. Community endowments and planned gifts are also growing rapidly.

Grantmaking from these affiliated funds is a difference-maker for our friends and families. Philanthropic grants are being made to improve education, economic opportunity and quality of life. These are investments that attract people to stay, return or join us.

But it takes more than money to create community change that sticks. Vision, engagement, leadership, money. That’s the formula for building strong, resilient communities ready to thrive and prosper in the 21st century.

Our holistic approach is working. Today we have more young adults in rural Nebraska. Nebraska’s 50 most rural counties saw a net increase in residents age 30-49.

This is big news! And it didn’t just happen. It’s happening, one person and one family at a time, because community leaders are sharing a message of abundance and inviting people to join them in building a bright future for their hometown.

Community building is a journey. It’s our pleasure and privilege to be on that journey with you. Thank you. The best is yet to come.

Jeff Yost
President and CEO

Denny Stara
Board Chair

Building for Today and Tomorrow

(Assets in Millions)

- Estimated Planned Gifts
- Non-permanent Assets
- Endowed Assets

NCF in Numbers (as of June 30, 2015)
- 220 affiliated funds serving 255 communities in 78 counties
- 1,654 volunteer Fund Advisory Committee members
- 8,833 contributions in FY 2015, the highest annual total in NCF history
- 36,767 contributions in the last 5 years
- $68.4 million in endowed assets
- $107.6 million in total assets
- 293 planned gifts totaling $53.7 million
- $243.2 million reinvested in Nebraska and its hometowns since 1994 ($124.7 million in the last 5 years)
- $603 billion estimated intergenerational transfer of wealth in Nebraska by 2060

Cover photos: (L-r) Eric McCovery, Jescey Bright and Zayla Andersen take full advantage of the one-to-one technology now available at Jefferson Elementary School in Norfolk, thanks to a grant from the Connie Fund. (See story on pages 20-21).

Cameron and Jada Jensen greet the sunrise on their parents’ ranch near Bingham.
What Young People Think

In 2015 the Imperial Community Foundation Fund, in partnership with Nebraska Community Foundation, conducted a survey of 172 students in grades 7 to 12 in Chase County to measure perceptions about their community and their future plans. Previous surveys were conducted in 2011 and 2012. With 300 responses covering half a decade, we can conclude that teens value many traditional attributes of rural life, but adults need to pay attention to their expectations.

Survey Highlights:

- 78% Plan to attend college or technical school
- 52% Rate their community as an above average or excellent place for teens
- 45% Are interested in owning their own business someday
- 17% Own their own business now
- 63% Picture themselves living in their hometown area in the future
- 59% Noted family ties as a reason for living in their hometown
- 78% State they would volunteer if asked by an adult

Only 10% of youths surveyed say that adults had asked for their input on making their community a better place.

Our Bright Outlook

Why are more and more people in their 30s and 40s choosing to live in or near our smaller communities? Fifty of Nebraska’s rural counties are seeing a net in-migration in this particular age cohort.

Lori Pankonin, an NCF Board member from Imperial in southwest Nebraska, says raising kids close to grandparents is key, and today’s technology allows people to work from almost anywhere. For example, the editor of a national magazine works from his home in Imperial, as does his wife, who works remotely for a New York firm. They’re raising their son in the rural setting they love.

“It’s exciting to see another generation taking over the pharmacy, the grocery stores, a chiropractic practice, realty firms, insurance agencies,” Pankonin said. “Many young folks have made career changes since choosing to move back. Generally, once they get here, they want to stay,” Pankonin noted. “So it is important to find how to maintain that satisfaction for the future.”

Nebraska also is seeing an increase in farmers in their 20s and 30s. Dan Reeves, a farm kid from Central City, took a banking job in Imperial right out of college. He later pursued his love of farming, but chose to invest in Chase County rather than return to his family operation as originally intended. After 10 years in nursing, his wife, Tiffany, opened a downtown coffee shop and boutique with a business partner, later becoming the sole owner.

Friends, family and community involvement. Opportunities to connect with people and give back; to have your children grow up in safe neighborhoods with quality schools. These are assets that have traditionally attracted young adults to rural communities.

The Reeves are no exception. They are active on the school board, in their church groups, 4-H, Scouts, and the list goes on. They also have been monthly contributors to the Imperial Community Foundation Fund for 10 years. They know that philanthropy plays an important part in creating bright futures and viable communities for 21st century families.
Brighter Than Before

In 2012 four community-based affiliated funds – McCook, Nebraska City, Norfolk and Shickley – took on a challenge that would transform the way their leaders work together and amplify the impact they have in their communities.

The initiative, Building Community Capacity in Rural Nebraska, offered each fund a challenge grant of $250,000 provided by The Sherwood Foundation to build a local, unrestricted endowment. It required a 2-to-1 match in local contributions by the end of 2015. It also required affiliated fund leaders to delve deeply into the concept of community leadership. Over the course of the challenge period, the volunteer leaders participated in six multi-day peer learning sessions focusing on Rural Development Philanthropy and Asset-Based Community Development.

Raising $500,000 is an ambitious challenge. We are excited to report that each of our four affiliated funds has met or exceeded their goal.

In 2014 NCF and The Sherwood Foundation launched Round 2 of Building Community Capacity in Rural Nebraska. A selection committee made up of Round 1 volunteers carefully assessed 16 applicants and invited four community-based affiliated funds to take on the challenge. Round 2 leaders will launch their public campaigns in 2016.

We are pleased that we will begin Round 3 early next year with an additional program partner, the Peter Kiewit Foundation.

Additionally, NCF will work with The Sherwood Foundation to provide a number of $100,000 challenge grants and peer learning opportunities to more community-based affiliated funds. Nebraska Community Foundation will continue to pursue opportunities that encourage our affiliated funds to build one of the most important assets a community can have—an unrestricted endowment.

Building Community Capacity

A campaign design study was completed for each affiliated fund to guide their strategy for raising $500,000 in matching funds by the end of 2015. NCF coordinated the development of a case statement and the design of campaign materials for each community. The Fund Advisory Committee members received additional training in donor development, solicitation and stewardship. These services would help them achieve their financial goals, but affiliated fund leaders soon became aware that there was more to this experiment than just raising money.

One of the first concepts the group explored was the “why” of fundraising. “Why” is more important than the “what” and the “how.” The “why” is your case statement for the future of your hometown. When we begin to talk to our friends, family and neighbors about why we volunteer, why we want our community to prosper, why we believe and why we give, we become advocates who can feel confident about asking others for their contribution.

“We need to figure out how we transition leadership and this culture that we have created... Could we become a mentor group?”

Tammy Day
Norfolk

“We need to figure out how we transition leadership and this culture that we have created... Could we become a mentor group?”

Tammy Day
Norfolk

“When they gathered for their first peer learning session in July 2012, affiliated fund leaders from McCook, Nebraska City, Norfolk and Shickley were probably thinking more about building financial capital than social capital. By partnering with NCF and The Sherwood Foundation in the Building Community Capacity in Rural Nebraska initiative, they were taking on their largest challenge ever. However, they knew that they would get help.

“The opportunities we've had through this initiative have been tremendous. There needs to be a continuing learning process.”

Dave Partsch
Nebraska City

“If you understand the ‘why’ anything is possible.”

Jim Gustafson
NCF Director of Advancement & Gift Planning

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consciousness like a mantra. Raising money is not an end in itself. What matters is how we use discretionary funding to change lives. Each peer learning session involved conversations about real community impact through the lens of Rural Development Philanthropy. Practicing RDP means migrating from making “nice” grants to doing things that accomplish your vision. These shared learnings have helped each of the four affiliated funds re-examine the way they solicit and review grant proposals, and make investments to improve the lives of people in their community.

Peer learning sessions had a clear focus on rural community leadership. Nebraska Community Foundation and The Sherwood Foundation share a firm commitment to developing distributive leadership that is self-directed and aligned with the community’s vision and the affiliated fund’s mission and values. In this type of leadership model, intelligence, vision and energy come from all directions, not just from the top down. It is the knowledge that each person in a community has something to give and something to teach. As the initiative unfolded, affiliated fund leaders began to internalize these concepts and move from theory to practice by inviting more people in the community to collaborate on strategies for community building.

