



# 2022 OREGON TRAIL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



## **On the cover:**

*Clockwise from top left:*

- Ruth Kozal, Hod Kosman and Cathy McDaniel at the opening of the new playground at Roosevelt Elementary. The OTCF awarded the Scottsbluff Public School \$5,000 toward this playground in 2021
- The OTCF was proud to be a part of the final year of the National Hot Air Balloon Competition during the Old West Balloon Fest in August of 2022
- The OTCF helped raise funds to help those who lost so much during the Carter Canyon Fire in the summer of 2022. The OTCF raised \$14,500
- Doug Hoevet with his butterfly bench sculpture at the pollinator gardens at the Gering Community Ever Green House. A grant from the OTCF helped the greenhouse purchase three sculptures for this space, that were unveiled during their Pollinator Palooza event last summer



'22

# Year in Review



## Our Mission

***Serves  
Promotes  
Responds***

***The Oregon Trail Community Foundation serves our community as a catalyst for community projects, promotes the spirit of charitable giving, and responds to community needs as a trusted steward of long-term gift arrangements***

### **Organized in May 1977**

#### **Founders:**

- Mark W. Anthony
- Betty A. Henderson
- Joe J. Huckfeldt
- Henry D. Kosman
- Allan C. Landers, M.D.
- Martha K. Rohrick
- Harry L. Vickery



## PREVIOUSLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2023 Elected Board Members

### Three-Year Term 2023-2025

Jack Baker  
Hod Kosman  
John Massey  
Krystal Palm  
Marilyn Rahmig  
Jim Reinhardt  
Barb Schlothauer

### Three-Year Term 2021-2023

Travis Hiner  
Bev Overman  
Joanne Krieg  
John A. Selzer  
Jeff Jones  
Jane Kelley

### Three-Year Term 2022-2024

Lee Glenn  
Tom Holyoke  
John Stinner  
Rick Tuggle  
Dennis Hadden



*Rick & Tracy Tuggle at  
the Ag Recognition Banquet*



*John & Megan Massey at  
the Ag Recognition Banquet*



*Hod Kosman welcoming the Hessler  
Family to the Ag Recognition Banquet*



*Mark & Bev Overman at  
the Ag Recognition Banquet*



*Travis & Sue Hiner at  
the Ag Recognition Banquet*



# Executive Board of Directors



**Rick Tuggle**  
Board President  
Riverstone Bank



**John Massey**  
Board Vice President  
JG Elliott Insurance



**Joanne Krieg**  
Board Chair  
Scholarship Chair



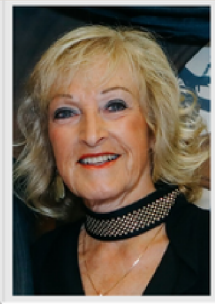
**Barb Schlothauer**  
Board Vice Chair



**Dennis Hadden**  
Board Treasurer  
Dana F. Cole & Co.



**Jim Reinhardt**  
Grant Committee Chair  
B&C Steele



**Bev Overman**  
OTCF Finance



**John Selzer**  
OTCF Investments



**Marilyn Rahmig**  
Midwest Theater Liaison



**Jack Baker**  
Baker & Associates



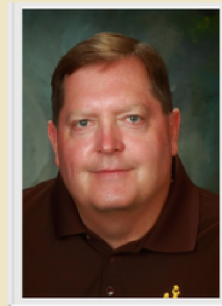
**Lee Glenn**  
Counting House, LLC



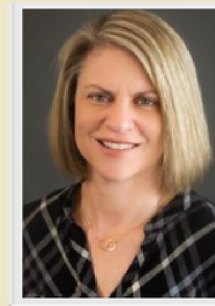
**Travis Hiner**  
Hiner Foundation



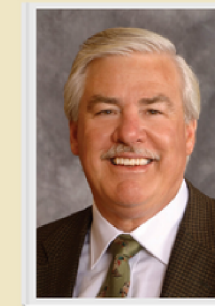
**Tom Holyoke**  
Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria,  
Reichert & Rice



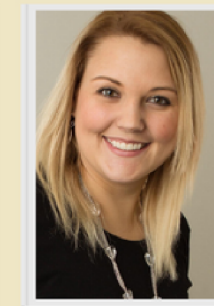
**Jeff Jones**  
Great Gardens Greenhouse  
Torrington, WY



**Jane Kelley**  
Western Nebraska  
Community College



**Hod Kosman**  
Platte Valley Companies



**Krystal Palm**  
Aulick StoreAul



**Senator John Stinner**

## OREGON TRAIL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# STAFF



**CATHY  
MCDANIEL**  
Executive  
Director



**TERA  
WILLMAN**  
Financial  
Administrator

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# '22

## Lend Your Heart to Ukraine

The Oregon Trail Community Foundation launched the “Lend Your Heart to Ukraine” relief fund on March 5, 2022 at the OTCF Ag Recognition and Awards Banquet with a silent auction. This humanitarian effort gained widespread support from our community, raising over \$66,000 for humanitarian relief for Ukraine. The OTCF Ukraine relief fund partnered with Airlink, a rapid-response humanitarian relief organization that connects airlines and pre-qualified nonprofits to help communities in crisis.

