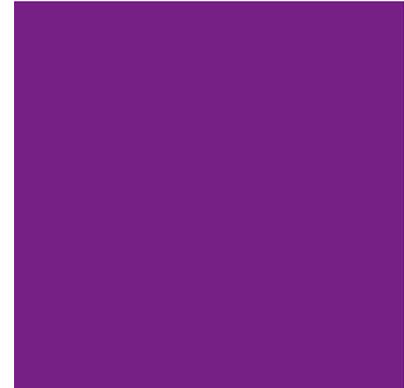
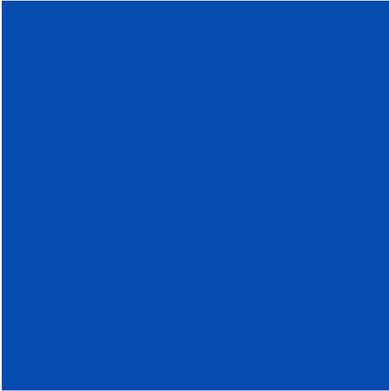




2021 OREGON TRAIL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT



On the cover:

Clockwise from top left:

- Stacy Rotherham poses with her winnings from the WyoBraska Gives Treasure Hunt, at Fremont Motors, the official sponsor of the event
- Children playing at the RDC Splash Pad, soon to be renovated in 2022 with the help of a grant from Oregon Trail Community Foundation
- Volunteers with 11 13 Ministries serve up a dinner for Christmas in the Valley to help those facing food insecurities. OTCF helped with this project, as well as with the annual Thanksgiving in the Valley dinner with money remaining in the Covid Food Fund
- The WyoBraska GIVES 2021 kickoff event: the Monument Laser Light Show. This was a spectacular show that lit up our majestic landmark, which had our community gathered in one beautiful spot on a perfect spring evening
- OTCF awarded a grant to the Alan Hartzler Fund for a new basketball court in Sidney in memory of Sidney's beloved coach and friend, Alan Hartzler. Read more about that in the "grants" section
- OTCF awarded a grant to the Carpenter Center for new, updated gym equipment
- OTCF was proud to sponsor the 2021 Old West Balloon Fest national competition; a tremendous economic and tourism boost for our beautiful Valley.



Year in Review



Our Mission

Dedicated to improving the quality, vitality and safety of life in Western Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming

Our Purpose:

The foundation is a trustee for raising, receiving and distributing resources to help our communities prosper. Funds are raised through foundation membership, donations, bequests, trusts and more. Community dividends are paid through grants, scholarships and other services to organizations and individuals.

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



2021 Elected Board Members



Jane Kelley

Jane Kelley grew up in Scottsbluff and graduated from SHS in 1995. After graduating from UNL, she worked in Denver as a CPA for three years before going back to school for her MBA at the University of Texas. She moved back to the community in 2004 and is an Accounting Instructor at WNCC.

Jane has been on the Board of Directors of multiple community organizations including the YMCA and the Scotts Bluff Country Club. She was president and treasurer of Longfellow Elementary PTO for several years and is currently involved with the SHS Booster Club. Jane is also the treasurer of the St. Francis Episcopal Church Foundation. Jane enjoys being involved with her kids' sporting activities and helps coach Junior Bearcat Basketball and the SHS Golf Team.



Jeff Jones

Jeff Jones is the Owner/Manager of Great Gardens in Torrington, WY, is the President of Jones Ag Corp. in Huntley, WY, and operates JJJ, Inc., a financial consulting company.

Jeff is involved in many community organizations, and has been a member of Oregon Trail Community Foundation for many years. He looks forward to working with the Board of Directors for the betterment of our region.

Three-Year Term 2019-2021

- Judy Chaloupka
- Lee Glenn
- Lonnie Miller
- Tom Holyoke
- Cricket Simmons
- Senator John Stinner
- Rick Tuggle

PREVIOUSLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three-Year Term 2020-2022

- 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

2021 Retiring Board Members

Thank you to these dedicated individuals who are retiring from our Board of Directors. We appreciate your many years of service, support and philanthropy. You will be missed!



Lonnie Miller
20 Years of
Service



Judy Chaloupka
24 Years of
Service



Cricket Simmons
35 Years of
Service



Thank You!