Throughout the challenge period the four community-based affiliated funds experienced both similar and different challenges, choices and outcomes. Each met its fundraising goal but no two campaigns looked alike. What was made clear to all who participated is that change happens along the lines of relationships. Each affiliated fund reached out to more people in their community than ever before. Because of this, more and deeper conversations occurred about the future of their community, its opportunities and challenges.

As the final peer learning session drew to a close, these volunteers were not talking about raising an aggregate $2 million, or calculating how their annual endowment payout had increased. They were focused on what’s next. Could they continue to meet, to share ideas, to mentor? Mostly they pondered, “How can we pass along what we have learned to others?”
Over the past several years Nebraska Community Foundation has worked with new affiliated funds whose leaders share a vision of creating a brighter future in their hometowns. Four new community-based affiliated funds stand out as being exceptionally enthusiastic and mission-focused. Each is taking advantage of assets and opportunities that are unique to their place. All of these communities are serious about building robust unrestricted endowments.

Howells Community Fund
After hosting a wildly successful Q125 celebration, leaders in Howells (pop. 632) looked to Nebraska Community Foundation as a vehicle to continue community involvement and enrichment. The Howells Community Fund was launched in March 2013 with $50,000 of Q125 profits. Within a month the Fund hosted a community-wide visioning session facilitated by NCF to explore hopes and dreams for the future. By July, the Fund had completed action planning with the goal of building a $1 million endowment by 2023.

This group of Fund Advisory Committee members moves quickly. It made its first grant – a new sound system for Howells Ballroom – six months after it formed. Members attend NCF trainings and submit articles to the Howells Journal on a regular basis. They have produced a promotional video, hosted a professional advisors workshop and completed a rigorous self-assessment.

They also adapt successful practices of other affiliated funds, such as presenting high school seniors with personalized mailboxes filled with encouragement and a warm welcome to come home in the future.

Byron Community Foundation Fund
Early in June 2015, the people of Byron (pop. 83), along with many others who live outside the village, celebrated the grand opening of their new million-dollar community center, which includes a library and fitness facility. The new center was already on the to-do list when the Fund was established in July 2011. Byron is situated near the Kansas border in Thayer County. Early fundraising efforts benefited from gifts of grain and a period of unprecedented high grain prices.

The Byron Community Center was completed in June 2015.
Then came news of a major gift of land from a former longtime resident. This would allow the building project to proceed much sooner than anticipated. The Fund Advisory Committee asked for help in the form of action planning facilitated by NCF staff. The group developed vision, mission and values statements and long-term endowment-building goals. FAC member Jeremy Heitmann said, “Our 20-year goal is to have a $7.5 million endowment. The endowment will mean more to this community than this building.”

**Bertrand Area Community Fund**

The Bertrand Area Community Fund was formed in October 2011 as a response to a challenge grant issued by NCF’s Verner and Mildred Vinzant Donor-Advised Fund. If the community could raise a dollar-for-dollar match, the Fund would receive up to $195,000 for its permanent unrestricted endowment and a community projects account.

It didn’t take long for the community of 786 people to launch into action. Gifts of grain helped the Fund meet early benchmarks. While fundraising was underway the Fund also made community grants to raise awareness. The Fund met its challenge grant goal within 16 months, but kept the energy going. More than $17,000 was received during a county-wide “give2GROW” campaign in 2014. In June of this year the Bertrand Area Community Fund participated at a high school alumni banquet and proudly provided a brief history of its grantmaking. More than $100,000 has been reinvested in the city park, fire and rescue, school library, summer sports, the community building and senior center.

With $483,000 in total assets, more than half of which is endowed, the Fund is hosting community focus groups to discern, “How shall we invest our community’s abundance?”

**Rock County Community Fund**

In April 2014 the Rock County Community Fund was formed with the promise of a challenge grant from NCF’s Francis L. Kramer Donor-Advised Fund. The county (pop. 1,526) includes the towns of Bassett, Newport and Rose. If the community could raise $100,000 in unrestricted funds by the end of 2015, the Fund would receive a $50,000 grant to establish its unrestricted endowment. The dozen volunteers who signed on as Fund Advisory Committee members reached out to Rock County High School alumni to raise $60,000 within the first 10 months. The Fund got a big boost with a major gift from the Jack and Eldora Vetter Foundation in April 2015, which enabled the Fund to meet its goal many months ahead of time. Nearly 60 donors contributed $1,000 or more to the campaign.

Chair Homer Buell wrote in the Fund’s first annual report: “If there is one thing that is critical for any community to be successful and reach its goals it is leadership. All 12 members of our committee have stepped up and helped set a course that will keep Rock County on the path to reaching our vision.”
Creating Quality of Life

A new health department building; a new YMCA wellness center; a new STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Academy to be located in a new high school facility; and a new library/cultural arts center. Most communities would be happy to have one of these projects in progress. In Columbus, plans are in place for all four.

Helping catalyze this progress is a $2.3 million investment from two local families and The Sherwood Foundation. The funding will be granted to the Columbus Area Community Foundation Fund (CACFF). This will create a $2 million pool of challenge grant funds and serve as an incentive for the completion of the four “Quality of Life” projects.

Through December 31, 2017, each project partner will receive a proportionate amount of the challenge grant. For every $2 raised for their respective project, they’ll earn $1 more from the pool. After all partners reach their fundraising goal, an additional $500,000 from The Sherwood Foundation will be distributed proportionally to each project.

The remaining $300,000 investment from The Sherwood Foundation and local donors will be available through the Columbus Area Community Foundation Fund for training in leadership, community-building, to provide smaller grants for other quality-of-life projects, and for promotion of inclusiveness throughout the community.

Building Partnerships

The concept for the Quality of Life Centers was first envisioned following a 2007 Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce planning session.

In February 2009, Columbus Area Community Foundation Fund organized a community-wide project called Vision 20/20. Vision 20/20 had two purposes: to create a plan for what Columbus could look like in future years, and to recruit and develop additional leadership to move forward on recommendations. One activity involved a visioning session with more than 140 individuals participating.

“Nebraska Community Foundation has really been instrumental in helping us. They provide training opportunities and have wonderful experts in the field of fundraising, accounting and legal issues. Also tracking pledges, accounting and behind the scenes work that is extremely important.”

Matt Gotschall, Ph.D.
President, Central Community College – Columbus Campus
Chair, Columbus Area Community Foundation Fund
The Fund also provided a grant that year for a Quality of Life Centers study. These efforts led to additional feasibility studies and greater collaboration between the Quality of Life project partners.

K.C. Belitz, president of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and a CACFF Fund Advisory Committee member, said it has taken a group effort to move forward with the Quality of Life Centers since talks began eight years ago. Any of those projects could have done its own capital campaign. Working together in a collaborative effort is what attracted The Sherwood Foundation. “We wouldn’t be here today if those four projects hadn’t been willing to share information, ideas and even donors,” he said.

K.C. Belitz, president of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and a CACFF Fund Advisory Committee member, said it has taken a group effort to move forward with the Quality of Life Centers since talks began eight years ago. Any of those projects could have done its own capital campaign. Working together in a collaborative effort is what attracted The Sherwood Foundation. “We wouldn’t be here today if those four projects hadn’t been willing to share information, ideas and even donors,” he said.

How the Challenge Grant Works

$2.3 million match pool created by The Sherwood Foundation, the Raimondo Family Foundation and an anonymous local donor

$1 granted for every $2 raised by partner organizations until each reaches its fundraising goal:

- Library & Arts Center - $2,720,000
- Columbus Public Schools STEM Academy - $600,000
- East-Central District Health Dept. - $340,000
- Wellness Center/YMCA - $340,000

$300,000 to CACFF for capacity-building and other quality of life improvement projects and programs

If all partners reach their fundraising goals by Dec. 31 2017, all receive a portion of a $500,000 bonus grant from The Sherwood Foundation.