Hod Kosman, OTCF Board member and President/CEO of Platte Valley Bank says: *“The people of Ukraine need medical and humanitarian supplies delivered to the neighboring countries that have come to their aid. Airlink delivers people and humanitarian products to all those wonderful countries; a bit of sunshine in a very dark time.”*

*“Thanks to support like yours, Airlink carried the heart of your community with them to the people of Ukraine.”* Sandra Walter, Director of Development at Airlink. Because of our community's contributions, more than 37 pallets of needed supplies were delivered to Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Hungary and Poland. We are all so fortunate to live in such a giving and responsive community.



Hod Kosman speaks at the Press Conference in March 2022 with Airlink CEO, Sandra Walter joining via Zoom

**LEND YOUR HEART TO UKRAINE**

Donate now for EMERGENCY RELIEF to Ukraine

Your donation is tax deductible and so very appreciated. Thank you!

**AIRLINK** SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS **THANKS TO YOU!**

**OREGON TRAIL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**Humanitarian Response to the War in Ukraine**

**37 Pallets**

WE ESTIMATE THAT YOUR GENEROSITY HELPED AIRLINK DELIVER THIS AMOUNT OF MEDICAL, WASH, FOOD, SHELTER & OTHER CRITICAL AID ON BEHALF OF OUR RELIEF PARTNERS

**Lend Your Heart To Ukraine**

**\$66K DONATED TO AIRLINK BY MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF OREGON TRAIL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

INCLUDES SHIPMENTS TO UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, HUNGARY, AND POLAND

To learn more about this and other responses worldwide, visit [www.airlinkflight.org](http://www.airlinkflight.org)



## The Agriculture Recognition & Awards Banquet was held at the Weborg 21 Center on March 5, 2022

We honored an Ag family, had a reverse raffle, had a silent auction, honored the FFA, and made \$20,700 for our Ag Business Scholarship program. Thank you to our volunteer committee, our sponsors, and all who attended to make this year's Ag Banquet such a success.

This event helps the Foundation fund our Agribusiness Scholarship program, as well as ag grant opportunities in our community, such as the Morrill Ag Complex, which was the 2022 recipient.



Hod Kosman presents the Hessler Family the award as the honored ag family of the event



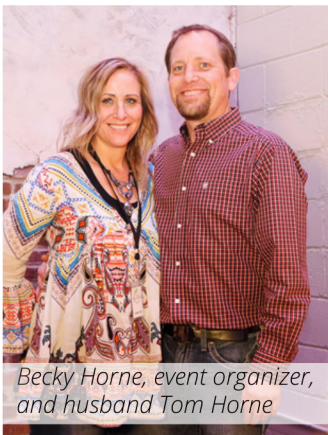
It was a full house with over 450 present at this Biannual event for the OTCF Ag Fund



Lana Hubbard wins BIG at the reverse auction. Here with Bill Boyer, our MC



Jim Reinhardt presents Joe Sherwood of Morrill Public Schools with a \$10k grant



Becky Horne, event organizer, and husband Tom Horne



These FFA leaders from Wheatland were honored, and helped serve our guests. Their energy for ag was inspiring!

Thank you to our sponsors of the 2022 Ag Recognition & Awards Banquet. We could never do what we do without YOU!



