By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The Palisade Community Foundation Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, works to make things happen at home in Palisade.

The Fund has had its share of obstacles when it lost long-time leader Frank Pottoff in 2010. Now the group is looking to get re-energized with new leadership working for the future of Palisade.

Fund Advisory Committee members include Gary Hanken, Don Suda, Betty Potthoff, Bette Rice and Patty Post.

Patty Post said the Fund's goal for the next year is to complete a membership drive and have an activity to get people's attention and be more visible in the public's eye.

"We want to bring our focus back to the growth of the community of Palisade," Post explains.

Post says the Fund is looking for new leaders to step up and make things happen in the community. The Fund also wants to welcome new Palisade residents and invite them to be a part of the community.

"Patty Post is working to get more folks involved and a new passion built for the community

fund," explained Jana Jensen, Director of Community Fund Development—Western Nebraska with the Nebraska Community Foundation.

The mission of the PCFF is to, "...Receive, administer and disburse funds for the mental, moral, intellectual and physical improvements, assistance and relief of the inhabitants of the Palisade, Neb., community area, regardless of race, color or creed."

The Fund was founded in 1996. Their purpose is to "Provide funding for the betterment of the Palisade community through charitable giving."

Jensen remembers the group who started the Fund in 1996, "That group of individuals were 'truly the Palisade community, always doing something for the betterment of Palisade,' like the late Frank Potthoff and Robert Jutton and others like Billy Smith and Bette Rice come to mind."

According to Jensen, newcomers and a few young folks have helped keep the fund growing to it's current level with over $60,000 in assets. Post added that over $50,000 of those assets are currently endowed.

Over the years the Fund has helped with several community projects. They have helped the Palisade Rural Fire Department purchase a jaws of life, provided funds for swimming pool maintenance, given the library money to use on computers and library software purchase and the group has helped with funding for the new fence at the cemetery.

Post said the group welcomes grant applications. The Fund usually makes grants around May each year. Those who are interested in applying for a grant or who would like more information should call one of the Fund Advisory Committee members.

The Palisade Community Foundation Fund currently operates with two accounts within their Fund–a general account and an endowment account.

The general account grows mostly through memberships and is used for a variety of community need the account is unrestricted, it gives the Fund Advisory Committee the flexibility to respond to community needs, many of which may not be visible right now.

But, in order to provide for the future of the community, the PCFF needs donations. “Even a small contribution helps the future of our community,” says Post.

“Several thousand dollars have been reinvested in the community, a result of those prior leaders being visionary and starting the endowment fund several years ago,” Jensen said.

Post reports that the group has reinvested over $18,000 in the community since 1996. Post and the new leaders of the Palisade Community Foundation Fund are excited to be getting reorganized and energized for the future of Palisade.

“Palisade’s community fund’s future is bright thanks to its past leaders and those who will step up and carry the torch to the next level,” asserts Jensen.

Get involved

Those interested in helping pave the way for Palisade’s future can contact Patty Post at 308-414-1737 or any Fund Advisory Committee member to learn how they can help.

Post said the Fund needs leaders, members and donors who want to make things happen for Palisade’s future.

Donations to the Palisade Community Foundation Fund can be sent to P.O. Box 302, Palisade,

NE 69040.

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.

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