Partnering for Community Development

With its unrestricted endowment topping the one million dollar mark in 2014, the Boone County Area Foundation Fund is looking to invest in larger community projects along with its current grantmaking. Fund leaders are working with local economic development agencies to determine possible projects to enhance the quality of life in the county. The Fund recently hosted a meeting with members of the Boone County Development Agency, Albion Economic Development and Petersburg Economic Development and health care and school representatives to identify top priorities. Through this meeting, the group identified two priorities – recreation and child care – and are currently in the process of determining what assets each organization can bring to the table to help move efforts forward.
Jamie Carpenter shows off one of her early 3D creations. She has raised funds and organized 3D printing opportunities for people of all ages in Kimball.

Jamie Carpenter is the cataloguing and technical service librarian for Kimball Public Library. She believes it’s important for rural communities to take advantage of emerging opportunities that technology is helping to catalyze.

“I want to show the community that libraries today are more than just books. There are so many other resources,” Jamie said.

Her latest effort is to introduce 3D design and printing to students and entrepreneurs in the Kimball area. Thanks to two NCF donor-advised funds, Jamie was able to launch the project with the purchase of a Flashforge Creator Pro 3D printer, several colors of plastic filament and 10 small Chromebooks.

Partial funding for the program came from the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund, which provides matching grants for public libraries in communities with populations of fewer than 3,000. Approximately $80,000 is available each year to help libraries achieve accreditation, enhance services or improve their facilities. In the past five years the Fund has provided $304,511 to 27 libraries. Kimball, with a population of 2,559, applied for a grant in 2015.

Another NCF donor-advised fund, the Howard and Peggy Atkins Fund, also provided funding. The Atkins, who live in Scottsbluff, launched the fund in 2012 with the intention of honoring their parents and grandparents who were early farmers and residents in Kimball County.

“We wanted to stir up some interest,” Howard Atkins said. “Get people thinking: What can I do? What can we do together? How can Kimball be more viable and attractive?”

Jamie Carpenter is introducing 21st century technology to the community as one way to get people thinking. Jamie spent this past spring and early summer learning and experimenting with the new equipment. In July she conducted a four-day student “maker camp” in the library for seven youth in grades 7 through 10.

“They were very excited to work with the technology. No one had any drafting experience, but they quickly learned how to design 3D objects using a simple online 3D design and printing tool. It’s important for rural communities to offer these kinds of opportunities to students and local entrepreneurs. This project was a way for me to personally contribute to the community,” Jamie said.

She is hoping to work with the school because the school offers at least one computer aided drafting class. The printer may become part of the after-school program, which will serve younger children.

Jamie also would like to connect with more business people and entrepreneurs and plans to offer classes for adults. Using the 3D printer will be free, but users will pay between 10 and 25 cents per gram of plastic.

When Jamie isn’t working in the library you may find her at The Sisters Grimm, her bookstore and coffee shop selling art, antiques and more in Bushnell, population 124. In Nebraska, big dreams are at work in very small places.
Halli Whitten (l) and Marissa Galardi (r) help a resident at Duff Memorial Friendship Villa in Nebraska City use technology to communicate with loved ones. Marissa is chair of the NCCFF youth advisory committee.

**Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund** has had a youth advisory committee as a regular part of its structure since 2008. The youths share the same mission, “investing in people,” with the Fund Advisory Committee. Early on, the youth proved to be fearless and competent fundraisers. Having a youthful perspective on grantmaking has resulted in creative projects. For example, the youths made a grant to purchase iPads that are owned by the library but are on long-term loan to area nursing homes. Committee members volunteer their time teaching residents how to use the new technology to gather information, play games, and importantly, connect with loved ones.

Kiel VanderVeen, a member of the first youth advisory committee, now serves as an adult FAC member, and has already established a planned gift to his community fund.

**Norfolk Area Community Foundation Fund** was the organizer of the community’s first EntrepreneurShip Investigation (ESI) camp. The two-week camp introduced 25 middle school students to the world of business. The kids learned about product development, promotion and pricing and visited 12 different business owners for first-hand advice.

Each student was given $50 to buy supplies for their products, which were sold at a public marketplace on the last day of camp. Most of the young entrepreneurs made a profit. “I loved the camp, and I hope to participate again next year,” said Sara Kalamaja.

“Thank you for supporting us as young entrepreneurs!”

NCF helped develop the ESI curriculum, in partnership with UNL Extension and others, in 2007. In our surveys of more than 6,000 students in rural Nebraska, 46 percent expressed an interest in owning their own business in the future.

Sara Kalamaja decorates a bottle cap magnet for a customer at the Norfolk ESI Camp marketplace in June.

**Shickley Community Foundation Fund** is intent on making this small town of 376 a viable option for young families. It is one of the few organizations the school district can turn to for funding to support the extra amenities that make living in Shickley more attractive. The Fund has provided grants large and small – from playground equipment for pre-school and day care children, to iPads and business curriculum for junior high students, to sophisticated interfaces and sensors for experiments for the high school science department.

Good schools and quality affordable child care are key to attracting young adults to the community.

As affiliated fund treasurer Joe Kamler remarked with a laugh, “Through the years the school has been one of our best customers!”
Nebraska Community Foundation

RECRUITING NEW FAMILIES TO NEBRASKA

Welcoming young people

Number-crunching by University of Nebraska-Lincoln economists last year revealed the encouraging finding that a number of rural Nebraska counties are experiencing notable net in-migration of 30- and 40-somethings. In many cases these are young couples and young professionals. Nebraska Community Foundation surveyed 5,927 students in 40 Nebraska middle and high schools in rural areas and turned up encouraging results. Fifty-one percent said they could picture themselves living in their home area in the future if career opportunities are available. Nebraska has population challenges but it also has population successes. These success, made possible by forward-looking leaders and communities, deserve to be understood and applauded.

(Excerpted with permission from the Omaha World-Herald)
Nebraska Community Foundation is deeply grateful for the lifetime support of our Benefactors, whose significant contributions have enabled us to carry out our community-building mission throughout the years. Thanks to their confident investment of time and resources, we are achieving long-term success.

One shining example is Holt County with NCF community-based funds in Atkinson, O’Neill, Stuart and Chambers. Together we worked with elected officials, and in 2007 Holt County and its eight municipalities agreed to support an economic development office and established a new NCF affiliated fund – Holt County Economic Development. Today, population in Holt County is stabilizing after decades of decline.

Here are some hopeful facts and activities:

- 57 new businesses started; 34 expansions; 26 successions: 377 jobs created and 209 retained
- Median household income grew by 26%, highest among the 46 Nebraska regional trade centers surveyed by Nerdwallet
- 1,097 mailboxes distributed to high school graduates inviting them home after college
- 142 graduates of Hometown Leadership Institute
- $5 million endowed in seven affiliated funds for community/economic development
- More than 300 individuals and families moved to the county in the last 10 years

Nicole Sedlacek has been Holt County Economic Development director since its inception in 2007.

### NCF Benefactors: Cumulative Lifetime Gifts

- **$1,000,000 and above**
  - W.K. Kellogg Foundation
    - Battle Creek, MI
  - The Ford Foundation
    - New York, NY
  - The Sherwood Foundation
    - Omaha

- **$250,000 to $499,999**
  - Jim* and Elaine Wolf
    - Albion
  - Robert and Jeanette Hunt
    - Great Plains Communications
    - Donor-Advised Fund
    - Blair
  - Consolidated Companies/Thompson Family
    - Lincoln
  - First National Bank of Omaha
    - Omaha
  - Judy and Ron Parks/Millard Manufacturing Corp.
    - Omaha

- **Anonymous**
  - $100,000 to $249,999
  - Kathleen Thuman, Lincoln/Farmers State Bank, Maywood
  - Frank and Shirley Sibert
    - Kearney
  - Ameritas Charitable Foundation
    - Lincoln
  - Judy Hemberger
    - Estes Park, CO

- **$50,000 to $99,999**
  - Lemoine “Andy” and Geri* Anderson
    - McCook
  - Cooper Foundation
    - Lincoln
  - John and Carmen Gottschalk
    - Omaha
  - Bob Mundy/Coordinated Planning Inc. dba Mundy Associates
    - Omaha
  - Pinnacle Bank, Nebraska
    - Omaha
  - America First Foundation
    - Omaha
  - Kenner Family
    - Donor-Advised Fund
    - Hebron
  - Bruce and Kim* Lauritzen
    - Lincoln