### The American Legion / Gering

The OTCF grant helped the Gering Legion Post 36 replace the 62-year-old cement platform at West Lawn Cemetery with a covered pavilion. The pavilion is now wheelchair accessible. Granite panels engraved with the emblems of the six branches of the US Military and names of deceased loved ones will be installed to complete the Pavilion. Historically, the platform has been used by the Legion on Memorial Day each year. The new covered Pavilion will be available to the community for memorial events, or as a supplemental space for funerals/celebrations of life. **Awarded \$5,000**



### Cirrus House

In 2018 Cirrus House added an additional nine units to their housing program and with the help of grants, loans and donations were able to rehab six units and the entirety of the external structure. The second phase of this rehab process will complete the three remaining units by early 2023. OTCF was able to help with construction costs to finish these last three apartments. The long-term impact of three more affordable housing units will not only impact the residents of those apartments but their individual stability and success have the potential to positively impact each person's circle of influence of family, friends, and co-workers. Unlike shorter-term help, a safe, affordable housing unit can positively impact a community for decades of service. **Awarded \$10,810**

### City of Scottsbluff / 18th Street Plaza

The funds will be used to complete the final construction of the 18th Street Plaza. The new plaza design will create a more welcoming space for current and future events. A permanent stage will be built in the northeast corner near the great lawn where shade sails and lights will offer comfort and ambiance for event attendees. The northwest area of the plaza will include fire pits complete with curved benches to provide additional seating. Built in picnic tables and shade trees will be integrated along the southeast corner of the plaza and the newly designed park benches will be placed in various locations within the plaza. Both the Broadway and 1st Ave. entrances will feature a curved brick archway helping to define the plaza entrance. **Awarded \$10,000**



### Community Ever Green House

The Gering Community Ever Green House project will complete the south property as a pollinator habitat using 20 raised beds planted with drought tolerant native plants and flowers with ADA compliant paths throughout the property to allow full use for the community and showcase the Pollinator garden art that was installed in June, 2022. Their goal is to become a Certified Pollinator Habitat and become affiliated with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum as a Community Arboretum. **Awarded \$4,000**



# OTCF GRANTS

## Empowering Families

This grant helped with the 24th annual Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference and Community Event. This conference served over 200 high school and middle school students from across the panhandle. A community dinner was also provided at this conference. **Awarded \$1,000**

## The Guadalupe Center

OTCF helped the Guadalupe Center all new chairs for the hall, for added safety and comfort for those attending community functions. **Awarded \$3,000**



## Legal Aid of Nebraska

OTCF provided essential funds to complete their Civil Justice Center, so they can provide more education, outreach, and legal services to our friends and neighbors. **Awarded \$1,500**

## Regional West Foundation

The priority campaign for Regional West Foundation is raising funds for a new Varian Edge™ linear accelerator for The Cancer Treatment Center at Regional West. The aim is to improve care for patients treated at Regional West. Proceeds of the campaign will fund:

- Purchase and installation of a linear Accelerator in the Cancer Treatment Center at Regional West
- Renovation of a room in the Cancer Treatment Center to accommodate the installation of the Linear Accelerator

The objective is to ensure that Regional West patients can continually access the most advanced, innovative and quality health care in a state of the art rural facility, close to where they live and work. **Awarded \$50,000**

## Scottsbluff Public Schools

New playground equipment at Lincoln Heights, Lake Minatare, and Westmoor Schools. Not only is outdoor play important to students, the playground is visible to prospective businesses and families looking to move into the area. Therefore, the benefits go well beyond the social, emotional and physical health of our children. Safe, engaging and modern playgrounds will benefit the entire community. **Awarded \$10,000**



## Theatre West

Grant used to replace and update sound system for the theatre, including purchase of wireless microphones. **Awarded \$4,000**

## West Nebraska Art Center

Upgrades in the lighting system in the Bronson Gallery. This improved the lighting for both gallery and classroom use. Additionally, a light socket in the northwest stairwell was replaced with a fixture that would be appropriate to the history of the building. **Awarded \$2,000**





# '22

# \$93,250 in SCHOLARSHIPS

## Agri-Business Scholarship

Skylar Edmund (Harrison) \$2,000  
Robert Kovarik (Gering) \$2,000

## Dorothy Bronson Memorial Scholarship

Ethan Bosche (Gering) \$3500  
Donovan Andrew (Chappell) \$250

## Class of '66

Sawyer Riddick (Scottsbluff) \$1,000

## CSI Scholarship

Trevor Schwartz (Scottsbluff) \$6,000  
Meagan Shuey (Scottsbluff) \$6,000  
Robert Murphy (Scottsbluff) \$2,000

## CSPM Scholarship

Carmelo Timblin (Gering), \$6,000  
Brylee Dean (Gering), \$6,000

## Dill Scholarship

Joshua Jennings (Scottsbluff) \$1,000

## Don & Dian Roth Scholarship

David Karpf (Gering) \$1,000

## Fliesbach / McAlister Scholarship

Sarah Connot (Gering) \$1,000

## Floyds Truck Center Inc / Brian H. Greif Memorial Scholarship

Dawson Reichert (Lingle, WY) \$1,000  
Tristan Encinia (Scottsbluff) \$5,000  
Dion Turner (Sidney) \$5,000