2016 Archive photo - Cricket Simmons and Travis Hiner at the DinoDig ribbon cutting - another great OTCF Community Grant at work

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



Judy Chaloupka
Governance Chair
Theatre West



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



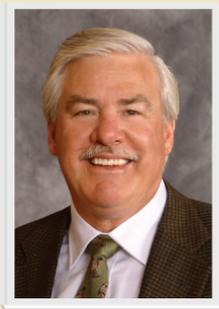
Tom Holyoke
Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria,
Reichert & Rice



Jeff Jones
Great Gardens Greenhouse
Torrington, WY



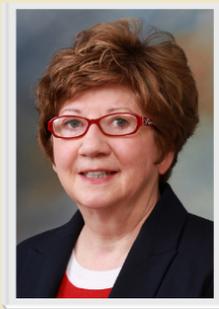
Jane Kelley
Western Nebraska
Community College



Hod Kosman
Platte Valley Companies



Krystal Palm
Aulick StoreAul



Cricket Simmons



**Senator John
Stinner**

OREGON TRAIL
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Staff



**Cathy
McDaniel**
Executive
Director



**Shannon
Crane**
Financial
Administrator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Travis Hiner Retires as Board President



The WyoBraska Gives Inaugural year - Travis, Cathy and Becky at the Kick Off press conference



From our Files: Travis and Bev presenting a grant to the Bayard Schools Track Project (w/ Travis Miller)



Travis Hiner, OTCF Board of Directors



The Hiners hosted the annual OTCF Christmas party to thank our Foundation members. This was always a highly anticipated evening for the board, members and OTCF staff. Thank you, Travis and Sue!



Travis Hiner served on the OTCF Board of Directors for thirty-two years, and has been a member since its inception forty-four years ago. As Board President, Travis has been the driving force of the community foundation, growing its membership, investment portfolio and rock-solid reputation in our WyoBraska region.

Travis expressed that "A community foundation such as OTCF provides its citizens an easy way

to leave cash or assets for the betterment of their community. In rural Nebraska especially, we cannot expect state or federal governments to improve our quality of life. Each of us, according to our ability, need to contribute to our communities."

Travis will remain on the OTCF Board as well as select committees. "So much of everything we do on a daily basis has been inspired by, driven by, or created by Travis. This Foundation is Travis' very soul - and we intend to honor and continue the amazing work he has started here. We appreciate his desire to stay on the Board to help guide our next steps and our new executive committee," says Cathy McDaniel, OTCF Executive Director.

Cricket Simmons looks back at her time serving with Travis on the Board of Directors: "I have served with Travis on the board of the Oregon Trail Community Foundation for 38 years. He, more than anyone else, is responsible for making the foundation the positive force in the community it has become and will

continue to be. The foundation has been responsible for enormous good in the WyoBraska area, and he was the engine that pulled the train. We all owe him a debt of gratitude."

"The foundation has been responsible for enormous good in the WyoBraska area, and he {Travis} was the engine that pulled the train"
- Cricket Simmons, OTCF Member

The Oregon Trail Community Foundation board of directors is pleased to announce that it has named Rick Tuggle as its new board president effective April 2021. Tuggle, being an energetic community leader and seasoned nonprofit supporter, brings a wealth of leadership experience and a passion for positive change within our panhandle communities.

The OTCF board welcomes Rick to help chart the course for the future of our community foundation.



WyoBraska GIVES

21



Thank You WyoBraska for Giving BIG!
for your financial gifts to **98** organizations,
and the **1468** volunteer hours pledged!

Special incentive prizes were awarded to:

- Friends of the Midwest Theater - \$1000 - Good Morning Sunshine
- Lincoln Elementary Booster Club - \$1000 - Kids Cheer Squad
- NE State Historical Society Foundation - \$1000 - Underdog Recognition
- Friends of the Midwest Theater - \$1000 - Nonprofit Happy Hour!
- Community Christian School - \$1000 - Social Media Star
- CAPstone - \$1000 - Tag to win cash!
- Reunited in Heaven - \$1000 - Night Owl Prize
- Northfield Haven - \$1000 - Fabulous Freshman
- Riverside Discovery Center - \$500 - Most States
- Soroptimist International - \$500 - Biggest Percentage

The WyoBraska Gives Monument Laser Show brought out thousands of people to our beautiful National Monument. The evening was perfectly gorgeous, and the light show was nothing short of spectacular! Such a great event!