- **$10,000 to $24,999**
  - Countryside Bank
    - Unadilla
  - Pete and Jonnie Peterson
    - Brule
  - Carol and Fred Lockwood/Lockwood Foundation
    - Scottsbluff
  - Wayne and Bev Buller
    - Albion
  - Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
    - Lincoln

- **$25,000 to $49,999**
  - Bettenhausen Family Foundation/Robert Bettenhausen
    - Lincoln
  - Tri-County Bank/Schmaderer Family
    - Stuart
  - Abel Foundation
    - Lincoln
  - Shannon Harner and Philip Goddard
    - Lincoln
  - Bob and Michelle Dudley
    - Norfolk
  - Sara Coffee Radil and Gary W. Radil
    - Omaha
  - HunTel Systems
    - Blair
  - Judy and Don Brockmeier
    - Eustis
  - Security Bank
    - Laurel
  - Elkhorn Valley Bank
    - Norfolk
  - Anonymous

* Donor is deceased
220 Affiliated Funds of the Nebraska Community Foundation

Benefitting 255 Communities in 78 Counties
June 30, 2015

This map depicts counties and communities that benefit from planned gifts and affiliated funds of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Denotes a County-wide Affiliated Fund
94 Community-Based Affiliated Funds

- Ansley Area Community Foundation Fund
- Arnold Community Fund
- Arthur Area Community Foundation Fund
- Atkinson Community Foundation Fund
- Bennet Area Community Foundation Fund
- Bertrand Area Community Fund
- Big Springs Community Fund
- Blaine County Area Community Foundation Fund
- Bloomfield Community Foundation Fund
- Boone County Area Foundation Fund
- Brown County Community Foundation Fund
- Burr Community Fund
- Burwell Community Fund
- Butler County Area Foundation Fund
- Byron Community Foundation Fund
- Callaway Community Fund
- Ceresco Community Foundation Fund
- Chambers Community Improvement Foundation Fund
- Chester Community Fund
- Cheyenne County Fund
- Columbus Area Community Foundation Fund
- Craig Community Fund
- Creighton Community Foundation Fund
- Crofton Community Foundation Fund
- Cuming County Community Fund
- Curtis Community Foundation Fund
- Davenport Area Community Fund
- Davey Area Community Foundation Fund
- Future of Decatur Foundation Fund
- Deshler Community Fund
- Diller Community Foundation Fund
- Dorchester Community Foundation Fund
- Elgin Community Foundation Fund
- Elwood Community Fund
- Eustis Area Community Foundation Fund
- Exeter Area Community Foundation Fund
- Friend Area Fund
- Greeley Community Fund
- Hayes County Community Fund
- Hebron Community Foundation Fund
- Hickman Area Community Foundation Fund
- Holstein Improvement Committee Fund
- Holt County Economic Development Fund
- Howells Community Fund
- Humboldt Area Community Foundation Fund
- Hyannis Area Community Foundation Fund
- Imperial Community Foundation Fund
- Keith County Community Foundation Fund
- Keya Paha County Foundation Fund
- Kimball Area Foundation Fund
- Laurel Area Community Foundation Fund
- Logan County Community Foundation Fund
- Maywood Public School Foundation Fund
- McCook Community Foundation Fund
- Mullen Area Foundation Fund
- Naper Community Foundation Fund
- Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund
- Nemaha County Development Foundation Fund
- Newman Grove Community Foundation Fund
- Niobrara Community Foundation Fund
- Norfolk Area Community Foundation Fund
- Oakdale Community Fund
- O’Neill Community Foundation Fund
- Palisade Community Foundation Fund
- Pender-Thurston Education & Community Foundation Fund
- Perkins County Community Foundation Fund
- Plattsmouth Community Foundation Fund
- Ralston Community Foundation Fund
- Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund
- Rock County Community Fund
- Rushville Community Fund
- Ruskin Community Foundation Fund
- Shickley Community Foundation Fund
- Spencer Community Foundation Fund
- Stanton Community Foundation Fund
- Stratton Community Fund
- Stuart Community Foundation Fund
- Syracuse Development Foundation Fund
- Tecumseh Community Foundation Fund
- Thedford Area Community Foundation Fund
- Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation Fund
- Trenton Community Foundation Fund
- Trumbull Community Foundation Fund
- Unadilla Area Community Fund
- Valley County Community Foundation Fund
- Verdigris Community Foundation Fund
- Wallace Community Foundation Fund
- Wauneta Community Fund
- Wausa Community Foundation Fund
- Greater Waverly Area Foundation Fund
- Wayne Community Foundation Fund
- Wheeler County Community Foundation Fund
- Wilber Area Community Foundation Fund
- John and Alyce Wozab Memorial Fund (Valley County)

As of 06.30

Endowment-Building for Community-Focused Affiliated Funds

McCook Community Foundation Fund held a visioning session in March with donors to its unrestricted endowment campaign to set strategic direction for the next stage of community growth and impact. A hotel and convention center was one of the top priorities identified. This led MCFF to start a conversation with the City of McCook, resulting in MCFF awarding a grant to cover half the cost of a convention center feasibility study for the City.

Endowed assets plus expectancies (amounts in millions)
Relating To Rural

Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom was selected for the 2015 Best of Lincoln Award in the education category by the Lincoln Award Program.

NCF’s affiliated fund, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, supports and administers Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom. The program provides resources and training to K-12 teachers on ways to use agriculture as a vehicle to teach across existing curriculum.

“We are so excited about this designation. It means we're making progress in building the bonds of trust between Nebraska consumers and the people who proudly grow their food, fiber and energy,” said Deanna Karmazin, program director for ag literacy for Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

The Foundation is an organizational fund that is building an endowment through Nebraska Community Foundation.

220 Affiliated Funds of the Nebraska Community Foundation (continued)

35 Organizational Affiliated Funds
- Box Butte Health Foundation Fund
- Brown County Hospital Endowment Fund
- Lucille Burch Foundation for Animal Companions Fund
- Burwell Community Memorial Health Center Endowment Fund
- Chase County Hospital Foundation Fund
- Christian Heritage Endowment Fund
- Country Club Neighborhood Association Charitable Foundation Fund
- Every Woman Matters Foundation Fund
- Fillmore County Hospital Foundation Fund
- Friends of the Governor’s Residence Fund
- Grace Lutheran Church Foundation Fund
- Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters Charitable Foundation Fund
- Leadership Nebraska Foundation Fund
- Milford Public Schools Foundation Fund
- Nebraska CASA Association
- Dodge County Fund
- Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation Fund
- Nebraska DECA Foundation Fund
- Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Fund
- Nebraska Independent Bankers Foundation Fund
- Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund
- Nebraska Library Association Foundation Fund
- Nebraska Nurses Association Foundation Fund
- Diane Nelson Endowment for the Governor’s Residence Fund
- Northeast Nebraska RC&D Foundation Fund
- Northern Cheyenne Breakout Legacy Fund
- St. Monica's Endowment Fund
- Neve Nebraska Fund
- SkillingUSA Nebraska Foundation Fund
- Foundation for Thayer County Health Services Fund
- Ukena Charitable Trust Fund
- Valley County Health System Foundation Fund
- Wachiska Audubon Society Foundation Fund
- The WealthSpring Fund
- West Holt Medical Services Foundation Fund
- Wymore Public Library Foundation Fund

7 Public/Private Partnership Funds
- Basin Coalition Fund
- FutureForce Fund
- Nebraska Habitat Projects Fund
- North Platte Decree Committee Fund
- Partnerships for Innovation Fund
- Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Fund
- Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Fund

