

Local foundation invests in the future of Wauneta

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Wednesday, 11 April 2012 18:51 - Last Updated Wednesday, 11 April 2012 18:56



The Wauneta Medical Clinic, the largest project of the Wauneta Community Foundation Fund to date, was built entirely with charitable dollars and enables Wauneta residents to receive medical services right here at home.

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta Community Foundation, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, gives current and former Waunetans a way to give back to the community and to provide for the future needs of Wauneta.

The Wauneta Community Foundation Fund (WCFF) has made several accomplishments for the community, however the Fund may be best known for its work to build the Wauneta Medical Clinic building.

WCFF advisory committee members worked with local donors to raise assets to build the clinic, which has now been open for five years. The Medical Clinic project was completed with 100

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percent charitable dollars.

“The volunteer Fund Advisory Committee has worked tirelessly to secure access to health care for residents. Thanks to many generous donors, the Fund is building an endowment that will provide funding for improvements each and every year forever. These volunteer leaders are really making a positive difference in Wauneta and the surrounding area,” says Jeff Yost, President and CEO of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Donors

The Wauneta Community Foundation Fund (WCFF) has received contributions from many Waunetans near and far who are dedicated to Wauneta’s needs now and in the future.

Wauneta has a track-record of generosity. “It’s neat how the community rallies together and quietly gets things done,” says WCFF president Brian Harchelroad.

Recently the Fund has received contributions from two estates. The estate of Gilbert and Phyllis Nordhausen made gifts back to the Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) and the library.

Ray Hamilton provided for many local entities in his estate. In addition to making a gift to the WCFF, he provided for his family, the Chase County Historical Society, the Methodist Church, the American Legion, the Senior Center, the cemetery, the library, park, Chateau Theatre, WVFD and Wauneta ambulance.

Because of the Fund’s affiliation with the Nebraska Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity, WCFF donors are able to receive tax advantages in return for their charitable contributions.

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Leadership

The Fund is led by a group of volunteer Fund Advisory Committee leaders who insure the proceeds from the Fund are invested back into Wauneta in a prudent and accountable manner.

Harchelroad serves as president, Evelyn Skelton serves as the Foundation Coordinator and performs the duties of secretary and treasurer. Other members of the advisory committee include Tina Kitt, Barb Smith, Eddie Nichols, Mindi Dixon and Arlan Wine.

Current and future needs

The WCFF advisory committee took a look toward the future and realized that they may not yet be aware of the needs of the community years down the road. With that in mind, the committee established an unrestricted endowment account.

The unrestricted endowment is the most flexible of all the accounts in the Fund. The idea of an endowment is to make gifts of the interest earning leaving the principal untouched.

Since these monies are not designated to support a specific project or purpose by donors these monies are best suited to support unmet needs of the community, which may not yet be known. The earnings from this account can be given to support a current or future community need as determined by the advisory committee.

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The general fund of the Wauneta Community Foundation Fund can be used to support the activities of the Fund or to support projects in the community. For instance, the advisory committee granted \$10,000 from the Fund's general account in support of the nursing home project.

Specific needs

The Fund currently has four accounts designated to benefit specific projects in the community.

The Wauneta medical clinic equipment endowment is a permanent account whose funds will be used to purchase equipment for the local medical clinic.

There is also an account for the medical building. Funds donated to the medical clinic account will be used to maintain the building.

Another account has been established to support community beautification and renovations within Wauneta.

The Emma and Homer E. Hoff memorial account provides scholarships to Wauneta high school graduates.

Get involved

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There are several ways for area residents to get involved with the WCFF.

You can give your time or you can make a donation back to the community.

Contact Foundation Coordinator Evelyn Skelton at teskelton@bwtelcom.net or 394-5390 to learn how.

About NCF

The Nebraska Community Foundation, based in Lincoln, serves 220 community, organizational and donor-advised affiliated funds in 238 communities located in 79 Nebraska counties. NCF and its affiliated funds have grown \$76.5 million in charitable assets to better Nebraskan communities and organizations. Ninety four NCF affiliated funds are working to build endowments to benefit Nebraskan communities. As of December 31 these 94 funds have grown \$30.2 million in endowments.

Series on local service organizations and clubs

This story is part of an ongoing series highlighting service organizations and community clubs in the Wauneta area. The purpose of the series is to inform the public of what local organizations are doing for the community and how they can help.

At the end of the series, Breeze readers will be asked to vote for their favorite organization or club. The organization or club receiving the most votes will be given a \$50 donation to use

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towards the project of its choice.

Organizations and community clubs interested in being featured in the series should contact the Breeze at 308-394-5389 or waunetabreeze@bwtelcom.net.