



BUILDING THE FUTURE ONE STEP AT A TIME!

October 2021 Newsletter

Congratulations!



Fall has arrived, and the Nemaha County STEP Foundation Board of Directors has announced recipients for the second-round of 2021 grants. The grants are awarded for charitable purposes to enhance and improve the quality of life for the residents of Nemaha County Kansas. Requests totaled \$128,000 for this round of grants, with the STEP Foundation awarding \$3,772.00.

Pheasants Forever, Inc. will be receiving an award of \$1,750.00 from the STEP General Endowment Fund. To create the Nemaha County Community Garden, Matt Holland, Director of Grant Development, shared in the grant application that “the partnership proposes the establishment of a community garden in the city of Seneca to provide educational opportunities, fresh produce, and a source of fellowship (within) Nemaha County community members. The garden will feature 20 raised beds that can be ‘adopted’ by families, friends, church groups, school classrooms, sports teams, local restaurants, FFA/4-H clubs, individuals, etc. A sign-up will be sent out early in the year to collect information from interested parties and beds will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis. At least one plot will be dedicated as a ‘pollinator plot’ to provide food and habitat to native pollinators as this is the primary mission of Pheasants Forever.”

Pheasants Forever plans to host a garden meeting each spring with gardeners to go over policies and procedures and to help clean out garden beds to prepare them for the growing season.

The Nemaha County Historical Society will be receiving \$2,022 for the STEP General Endowment Fund for the fall grant cycle. Cathy Holthaus, grant writer, explained in the grant application that “the original stucco façade, on all exterior walls of the Military Museum, is deteriorating. There are multiple cracks in the plaster and in some places the plaster stucco is falling off the building. Cracks in plaster allow moisture to enter the interior and will cause damage to the interior walls.” Holthaus further shared, “The west wall is in the most serious need of repair so it will be prepared in the summer/fall of 2021 with Historical Society funds. However, the other three walls are in the same need. The plan for the remaining three walls is to clean up the algae and mildew, repair damaged stucco where necessary, caulk cracks, seal stucco, then re-stucco with appropriated medium and color to match the existing façade. All wood trim will be cleaned, repaired and repainted, and the windows will be cleaned and re-glazed.”

Congratulations to these grant recipients. Thank you for making Nemaha County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Grants are awarded twice a year through the STEP Foundation, with the next deadline being January 15, 2022. Online applications are available at www.nemahastep.org.

Couple celebrates 50th Anniversary by Matching Gifts



A couple recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Even though they asked their family and friends to not bring any gifts, they were given cards with money in them. The couple decided to match the money given dollar for dollar and then gift it to the Nemaha County STEP Foundation. What an incredible way to think "outside the box" and make an impact for others by contributing to their favorite local community foundation!

Thank You!

Need Some Ideas of Way to Give?

Everyone should experience the joy of giving. Each member of a community has different gifts and resources to give, but every gift designated through a community foundation adds up to make a positive impact.

The flexibility offered by community foundations enables anyone with a desire to help their local community find an appropriate avenue of giving. See the list of gift options below.

Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds

Traditional investment vehicles are an ideal means for establishing funds at a community foundation. The donor can avoid tax on appreciation, yet still receive a tax deduction for the full market value. As a tax-exempt entity, the foundation can sell the securities and avoid taxes on the appreciation.

Real Estate

Land or buildings can be given in a number of ways, while the donor avoids taxes on the appreciation. The donor must obtain a qualified appraisal to establish the gift value.

Personal Property

While each foundation has varying policies on accepting these types of assets, personal property such as automobiles, art work, jewelry, valuable collectibles, antiques and more can often be donated — giving the donor a charitable tax deduction for the full fair-market value.

Cash

A donor can always make a gift by check — easy, direct, and fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Bequests

A dollar amount, property or percentage of an estate can go to charitable causes, either through a donor's will or living trust. The community foundation must be named as the charitable beneficiary. A signed donor memorandum is required to name the endowment fund and the charities that will benefit from the donor's bequest.

Life Insurance

Life insurance is an affordable way to give a significant amount. A donor can make the community foundation a beneficiary of an existing or new policy. A variety of options are available, all of which provide tax advantages and allow the donor to leverage dollars for maximum impact.

Commodities

Agricultural producers can donate grain or livestock through a community foundation. Legal ownership of the commodity can be transferred to a community foundation before it is sold in order to avoid taxable income from a sale and minimize taxes. The donor may see savings on federal income tax, state income tax and self-employment tax, depending on individual

circumstances. Deducting the cost of production may provide greater tax savings than selling the commodity and donating a portion of the proceeds.

A Portion of IRAs and Other Retirement Funds

Qualified individuals can transfer retirement assets to a community foundation, lessening the impact of income, estate, and generation-skipping taxes on a family's inheritance.

Our Contact Information

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