40 Donor-Advised Funds
- Howard and Peggy Atkins Fund
- Erna R. Badstieber Trust Donor-Advised Fund
- BCBSNE Fund for Quality & Efficient Health Care
- Bruning State Bank Donor-Advised Fund
- Cabela’s Donor-Advised Fund
- Connie Fund
- William H. and Erna C. Damme Fund
- Rudolph R. Els Donor-Advised Fund
- Farmers National Education Foundation Fund
- First National Bank of Omaha Fund
- Bud and Georgie Gerhart Family Fund
- Lawrence Goscha Scholarship Fund
- Dale and Sharon Harlan Donor-Advised Fund
- Robert and Jeanette Hunt Great Plains Communications Fund
- Leona Ihde Fund
- Kenner Family Fund
- Francis L. Kramer Donor-Advised Fund
- Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund
- Steven J. and Lorraine K. Miller Charitable Fund
- The Nelson Institute Fund
- Eugene and Donna Oakeson Family Fund
- Tom and Cynthia Olson Family Donor-Advised Fund
- Ron and Judy Parks Donor-Advised Fund
- Raile Family Fund
- Margaret Russell Trust Donor-Advised Fund
- Paul and Karen Seger Family Fund
- Brad and Nancy Sherwood Donor-Advised Fund
- James Sherwood Donor-Advised Fund
- Sherwood Foundation Fund for Rural Nebraska
- Frank and Shirley Sibert Donor-Advised Fund
- Irene C. Stenger Donor-Advised Fund
- Thuman Family Donor-Advised Fund
- Dale and Jean Tinstman Family Fund
- Wolf Family Donor-Advised Fund
- Yost/Leak Donor-Advised Fund
- Anonymous Donor-Advised Funds (4)

21 Designated or Field of Interest Funds
- Butte Anoka Scholarships Fund
- Chief Standing Bear Journey for Justice Scholarship Fund
- Concordia University Nebraska Endowment Fund
- Don and Artice Fells Fund
- Bobby Foehlinger Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Ken Good Scholarship Fund
- Lyndall A. Harris Memorial Fund
- Neal and Pauline Keller Scholarship Fund
- Martens Family Scholarship Fund
- McManigal Family Fund
- L. Arvene and Neva E. Myers Fund
- Nagengast Family Scholarship Fund
- Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund
- Irene and Verne Pretzer Scholarship Fund
- Edna and Richard Reinke Scholarship Fund
- John and Geraldine Slama Charitable Fund
- St. Edward Medical Clinic Fund
- Verner and Mildred Vinzant Elwood Care Center Endowment Fund
- Waco Community Scholarship Fund
- Wayne County Historical Society Endowment Fund
- Youth Scholar College Scholarship Fund

23 Life Income Funds

Additional gifts are invested through NCF to benefit Nebraska communities and organizations and provide income for the donors.
Affiliated fund leaders consistently tell us that the best thing about an NCF training is the chance to learn from their peers.

The November 2014 annual events offered plenty of that to a record crowd of 173 participants. In a follow-up survey, 98 percent of respondents indicated that they hoped to be able to attend again in 2015.

Fees paid by affiliated funds cover less than 40 percent of the cost to provide these kinds of trainings, plus all of our one-on-one coaching, mentoring, gift planning assistance and financial management throughout the year.

We are deeply grateful for the annual gifts we receive from people who believe in our mission and support it!

John McKnight, co-founder of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute, is one of many trainers and facilitators that NCF partners with to enhance annual training for affiliated funds.

Annual Gifts Support Our Work

Gifts received 7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015

$100,000 and above
The Sherwood Foundation
Omaha

$25,000 to $99,999
Anonymous
Consolidated Companies
Lincoln

$10,000 to $24,999
Ameritas Charitable Foundation
Lincoln

W.H. and E.C. Damme Farms LLC/Lora Damme and Jay Longinaker
Talmage

Abel Foundation
Lincoln

Anonymous

Wolf Foundation
Albion

$5,000 to $9,999
Richard and Darlene Walter
Shickley

Anonymous

Pinnacle Bank
Columbus

Union Bank & Trust
Lincoln

Sandra and Steven Wendell
Axtell

Westwood Trust
Omaha

$2,000 to $4,999
Sara Coffee Radil
and Gary Radil
Omaha

The Ambassador Group
Nebraska City

Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
Lincoln

Jim and Korene Fehringer
Columbus

Lynn and Dana Roper
Lincoln

Baird Holm LLP
Columbus

Bradford Insurance Agency
Norfolk

Bruning State Bank
Bruning

Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather, LLP
Lincoln

Daycos
Norfolk

Bob and Michelle Dudley
Norfolk

Farm Credit Services of America
Columbus

Farmers National Company
Omaha

First State Bank Nebraska
Lincoln

Great Plains Communications
Blair

Jeff and Judy Greenwald
Lincoln

HBE Becker Meyer Love LLP
Lincoln

Jeffres Sand & Gravel
Burwell

Richard and Janet Labenz
Lincoln

MNB Financial Group
McCook

Moeller Electric
Byron

Nebraska Farm Bureau Services
Lincoln

Nebraska Life Magazine
Norfolk

Nebraska Public Power District
Columbus

Pinpoint Communications
Cambridge

RBC Wealth Management/Domgard Investment Group
Lincoln

Reinke Manufacturing Company
Deshler

Security Bank
Laurel

Security First Bank
Lincoln

Springdale Title & Realty Ord

Tinstman Family Donor-Advised Fund
Lincoln

Walter Insurance
Shickley

Jay and Susie Wolf
Albion

Wagonhammer Ranches
Albion

$1,000 to $1,999
A to Z Printing
Lincoln

Judy and Ron Parks
Papillion

Greg and Marcia Vasek
Lincoln

Jeffrey Yost and Cindy Ryman Yost
Lincoln

Diane M. Wilson and Kay H. Richter
Lincoln

Shannon Harner and Philip Goddard
Lincoln

Kathleen Allen
Saint Cloud, MN

American National Bank
Omaha

Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Charlotte, NC

Bettenhausen Family Foundation
Lincoln

Cornerstone Bank
York

Harding & Shultz PC, LLO
Lincoln

Mark and Linda Graff
McCook

Security First Bank
Lincoln

$500 to $999
$500 to $999
Susan Ugai
Lincoln

Joe and Bev Ferguson
Norfolk

Granstrom Farms
Holstein

Jim and Terri Gustafson
Lincoln

Lori and Russ Pankonin
Imperial

Pete and Jonnie Peterson
Brule

Dennis and Nancy Stara
Lincoln

Allen and Lois Steuter
Johnstown

Ray and Deb Welsh
Pender

Kiel VanderVeen
Nebraska City

Reggi and Doug Carlson
Lincoln

Samuel and Joyce Baird
Lincoln

Judy and Don Brockmeier
Eustis

Mark L. and Susan K. Koch
Laurel

Lane Gewecke Consulting
Lincoln

Michael McFarlin
Omaha

Robert Mundy
Omaha

Ronald Raitt
Toledo, OH

John K. and Jeanne M. Reigle
Madison

Sandhill Equipment
Bassett
Ten Tools for Charitable Gift Planning

1) Charitable Bequest  
A provision in your will that creates a legacy

2) Gift of Retirement Plans  
Avoids potential double taxation

3) Gift of Life Insurance  
Easy, convenient and flexible

4) Donor-Advised Fund  
Provides maximum tax benefits and grantmaking flexibility

5) Charitable Gift Annuity  
Provides lifetime income

6) Gift of Securities  
Offers triple tax benefits

7) Gift of Ag Commodities  
A tax-wise gift compared to cash

8) Gift of Real Estate  
Provides significant tax advantages

9) Charitable Remainder Trust  
Increases income and bypasses capital gains taxes

10) Wealth Replacement Trust  
Helps provide for family and charity

Becoming a Member of the Legacy Society

The Nebraska Community Foundation’s Legacy Society is our way to celebrate and say thank you to generous donors of both current gifts and future gift provisions through estate plans that benefit Nebraskans. You will be enrolled in the Legacy Society when you let NCF know of your charitable intentions. With permission, you will be honored in NCF’s annual report and you will receive an invitation to attend the NCF annual banquet.

If you would like to support the Nebraska Community Foundation, give back to your hometown or if you have already made a future gift intention in your will, through a beneficiary designation or with a life income arrangement, contact Jim Gustafson, Director of Advancement & Gift Planning, at (402) 323-7341 or jgustafson@nebcommfound.org.

Recognition in the Legacy Society is based on contributions made through and information known on or before June 30, 2015.