Thank you to our sponsors of the WyoBraska Gives, The Monument Light Show and the Treasure Hunt. We could never do what we do without YOU!

Northfield Haven

This grant was awarded to this new facility, which offers independent living apartments for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This facility includes a central place for socialization and gathering for the tenants, similar to a community center. This project is more of a community and not just an apartment that they rent. Year 2 of 2 year pledge. Awarded \$12,500

Theatre West

This grant was used to purchase a ticket scanning device and new ticketing software to help better track performance attendees. Awarded \$2,250

Alan Hartzler Community Fund

The grant was to fund construction of a basketball court in Legion Park located in Sidney, NE. The site has been set aside from this project by the City of Sidney and is located at the site of the old swimming pool. This fund is to support and foster youth sports and recreational opportunities in Cheyenne County, while honoring the memory and life of Alan Hartzler. Awarded \$5,000

**Scottsbluff Public School Foundation**

This grant will go toward a new playground at Roosevelt Elementary, which serves 285 students. This playground serves not only the students at this school but also the surrounding neighborhood and community. Awarded \$5,000

The Carpenter Center

The grant provided much needed upgrades to the Community Fitness Program equipment. Awarded \$15,000

Succeed

The grant provided for lighting for two baseball fields in Chappell, NE. The fields are open to the community, and is often where they host several surrounding panhandle baseball teams during the summer months. Awarded \$5,000

11 13 Ministries

This grant helped this ministry purchase a commercial convection oven, refrigerator and cooler. This improved the ability to prepare and store more food for the 430+ meals they currently prepare and deliver to, which is six surrounding communities every other Saturday. The additional coolers help ensure the meals arrive warm on each of their 11 routes. Awarded \$3,000



Midwest Theater

This grant will help fund a once-in-a-three generation project to repair weather and fire damage to the marquee of the historic Midwest Theater building. The Oregon Trail Community Foundation owns the theater on behalf of the community, and Friends of the Midwest Theater operates it. The project would upgrade certain materials with historically acceptable modern replacements to make the marquee more weather resistant and financially sustainable to care for. Awarded \$100,000, payable over four years.

Sidney Park Project

This grant will help purchase all new playground equipment and ground surfacing to bring the first handicap accessible playgrounds to the panhandle of Nebraska. Playground equipment will include ramps, lower handrails, and more support to access pieces of equipment. New ground surfacing including rubber and cement walking paths to improve ease of access and safety for not only kids, but parents and grandparents as well. Awarded \$2,500



Scotts Bluff County Volunteer Center - Meals on Wheels / Mobile Library

This grant was to help furnish bookshelves, desk and other needed furniture to create a library for the clients of the Meals on Wheels program, and other seniors in the area, that would like to have greater access to reading material. The books are mostly donated by the community, and dispersed to the individual's home upon request. Awarded \$354

Riverside Discovery Center

This grant is for the renovation and upgrade of the current splash pad. It will cover specific components that include new fencing, lighting, seating, shade and electrical. Improving the splash pad will create a safer and more vibrant experience. The expanded seating area will allow for a greater number of guests to enjoy the improved accommodations and increase the stay time for visitors. Awarded \$19,456

