



**BUILDING THE FUTURE ONE STEP AT A TIME!**

**September 2023 Newsletter**

**Third Match Day nets over \$234,000!**



**Henry and Audrey Baker donated funds from their lemonade stand to the Chad Baker Memorial Fund which was established in memory of their father.**

**The Nemaha County STEP Foundation held its third annual STEP-Up Nemaha Match Day on Friday, August 25, 2023. Donors gave in person at the Seneca Free Library between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. with KMZA radio broadcasting live from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Online donations were collected at [www.stepupnemaha.com](http://www.stepupnemaha.com).**

**STEP Treasurer Tim Rottinghaus shared, “With online and in person donations on Match Day totaling \$133,425, a 77% increase over last year, we couldn’t be happier. After adding in the \$70,000 matching grant from the Patterson Family Foundation and donations from our generous STEP-Up Supporters the day’s grand total was \$234,900. We truly thank the Patterson Family, our STEP-Up Supporters, and all who donated on that day.”**

**Executive Director Tory Jost reiterated, “Thanks to our generous donors, our third Match Day set a new record.” All twenty-nine funds received donations which ranged from \$50 to \$28,263. Eight funds were successful in securing the maximum \$4,000 match. The General Endowment Fund brought in the most overall donations with \$28,263.69 followed by the SPPS Fund with \$20,325, and then the Centralia Project Fund at \$15,450. Three hundred eighty-one gifts were received, with a special thank you to the \$20,000 donor. For a complete list of funds and balances, check out the leaderboard at [www.stepupnemaha.com](http://www.stepupnemaha.com).**

**Jost emphasized, “Thank you again for making Nemaha County a great place to live, work, and give.” The fourth annual Match Day will be held in August 2024. To become a STEP-Up Supporter or set up a fund with the STEP Foundation, please contact Tory Jost at [info@nemahastep.org](mailto:info@nemahastep.org).**



## 2023 Match Day STEP-Up Supporters





# rainbow

**Also, thanks to the following STEP-Up Supporters!**

**Ag Partners Cooperative**

**Duane & Kris Anderson**

**Bruce & Pam Bachman**

**Bank of Blue Valley**

**Corey & Anissa Bloom**

**Community National Bank**

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**Fox Run Seeds, LLC**

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**Rainbow Communications**

**Jerry & Paula Rottinghaus**

**Tim & Jane Rottinghaus**

**Kent & Donna Saylor**

**Gary & Mary Sparling**

**United Bank & Trust**

## **LaVon & Erma Wenger**

**\*\*Thank you to Jim & Patricia Koch for your generous donation to the Catastrophic Medical Fund!\*\***

# Corley Becker Receives 2023 Droge Scholarship



Corley Becker, daughter of Dean and Diane Becker, will be a senior at Kansas State University and is in the College of Agriculture majoring in Agricultural Education. After graduating from the Nemaha Central High School, Corley attended Kansas State University in Manhattan. “I hope to become an inspiring Ag teacher/FFA advisor or 4-H extension agent in the future. I have found my home-away-from-home in Agricultural Education because of a few things; our three advisors in the ag education department are knowledgeable, caring, personable, and have become amazing mentors in my life. This program is designed to give a well-rounded education in all aspects of agriculture and sets students on the right track to become teachers or extension agents, which are both jobs I see myself doing in the future. I am also minoring in Animal Science because I have always loved learning about animals and the science behind them, and I hope to have my own farm one day,” Becker shared in her scholarship application. “No matter what job that I land in, I want to be helping people in the agriculture industry. I have absolutely loved my journey on this career path so far and I am eager to learn more about the agriculture field and share my knowledge for many years to come.”

Becker has been involved in many organizations at Kansas State University. They include being a College of Agriculture Ambassador, being on the Teach Ag Students of Kansas (also known as TASK force), and serving as an officer in the K-State Ag Ed Club. She has traveled to many different events across the state including Greenhand Conferences to lead interactive workshops, to multiple middle school events to lead other workshops, to events and recognizing teachers and students pursuing agricultural education at their district banquet at the end of the year. Overall, Becker really enjoys staying busy and meeting new people through her experiences.

The Nemaha County STEP Foundation is proud to award Corley Becker the \$500 scholarship established in 2008 by Lola Droge and her family which is called the Leslie Albert and Lola Fern Droge Scholarship for Agricultural Studies.

The scholarship honors Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Droge who lived and farmed most of their married life in Nemaha County. Leslie and Lola purchased and moved to the Droge family farm after Leslie returned from serving his country in World War II.

The couple was progressive and looked for new and modern ways of farming. They became leaders in terracing and other land conservation methods. Managing a cow and calf herd along with grasslands, wheat, and row crops, they provided a living for their family while producing plants and animals to help feed the world.

Not only did they work hard in agriculture, but they also served in other areas as well. Lola was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and was actively involved in her political party. Leslie served in the Kansas Senate and was chairperson of the Senate Agricultural committee. Leslie and Lola, as well as their five children, all attended Kansas State University.

The Leslie Albert and Lola Fern Droge Scholarship for Agricultural Studies is awarded to a Nemaha County high school graduate who is a junior or above and enrolled in the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University.



## Board Member Elaine Mowder



Elaine Keim Mowder was born and raised in Sabetha, KS. She lived in Manhattan for several years after graduating from Sabetha High School. She returned to Sabetha when she married John Mowder who was also born and raised in Sabetha. They were blessed with two children who are both married. Andrew lives in Sabetha and works at Marel and Melissa lives in Overland Park. John and Elaine have two grandsons. Elaine worked at Farmers Coop Elevator, Nemaha County Home Health and recently retired from the district office of USD 113 where she had worked over 20 years. Elaine is involved with Community Outreach through Northridge church along with other various activities through church. Elaine served on the Sabetha Ambulance Service for 23 years and has been wanting to get involved in community service again. She feels STEP is a good organization to get involved with to ensure growing our communities.

Thank you, Elaine for serving on the STEP Board!

\*\*\*Thank you, Seneca Community TV and Jim & Renee Kramer for renewing your STEP memberships!\*\*\*

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**Our Contact Information**

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