The NCF Stakeholders Club

Honors those generous individuals who have made a planned gift of any amount to the Nebraska Community Foundation to support our community-building mission.

Lemoine “Andy” and Geri* Anderson  
McCook

Fred and Penni Bruning  
Bruning

Wayne and Bev Buller  
Ericson

Judith Scherer Connealy and Matt Connealy  
Decatur

Brandon and Tammy Day  
Norfolk

Douglas A. and Patricia L. Friedli  
Nebraska City

Douglas and Judy Gaswick  
Imperial

Mark and Linda Graff  
McCook

Jim and Terri Gustafson  
Lincoln

In Memory of Leo Hink  
Bingham

Jana M. Jensen  
Ord

Bethanne Kunz  
O’Neill

Fred and Carol Lockwood  
Scottsbluff

Maxine and Francis Moul  
Lincoln

Irv and Wanda Omtvedt  
Lincoln

Lori and Russ Pankonin  
Imperial

Judy and Ron Parks  
Papillion

Pete and Jonnie Peterson  
Brule

Beverly and Jack* Pollock  
Ogallala

Jon D. and Jennifer L. Schmaderer  
Stuart

James P. Scholz  
Omaha

Nicole Sedlacek  
O’Neill

Frank and Shirley Sibert  
Kearney

Dennis and Nancy Stara  
Lincoln

Al and Lois Steuter  
Johnstown

Bob and Jean Stowell  
Ord

Brian and Kelli Thompson  
Waverly

Kathleen Thuman  
Lincoln

Richard and Darlene Walter  
Shickley

Gene Weedin  
McCook

Ray and Deb Welsh  
Pender

Marcia A. White  
Lincoln

Diane M. Wilson  
Lincoln

Jay and Susie Wolf  
Albion

Jeff Yost and Cindy Ryman Yost  
Lincoln

Benedict and Jane Zach  
Omaha

* Donor is deceased
The Jim and Elaine Wolf Club recognizes the generosity of those individuals, foundations and corporations who have made cumulative, lifetime gifts of $100,000 or more to an NCF affiliated fund. The Club is named in honor of the late Jim Wolf and his wife, Elaine, of Albion, who initiated NCF’s endowment with a gift of $100,000, and provided the first $100,000 challenge grant to Boone County to build a permanent endowment.

Lemoine “Andy” and Geri* Anderson
McCook
Gary Jon Aten and Caroline Skopec Aten Atkinson
Howard and Peggy Atkins Kimball
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska Omaha
Brandt Family Unadilla
Wayne and Bev Buller Albion
Larry and Mary Lynn Callen Tucson, AZ
Cargill Minneapolis, MN
Thomas and Charlene Chilvers Pierce
Consolidated Companies/ Thompson Family Lincoln
W.H. and E.C. Damme Farms LLC/Lora Damme and Jay Longinaker Talmage
Brandon and Tammy Day/ Daycos Norfolk
Charles* and Margre* Durham
Elwood Area Foundation, Inc. Elwood
Bette J. and Robert A.* Essig Burwell
Farmers National Company Omaha
Don* and Artice* Fells First National Bank of Omaha Omaha
George F. Garlick Richland, WA
Bud and Georgianne Gerhart Lincoln
Lloyd* and Naomi* Geweke
Great Plains Communications Blair
Gerald* and Verlene Gunderson Wausa
Bonnie McManigal Gupta Sebastopol, CA
Robert Harm* Don and Alice Harpst McCook
In Memory of Lyndall Harris Judy Hemberger Estes Park, CO
Humboldt Community Foundation Inc. Humboldt
Robert Hunt* Darrel and Deb Johnson Shickley
Kermit* and Lottie Wolf* Kams W.K. Kellogg Foundation Battle Creek, MI
Kenner Family Hebron
Peter Kiewit Foundation Omaha
Richard P. Kimmel & Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation Lincoln
In honor of Vincent J. and Marie V. Kreifels Nebraska City
Dan and Patty Kreitman Wahoo
Larry Larson Omaha
Helen Lundak Nebraska City
Raymond Lohmeyer* MNB Entities and Graff/ Thomas Families McCook
Robert W. Sears* Paul and Karen Seger Atkinson
In Memory of James Sherwood Big Pine Key, FL
The Sherwood Foundation Omaha
Frank and Shirley Sibert Kearney
Steinhart Foundation Nebraska City
Kathleen Thuman, Lincoln/ Farmers State Bank, Maywood
Tietjen & Son LLC Byron
Dale and Jean* Tinstman Lincoln
Tri-County Bank/ Schmaderer Family Stuart
Ona O. Warden* Dennis Werner Chambers
Hugh, Bill and Cam* Wilkins Geneva
Wilkinson Family Curtis
Paul John Anton and Doris Wirth Foundation Nebraska City
Jay and Susie Wolf Albion
Jim* and Elaine Wolf Albion
World’s Foremost Bank Lincoln
Michael Yanney Family/ America First Companies Omaha
John and Frances Zuroske Albion

* Donor is deceased
A Legacy for Burwell

Before his death in March 2013, Bob Essig had lived, worked and volunteered for more than 40 years in the Burwell community. One of Bob Essig’s most significant contributions was his leadership in organizing community philanthropy. Bob was among the founding members of the Burwell Community Fund in 1996 and served for many years as a Fund Advisory Committee member.

In 2007 Bob and his wife Bette made a gift of $50,000 and challenged the community to match their gift to the Calamus Area Endowment, which has grown to more than $249,000.

“If we can get people thinking about the concept of making charitable gifts that will last beyond their lifetimes, that’s what will really make a difference in our community,” Bob said.

Several years ago, Bette Essig and her late husband, Bob, arranged a gift in their estate plans to benefit their hometown. Giving beyond their lifetimes is one way Bob and Bette Essig will always remain a part of their community and a part of making a difference far into the future.

Preparing for a Bright Future

Fourth grade students at Jefferson Elementary School in Norfolk are “over the moon” with their new Chromebooks, according to their teacher, Meagan Priebe.

“It’s truly provided a spark for learning. When students are engaged, they learn and retain more information. The new technology has caused an increase in motivation,” Priebe said.

Jefferson Elementary is the first elementary school in the district to initiate one-to-one technology—providing Chromebooks for each of its 3rd and 4th graders and iPads for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. In all, 181 devices were provided, thanks to a grant from the Connie Fund, an NCF donor-advised fund serving northeast Nebraska.

Priebe uses the Chromebooks to teach subject matter as well as technological skills. “One of our reading apps asks students to identify different types of sentences. They get immediate feedback on their right or wrong answers. This is much more effective than handing in a worksheet and getting back corrections the next day.

“Before the Connie Fund grant, I was using technology, but I was always at the mercy of the computer lab schedule. Now with a computer in each student’s hands, I can seamlessly enrich and extend my overall curriculum. By teaching our children how to use the technology, we’re preparing them for future educational opportunities and their future careers,” said Priebe.

Several years before her death in 2001, Connie Day had the vision to create an endowment to be funded through a $500,000 life insurance policy. Since 2002, the Connie Fund has invested more than $248,000 in programs that educate, enrich, inspire and protect children in northeast Nebraska. Her endowment has grown to $839,000, and her giving will continue for generations.

Connie’s son, Brandon Day, and his wife Tammy serve as the Fund’s advisors, making dozens of grants to programs and projects that improve children’s lives. This past year they awarded the largest grant ever – just over $60,000 – to the neighborhood school where Connie and all of her siblings and their kids went to school.

“I think it is a great example of how a donor-advised fund can continue to have an impact, long after the person who set it up is gone,” said Tammy Day.

“Connie could not have imagined what an iPad or
The Connie Day Club honors individuals who have made a planned gift of $500,000 or more in their will, through a beneficiary designation or with a life income arrangement to an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation. By designating a $500,000 life insurance policy to establish the Connie Fund, Connie Day created an endowment to benefit the children of northeast Nebraska.

“Since the Connie Fund gift has been in the works, our foundation and school district have begun to put data together to talk to other potential donors about supporting technology initiatives in other elementary schools in Norfolk, which will be a much easier conversation with a model to follow, and real life examples of the impact it has on students and teachers,” Dittmer said.