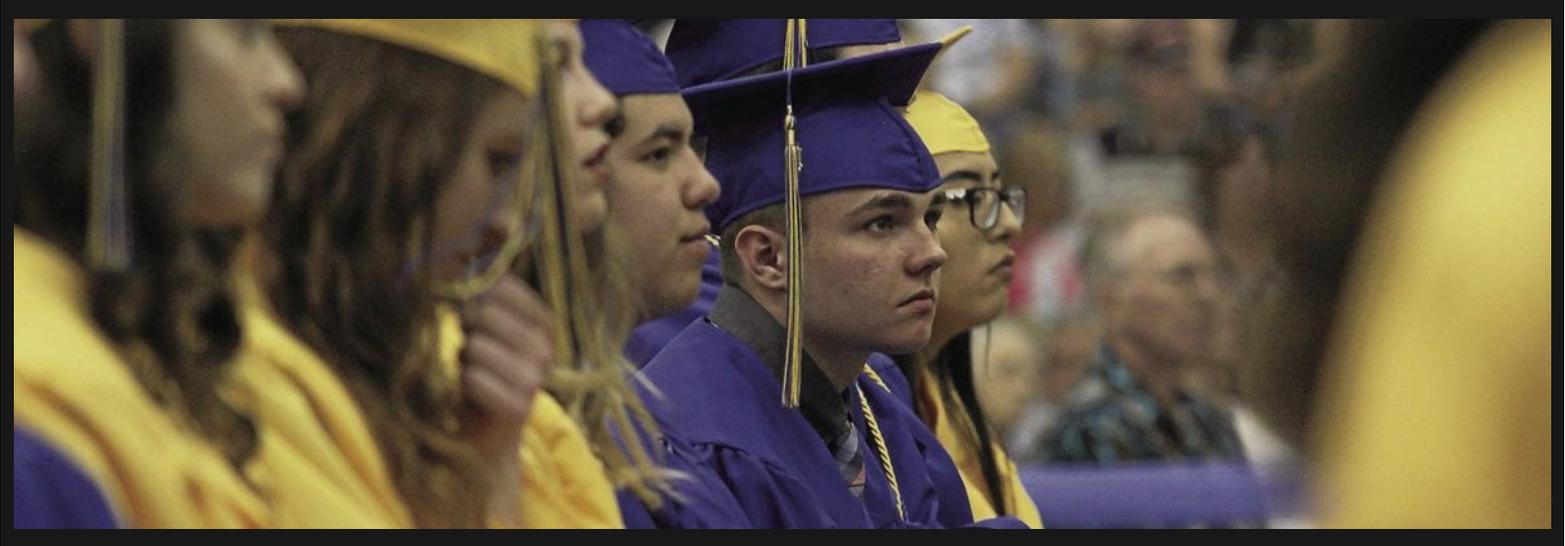
Options Pregnancy Center of Western Nebraska

Grant funds were used to help purchase office furniture, audio/visual equipment, exam table and computer software. Currently, the nearest pregnancy centers to Scotts Bluff County are in Cheyenne, WY and Ogallala, NE. A pregnancy resource center in this community provides a much-needed support beyond the services that currently exist, and work in relationship with existing agencies to provide support and education for men and women facing difficult pregnancy decisions, equipping and empowering families to parent or to place their baby for adoption. Providing emotional support will also connect clients to long-term communities of faith and support, should they so desire. Awarded \$5,000



'21

\$92,500 in SCHOLARSHIPS



Agri-Business

Allison Carpenter (Scottsbluff) \$2,000
Aleena Wagner (Broadwater) \$2,000

Atkins Bequest Scholarship

James Heldt (Scottsbluff) \$2,500

Mitchell Community Scholarship

Regan Hodsden (Mitchell), \$1,000

Panhandle Drug-Free Youth

Victoria Eckerberg (Gering), \$500

Clara E. Muehlberger Scholarship

Grace Michael (Scottsbluff) \$4,000
Kenneth Wyland (Hemingford) \$4,000
Ashton Davis (Rushville) \$4,000
Karissa Benavides (Bridgeport) \$4,000
Landrie Nelson (Hemingford) \$4,000
Rhegan Devier (Dalton) \$2,000
Yazmin Marquez (Scottsbluff) \$2,000

Lawrence & Pauline Lemons Scholarship

Francisco Barrios (Mitchell) \$4,000
Ronald Sisson (Mitchell) \$4,000

Class of '66

Ashlyn Ibero (Scottsbluff) \$1,000

Pre-Engineering

Tucker Halstead Fuentes (Gering) \$2,000

Hispanic Advisory Committee

Jacqueline Patino (Scottsbluff) \$500
Cassandra Rodriguez (Gering) \$500

Dill Scholarship

Jaden Schumacher (Mitchell) \$1,000

Fliesbach / McAlister Scholarship

Paige Schneider (Gering) \$1,000

CSI Scholarship

Jamisy Howard (Scottsbluff) \$6,000
Tyler Smith (Scottsbluff) \$6,000
Brett Hill (Scottsbluff) \$2,000