## Sharon M. Hoffman Music Educators Scholarship

Donovan Andrew (Chappell) \$1,000



Brylee Dean / CSPM



Donovan Andrews / Sharon Hoffman



Robert Kovarik / AgriBusiness

## Hispanic Advisory Committee

Carmelo Timblin (Gering) \$1,000  
Sasha Paez (Scottsbluff) \$1,000  
Justin Sharp (Gering) \$1,000  
Ava Marez (Gering) \$1,000

## Lawrence Lemons Scholarship

Peyton Kriewald (Scottsbluff) \$500

## Lawrence & Pauline Lemons

Emma Knuester (Canyon City, CA) \$4,000  
Christian Bokelman (Morrill) \$4,000

## Lovercheck Scholarship

Sarah Connot (Gering) \$4,000

## Jane & Chet Fliesbach Scholarship

Joshua Jennings (Scottsbluff) \$1,000  
Alexandra Jones (Scottsbluff) \$1,000  
Robert Murphy (Scottsbluff) \$1,000  
Angelica Anaya (Scottsbluff) \$1,000

## Mitchell Community Scholarship

Aubree Branson (Mitchell), \$1,000

## Clara E. Muehlberger Scholarship

Donovan Andrews (Chappell) \$4,000  
Mike Sanderson (Harrison) \$4,000  
Sadie Cole (Gering) \$4,000  
Angelica Anaya (Scottsbluff) \$4,000  
Ava Marez (Gering) \$4,000  
Marjie Schmitt (Mitchell) \$2,000

## Panhandle Drug-Free Youth

Lily Teeple (Gering) \$500



Trevor Schwartz / CSI



David Karpf / Roth



Sarah Connot / Lovercheck



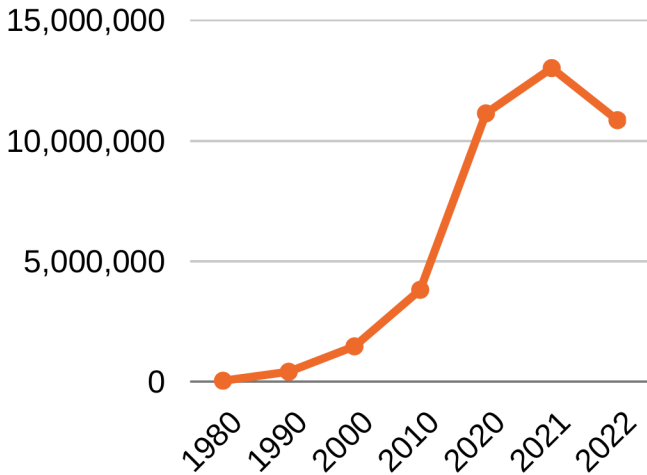
Alex Jones / Fliesbach



# 45 YEARS OF GROWTH

# '22

OTCF Total Assets (since 1980)



## Grants 2022

Amount Pledged to Nonprofits in 2022

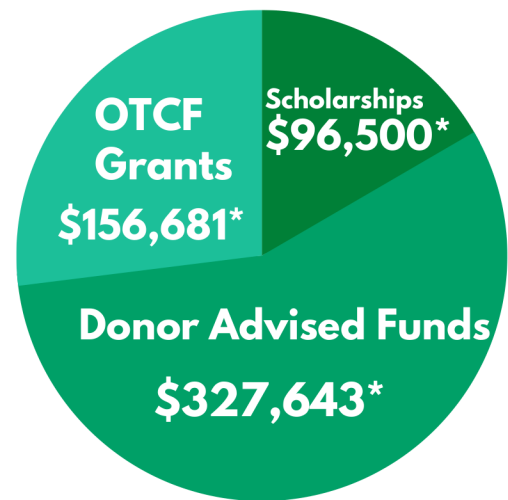
**Total: \$111,312**

Gifts, Grants & Scholarships in 2022

**Total Grants: \$580,824**

## OTCF NEW FUNDS IN 2022

- 1887 Foundation / SB County Fairgrounds
- A Hand Up Foundation / Becky Jones
- Broadway Bombers
- Mitchell / Morrill Youth Organization Ballfield Revitalization Project
- Playtime Matters / Mitchell Elementary
- Scottsbluff Creative Art District



*\*Amount Paid in 2022*

*This includes all grants and scholarships paid that were pledged in year(s) prior*





# Oregon Trail Community Foundation

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[www.otcf.org](http://www.otcf.org)

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