“Not only does my mother still have a chance to positively impact the lives of kids in Norfolk and all over northeast Nebraska long after her lifetime, she also continues to have an impact on my own kids, who never really had a chance to know her,” said Brandon Day.

“The Connie Fund and its work allows them a chance to see what their grandmother was like. To see her commitment to youth, community, and making a difference in your hometown. They know her giving spirit and generosity as a result, which is something I hope they learn from and carry on into their own futures.”

Since 2002 the Connie Fund has invested more than $248,000 in programs to educate, enrich, inspire and protect the children of northeast Nebraska. As of June 30, 2015, the Connie Fund’s endowment had grown to a balance of over $839,000.
The Hometown Heritage Club recognizes friends who have made provisions in their estate plans with a future gift intention of any amount to benefit an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

Colin and Teresa Albers
Nebraska City

Estate of Wyonna Alfs
Estate of Laura “Merle” Atkinson

Estate of Dr. John L. Batty
Guy and Bonnie Bechtel
Ogallala

Estate of Kenneth Beckmann
Kerry and Colleen Belitz
Columbus

Trudy L. Bergen* in memory of Don Keenan

Estate of Charles Wilton Berryman

Estate of Barbara J. Birmingham
F. Kay Blackstone
Red Cloud
Marcia A. Boden
Roseville, CA

Wayne and Pat Boilesen
Albion

Estate of Mary Ellen Bosworth

Estate of Elizabeth Boyce
Jim and Helen Bradford
Norfolk
Jim Brennan
Atkinson

Estate of Joe G. Brewster
Steven A. Brewster
Stuart
Judy K. Brockmeier
Eustis
Steve and Sharon Brown
Valentine
Frank L. and Mary B. Bruning
Bruning
Fred and Penni Bruning
Bruning
Rick and Tracie Chochon
Columbus
Janet L. Krotter Chvalla
O’Neill
Judith Scherer Connealy
and Matt Connealy
Decatur
Estate of John E. Daro
Eugene and Judy Dondlinger
Shickley
Bob and Michelle Dudley
Norfolk
Dale and Mary Dueland
McCook
Eric Duhachek
Ogallala
Rori D. Erickson
Albion
Bette J. and Robert A.* Essig
Burwell
Estates of Dale and
Irene Fadschild
Jared and Julie Faltys
and Family
Norfolk
Joe and Bev Ferguson
Norfolk
Estate of Blanche A. Fillipi
Bud and Rita Fleischer
Columbus
Estates of L.J. and Mitzi Fox

Estate of Paul M. Fox
Douglas A. and Patricia L. Friedli
Nebraska City
Erv and Marcia Friesen
Nebraska City
Douglas and Judy Gaswick
Imperial
Estate of Kenneth J. Good
Mark and Linda Graff
McCook
Wayne and Linda Green
Chambers
Daniel and Tacy Griess
Alliance
Gerald G. Grote*
Shickley
Jim and Terri Gustafson
Lincoln
Steven and Beverly Harms
Davenport
Jerry and Kathy Heard
Howells
Estate of Joan Hendrickson
Estate of Arnold W. Henrichs
Sharon A. Hersemann
Nebraska City
Carol Hilkier
Pender
In Memory of Leo Hink
Richard Holland and
Kathleen High Holland
Lincoln
Estate of Eleanor F. Houser
Don* and Phyllis Hovendick
Four Seasons, MO
Dave Hunt
Holdrege
Neal* and Elizabeth Hunt
Albion
Stephen Hunt
Platsmouth
Larry and Pat Jakubowski
Howells

Helen F. Jasa
Fremont
Jana M. Jensen
Bingham
Nick and Susan Jensen
Pender
Estate of David C. Johnson
Gene and Beverly* Johnson
Wausa
Loral* and Elia Johnson
Imperial
Calvin* and Audrey Jones
and Family
Thedford
Jay Jones
Thedford
Sally Julifs
Nebraska City
Joseph R. and Gina D. Kamler
Shickley
Estate of Franklin Kjeldgaard
John C. Klosterman
David City
Keith and Karen Knudsen
Laurel
Dawn Koehlmoos
Fremont
Wendell* and Joyce Kronberg
Ralston
Kurt and Jerene Kruse
Albion
Bethanne Kunz
Ord
In Memory of Leo Hink
Richard Holland and
Kathleen High Holland
Lincoln
Estate of Eleanor F. Houser
Don* and Phyllis Hovendick
Four Seasons, MO
Dave Hunt
Holdrege
Neal* and Elizabeth Hunt
Albion
Stephen Hunt
Platsmouth
Larry and Pat Jakubowski
Howells

Mark and Jana Lorensen
Pender
Chad Lottman
Diller
Douglas and Cindy Lottman
Diller
Bonnie and Gerry Luckey
David City
Estate of Donald Lundeen
Ronald Maas
Bennet
Paul and Angie Madison
Nebraska City
Coralynn Fosler Malmberg
Pender
Estates of Bonnie and
Eugene Martinson
Brian and Joan Mastny
Clarkson
Travis and Heidi McConnell
Wallace
Marilyn D. McNabb
Lincoln
Redge and Phyllis Meierhenry
Clancy, MT
Dorothy Mejstrik
Howells
Jerry and Nadia Meyer
Callaway
Estate of Martin Meyer
Estate of Doris B. Miller
Randall Moeller
Pender
Maxine and Francis Moul
Lincoln
Jordan and Jennifer Mueller
Columbus
Michael and Lynn Namuth
Sidney
Kathryn Nelson
Nebraska City
Elsie A. Newman
Imperial
Turn Up Your Dream Switch... Brighter | 23

Gene Weedin of McCook retired after 39 years of teaching social studies classes to students in grades 7 through 12. “I just really found it enjoyable,” he admits. Gene is now pursuing his interest in political science by serving on the McCook City Council. But he still has a soft spot in his heart for young people and education.

Gene decided that establishing a scholarship within the McCook Community Foundation Fund would be a meaningful way to express his commitment to his profession and also honor his late wife, Nancy Prosser-Weedin, who also was a classroom teacher and a school administrator.

Gene will achieve his charitable intentions by using one of the easiest methods to make a planned gift: life insurance. By simply naming the McCook Educational Foundation Endowment as a beneficiary of his life insurance, Gene has created a legacy that will live on in perpetuity.

Gene went one step further, however, by also naming Nebraska Community Foundation as a beneficiary. “I’m a lifelong resident of Nebraska. I enjoy living here and wouldn’t think of living anywhere else. I know about this organization’s past accomplishments, and I felt I could do some good by including Nebraska Community Foundation as a beneficiary. It’s my way of giving back.”

Gene Weedin
## Contributions to Affiliated Funds

$7,500 and above for the 12 months ending June 30, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Beneficiary Affiliated Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$500,000 and above</td>
<td>Sherwood Foundation Fund for Rural Nebraska, Valley County</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sherwood Foundation</td>
<td>Marguerite Rose Donor-Advised Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John and Frances Zuroske</td>
<td>Steven J. and Lorraine K. Miller Charitable Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Anonymous Donor-Advised Fund</td>
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<td>Harold and Marilyn Rink</td>
<td>Pender-Thurston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estate of Barbara F. Neumann</td>
<td>McCook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 to $249,999</td>
<td>Nebraska City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven J. and Lorraine K. Miller</td>
<td>McCook, Imperial, Stratton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Keith County</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>Nebraska City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundin Living Trust</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Jeanette Hunt Great Plains Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heitmann Farms</td>
<td>Donor-Advised Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Marie Svoboda Family Trust</td>
<td>Ralston</td>
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<tr>
<td>MNB Entities and Graff/Thomas Families</td>
<td>Red Cloud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom Farms</td>
<td>Pender-Thurston</td>
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<td>Helen Lundak</td>
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<td>V. Gail Jensen</td>
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<td>Anonymous</td>
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<td>Wiebe Ralston Foundation</td>
<td>Deshler, Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund</td>
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<td>$25,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>Boone County, Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Family Trust</td>
<td>Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund, Wheeler County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lander Cattle Co</td>
<td>Byron</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Ethel S. Abbott Charitable Foundation</td>
<td>Brown County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Northern Cheyenne Breakout Legacy Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estate of Donald V. Lundeen</td>
<td>Brown County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reinke Manufacturing Company</td>
<td>Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund</td>
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<td>Cornerstone Bank</td>
<td>Burlington, Nebraska</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tietjen &amp; Son LLC</td>
<td>Hickman, Bertrand, Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund</td>
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<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Fund, Dorchester</td>
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<td>The Lozier Foundation</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sid* and Ruth Salzman</td>
<td>Anonymous Donor-Advised Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>R J Woods Cabinet Shop</td>
<td>Brown County Hospital Endowment Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus Community Foundation, Inc.</td>
<td>Pender-Thurston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First State Bank Nebraska</td>
<td>Rock County, Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliated Foods Midwest</td>
<td>Brown County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Valley County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown County Hospital</td>
<td>Sandhill Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerwin and Geraldine Kent</td>
<td>Allen and Lois Steuter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandhill Equipment</td>
<td>Dale and Janie Zadina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen and Lois Steuter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dale and Janie Zadina</td>
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</table>