Lawrence Lemons Scholarship

Ashlyn Ibero (Scottsbluff) \$500

Lovercheck Scholarship

Victoria Eckerberg (Gering) \$4,000

Jane & Chet Fliesbach Scholarship

Jacqueline Patino (Scottsbluff), \$1,000
Elli Bauerkemper (Scottsbluff), \$1,000
Kiana Brannan (Scottsbluff), \$1,000

CSPM Scholarship

Lydia Connot (Gering), \$6,000
Logan Andrews (Gering), \$6,000

Don & Dian Roth Scholarship

Kaitlyn Ng (Windsor, CO) \$1,000

Floyds Truck Center Inc /

Brian H. Greif Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Smithson (Lander, WY) \$1,500
Dawson Richert (Lingle, WY) \$1,000
Brian Turek (Hemingford) \$1,000
Jakob Ratliff (Scottsbluff) \$1,500
Robert Stratton, \$1,000

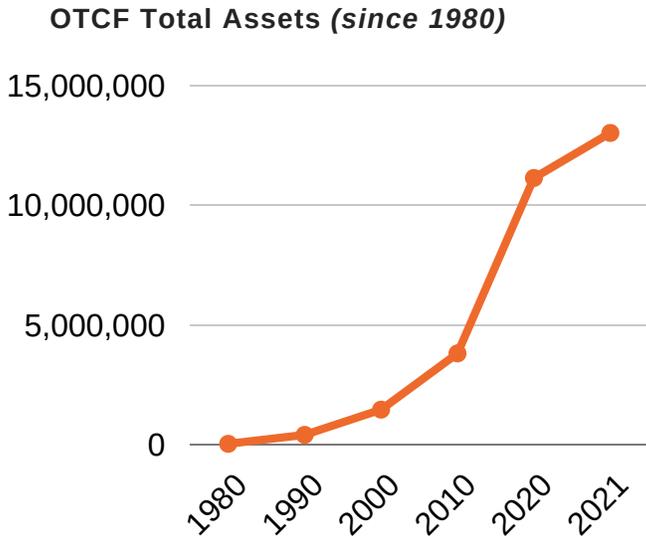
Dr. Jack Desenfants Memorial Scholarship

Savannah Jordan (Banner County) \$2,000
Kayle Morris (Gering) \$2,000
Caleigh Essert (Torrington) \$2,000
Peyton Beaver (Scottsbluff) \$2,000



44 YEARS OF GROWTH

'21

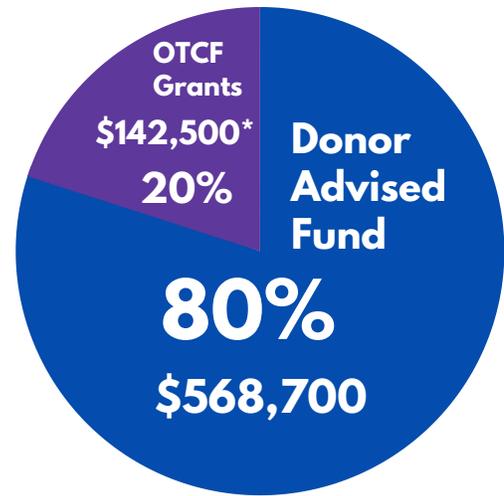


Grants 2021

Amount Awarded to Nonprofits 2021
Total: \$105,060

Grants by Fund Type

Total Grants: \$711,200



*Amount Paid in 2021

OTCF New Funds

- Hoffman Memorial Scholarship Fund
- George and Barb Schlothauer Fund
- Western Trails Scenic & Historic Byways



Oregon Trail Community Foundation proudly presents:

2022 Ag Recognition & Awards Banquet:

Saturday, March 5, 2022
 Location: Weborg 21 Centre
 Time: 5:30 Cocktails 6:30 Dinner

Ticket Value: \$150
 Reverse Raffle
 Grand Prize: \$10,000



Oregon Trail Community Foundation

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www.otcf.org

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