$15,000 to $24,999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Beneficiary Affiliated Fund</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandon and Tammy Day</td>
<td>Nebraska CASA Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daycos</td>
<td>Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Great Plains Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>Dittmer Family Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association</td>
<td>Dan and Patty Kreitman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>Estate of Mary Ellen Bosworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCook</td>
<td>Farmers National Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebraska Cattlemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max A. and Celise H. Swanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer S. Duensing-Crosbie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Chest of McCook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pinnacle Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ralston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red Cloud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pender-Thurston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Cheyenne Breakout Legacy Fund, Hyannis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebraska City</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newman Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deshler, Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boone County, Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund, Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund, Wheeler County</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Byron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brown County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Cheyenne Breakout Legacy Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brown County, Nebraska Cattlemen Research &amp; Education Foundation Fund, Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Byron</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hickman, Bertrand, Nebraska LEAD Program Foundation Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fund, Dorchester</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anonymous Donor-Advised Fund</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brown County Hospital Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Pender-Thurston</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rock County, Nebraska Business Hall of Fame Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Brown County</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Valley County</td>
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</table>

$10,000 to $14,999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Beneficiary Affiliated Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lorenzen Lumber &amp; Grain LLC</td>
<td>Nebraska City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darrel and Deb Johnson</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie and Pam Mostek</td>
<td>Deshler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay and Susie Wolf</td>
<td>Nebraska City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Vetter Foundation</td>
<td>Nebraska State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska Soybean Board</td>
<td>Warner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry and Naomi Warner</td>
<td>Renée and Jim Adkisson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pender-Thurston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shickley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Midwest Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wayne Base Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charter West Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandhill Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allen and Lois Steuter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dale and Janie Zadina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Five Ways to Give Back Now!

Gift of Cash
Gifts of cash are simple to make, create immediate impact, and are easily earmarked to support your community or favorite charitable organization.

Gift of Securities
Tax laws offer benefits for gifts of securities (stock, bonds and mutual funds) that have increased in value since purchase or acquisition including charitable income tax deduction, avoidance of capital gains taxes, and reduction of potential estate taxes.

Gift of Ag Commodities
Gifts of grain or livestock may provide significant income tax savings to a producer. Because the commodity is gifted, no revenue is recognized, and the cost of production may still be deducted as a business expense.

Gift of Real Estate
A person can take an income tax deduction for 100% of the fair market value of real estate held for more than one year. In addition, the capital gains taxes due, if the property had been sold, are bypassed when the real estate is gifted. The outright gift of the property reduces your taxable estate.

Automatic Monthly Payments
An individual or business can give monthly gifts through automatic withdrawal from your bank account by filling out a simple ACH form. Complete this form just once and continue making gifts until you request to stop payment.

For information on how you can give back to your hometown fund or favorite organizational fund, contact us at (402) 323-7330 or info@nebcommfound.org.
## Statement of Financial Position

### June 30, 2015 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and temporary cash investments</td>
<td>$12,411,987</td>
<td>$10,264,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds held in escrow</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of deposit</td>
<td>23,454,406</td>
<td>15,650,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>71,032,343</td>
<td>72,120,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in real property</td>
<td>253,825</td>
<td>253,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift annuities insurance</td>
<td>347,328</td>
<td>367,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from related party</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>90,680</td>
<td>92,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$107,590,578</strong></td>
<td><strong>$98,799,219</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds held for agencies</td>
<td>$5,953,484</td>
<td>$6,002,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued payroll liabilities</td>
<td>50,938</td>
<td>44,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued other liabilities</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift annuities payable</td>
<td>911,052</td>
<td>969,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,916,368</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,016,216</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted, undesignated</td>
<td>81,306,388</td>
<td>72,190,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted, board designated</td>
<td>997,524</td>
<td>308,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>16,521,463</td>
<td>17,330,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
<td>1,848,835</td>
<td>1,954,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,674,210</strong></td>
<td><strong>91,783,003</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$107,590,578</strong></td>
<td><strong>$98,799,219</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Statement of Activities

### For the Years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue and support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$25,529,647</td>
<td>$41,866,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>68,550</td>
<td>60,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net unrealized and realized gains</td>
<td>1,942,195</td>
<td>7,750,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial gain/(loss)</td>
<td>(30,039)</td>
<td>(65,495)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative fee revenue and reimbursements</td>
<td>1,271,699</td>
<td>1,223,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,782,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>50,836,212</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses                                                               |                   |                   |
| Program services                                                      | 17,854,776        | 34,843,776        |
| Management and general                                                | 1,789,333         | 1,692,182         |
| Fundraising                                                           | 246,736           | 170,722           |
| **Total expenses**                                                    | **19,890,845**    | **36,706,680**    |

| INCREASE IN NET ASSETS                                                |                   |                   |
| Net assets, beginning of year                                         | 91,783,003         | 77,653,471        |
| Net assets, end of year                                               | **$100,674,210**  | **$91,783,003**   |

The financial statements of the Nebraska Community Foundation are audited annually by an independent public accounting firm. A copy of the audited financial statements may be obtained by contacting the Foundation's office. A copy of the Foundation's tax filing (Form 990) may be obtained on the Foundation's website or by contacting the Foundation's office.
ASSETS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
of the Nebraska Community Foundation with its Affiliated Funds

Total Assets
(in millions)

Endowed Assets
(in millions)

Grants and Distributions
(in millions)

Number of Contributions Per Year
To NCF and its Affiliated Funds
Nebraska became the “Good Life” because people recognized and seized new opportunities. Now is the time to act on an opportunity that can shape Nebraska’s future. Over the next 45 years, Nebraskans will transfer more than $600 billion to the next generation. This intergenerational transfer of wealth offers an unprecedented opportunity if we count our communities among our heirs. Imagine what Nebraska would look like if just a small portion of intergenerational wealth were gifted to our communities!

This bright future can only be realized if we all have the confidence and commitment to talk to our family, friends and neighbors about including a gift to their community in their estate plans.

NCF coaches affiliated fund leaders on how to have these conversations. Our professional staff works with donors and their financial advisors to arrange gift plans that honor our donors’ charitable intentions and maximize the value of their contributions.

In 2011 NCF updated our county-by-county analysis of the intergenerational transfer of wealth. This important tool enables affiliated fund leaders to understand the phenomenal capacity for charitable giving in their local area. It opens their eyes to a very bright future.

We may not know exactly what our communities will need in 2060. The only thing we know for certain is that building strong communities and productive citizens will require investment. An unrestricted endowment is one of the most reliable sources of revenue a community can have to make those investments.

It is critical that we act now. For most of our counties the peak years for intergenerational transfer are happening right now. Nebraska Community Foundation is acting on this opportunity every day we come to work.

Imagine the Opportunity!

“Nebraskans are generous and are often very committed to giving back to their communities and to honoring family members who went before them. There is a huge intergenerational transfer of wealth now underway in our state. If, increasingly, even a small portion of that wealth could be philanthropically invested in the hometowns where lives were lived and resources earned over a lifetime, it would be a wonderful and powerful legacy for the future of our hometowns.”

Doug Bereuter
NCF Board Member
Member of Congress (1979-2004)