



Board Members with grant recipient Ruth Meints, Founder of the local Violin Sprouts Program



Grant Awarded for New Playground Equipment at Mitchell Elementary

Super Sleuth Vet Techs discover a local gem at the OTCF "Treasure Your Community" Treasure Hunt



OTCF Grant Awarded to The 2018 Old West Balloon Fest



Introducing the WYOBRASKA GIVES at Kids Night Out - Downtown Scottsbluff



# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Scottsbluff High School students brainstorm ways to bring more KINDNESS & COMPASSION into their school as part of the Rachel's Challenge



# MEMBERS

## Hiram Scott -

### \$5,000 & Above:

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(Wills Chiropractic)

# MANAGED FUNDS

18th Street Plaza Project  
23 Club Baseball  
Agri-Business Scholarship  
Alma Wing Scholastic Scholarship  
Bayard Public Schools Support  
Bone Marrow Donor Fund  
Bronson Scholarship Fund  
Centennial Park Maintenance  
Chimney Rock Fund  
Class of '66 Memorial Sch Fund  
Common Grounds Dog Park  
Community Ever Green House  
CSI Scholarship Fund

CSPM Scholarship Fund  
Dill Scholarship Fund  
Don & Dian Roth Fund  
Downtown Scottsbluff Assoc.  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
Fliesbach McAlister Scholarship  
Fliesbach Scholarship  
Floyd's Truck Center Inc./Brian Greif Memorial Scholarship  
Friends of Alzheimers-Dementia  
Friends of Flight  
Laurie Haugen Ed Scholarship  
Lied Scottsbluff Library

Life Change Connection  
Heartland Express Fund  
Hemingford Community Foundation  
Hiner Foundation Fund  
Hispanic Advisory Scholarship  
Human Trafficing Symposium  
Iraq-Afghanistan Memorial Fund  
James Family Trust  
Japanese Hall Project / Legacy of the Plains  
Lemons Scholarship Fund  
Lovercheck Scholarship Fund  
Martin Family Charitable Fund

Massey Charitable Fund  
Mary Oba Charitable Fund  
Monument Prevention Coalition  
Muehlberger Scholarship Fund  
North Platte NRD Greenhouse  
Old West Balloon Fest  
Panhandle Drug Free Scholarship  
Panhandle Equality  
Platte River Basin Environments  
Playtime Matters  
Pre-Engineering Scholarship  
Rachel's Challenge/OTCF

Reinhardt Family Fund  
Riverside Discovery Center  
Riverside Soccer Association  
Robert & Russell Kelley Fund  
Scottsbluff Celtic Gathering  
Seacrest  
Selzer Family Charitable Fund  
Splash Foundation  
West Nebraska Arts Center  
Wildcat Hills Nature Center  
Wildcat Hills Paleontology

37rjh1

## 2018 Executive Board of Directors



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Hiner Foundation



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Platte Valley Bank



**Cricket Simmons**



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Executive Director



**Becky Horne**  
Membership & Fund Coordinator



**Jenni Swanson**  
Financial Administrator

# BOARD





## OTCF 2018/19 Scholarship Recipients

### AGRI-BUSINESS

Gilberto Rodriguez (Minatare), \$2,000  
Tyler Aschenbrenner (Scottsbluff) \$1,000  
Ethan Aschenbrenner (Scottsbluff) \$1,000

### ATKINS BEQUEST

Marriah Jones (Scottsbluff) \$1,000  
Sam McCaslin (Scottsbluff) \$750  
Bailey Branson (Mitchell) \$750  
Anna Yanke (Scottsbluff) \$750

### DOROTHY BRONSON SCHOLARSHIP

Daede Ott (Gering), \$1,000  
Megan Crockett, Mykelti Harris and  
Sidney Harris (Torrington) \$1,500

### CSI SCHOLARSHIP

Taylor York (Scottsbluff) \$6,000  
Marriah Jones (Scottsbluff) \$6,000  
Devaney Halley (Scottsbluff) \$2,000

### CSPM SCHOLARSHIP

Nellie Kirk (Gering), \$6,000  
Eric Crane (Gering), \$6,000  
Kenneth Witcofski (Gering), \$2,000

### DILL SCHOLARSHIP

Destiny Lerma (Gering) \$1,000

### FLIESBACH / MCALISTER SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Gingerich (Potter), \$1,000

Jane & Chet Fliesbach Scholarship  
Baylee Bewley (Scottsbluff), \$1,000  
Jaydin Shropshire (Scottsbluff), \$1,000  
Troy Stambaugh (Scottsbluff), \$1,000  
Laurie Haugen Educational Scholarship  
Stacea Pauli (Scottsbluff)/ UNL, \$1,500

### HISPANIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP

Jordan Rodriguez, \$400  
Alejandra Torres (Scottsbluff), \$400  
Sylvia Lopez (Scottsbluff), \$400

### HISPANIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIP (CONT)

Elijah Salinas (Scottsbluff), \$400  
Sierra Betancur (Scottsbluff), \$400  
Luis Cordova (Scottsbluff), \$400  
Vincent Quijas (Scottsbluff), \$400  
Juan Torres (Scottsbluff) \$400  
Lawrence Lemons Scholarship  
Juan Torres (Scottsbluff) \$500

### LAWRENCE & PAULINE LEMONS SCHOLARSHIP

Dylan Schumacher (Mitchell), \$4,000  
Natalie Saenz (Scottsbluff), \$2,000  
William Howell (Morrill) \$2,000

### MARGARET LOVERCHECK SCHOLARSHIP

Paige Peterson (Gering), \$4,000

### CLARA E. MUEHLBERGER SCHOLARSHIP

Juan Torres (Scottsbluff), \$4,000  
Nathan Fancher (Alliance), \$4,000  
Spencer Didier (Crawford), \$2,000  
Brittany Newkirk (Bridgeport), \$2,000  
Elea McKnight (Sidney), \$2,000  
Trevor Benavides (Bridgeport) \$1,000  
Sylvia Lopez (Scottsbluff), \$1,000  
Ashley Maschmeier (Gering), \$1,000  
Paige Cross (Harrisburg), \$1,000  
Madison Haun (Torrington), \$2,000  
Cierra Weatherfield (Gering), \$1,000  
Madilyn Barraza (Gering), \$1,000

### PANHANDLE DRUG-FREE YOUTH

Dana Dunbar (Chadron), \$500

### PRE-ENGINEERING

Brandon Ramos (Scottsbluff), \$2,000

### DON & DIAN ROTH SCHOLARSHIP

Jaelynn Muhr (Mitchell) \$1,000  
Victoria Schwartz (Gering) \$1,000

To find out more about scholarship offerings, or to apply for the 2019/2020 Academic year, please visit us at [otcf.org/scholarships](http://otcf.org/scholarships).



The Oregon Trail Community Foundation is proud to announce the success of the first official 24-hour giving day in the Panhandle: **The WyoBraska GIVES**. We predicted that this community would come together to surprise us all, but even now, we are simply overwhelmed by just how much!

The WyoBraska GIVES brought together hundreds of people wanting to make a difference in our community, with 1,638 donations ranging from \$10 and up. In our first annual day of giving, we raised over \$477,865 for 106 nonprofits in our WyoBraska region!

All nonprofits were asked to promote their cause/ mission on their own Facebook page and other social media platforms. A few of the nonprofits really capitalized on this and won a few prizes (cash!) for their cause.

*"We sure had fun promoting WyoBraska Gives on the Midwest Theater's Facebook page, and we heard that our followers got a kick out of it, too! The incentive prizes made for some exciting moments, especially in the last hours of the give," said Katie Bradshaw, Development Director for the Friends of the Midwest Theater.*

This first giving day started early, and ended late, with a few radio remotes and "happy hour" in between. We had a lot of fun recapping the day at Flyover Brewing Company with friends, family,



## WyoBraska GIVES Exceeds Innaugural Year Expectations

board members and participating nonprofits. It was inspiring and heartwarming to watch the "ticker" on the WyoBraska-gives.org page go up with every donation (see photo above!).

*"United Way of Western Nebraska would like to thank the many, very generous sponsors of the 2018 WyoBraska Gives Day of Giving event! United Way appreciated being a Premier Partner of this event and getting the opportunity to participate as part of their annual fundraising campaign. This event allowed so many non-profits another way of promoting awareness of their programs, as well as the opportunity to capture donors, dollars and volunteers they might not have been able to connect with otherwise. All very valuable resources to non-profits working hard to continue to provide needed services that make a difference for so many families in our communities. Thank you to ALL who made this wonderful opportunity available to so many!"*

*Steph Black, Executive Director  
United Way of Western Nebraska*

There were a few very large donations which amplified the day's excitement, and yet the \$10 donations were what set this day apart for most: inspiring philanthropy to all age and income levels. It is truly astounding what we can accomplish together as one community.

We are thrilled with this first day of Giving, and are so thankful to all 1,638 people who gave, to all 106 nonprofits who participated, and to all of our sponsors who supported this effort and believed in the idea enough to support it from the beginning. A special thank you to the Holliday Family of Companies for

their title sponsorship and amazing support.

Thank you to Becky Horne for bringing this idea to OTCF and giving 120% of her efforts into making this event such a tremendous success. We can't wait to do it again in 2019!



## OTCF Bring's Rachel's Challenge to Area Schools



Rachel Joy Scott believed in the power of kindness.

In an essay she wrote before her murder, Scott said, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

Although her life was cut tragically short during the deadly massacre at Columbine High School in 1999, Scott's vision of a kinder world was shared with ten local middle school and high school students recently through Rachel's Challenge, an organization that aims to bring positive change to young people by quelling school violence and bullying. The program also focuses on Rachel's life, not her death, and her mission to look for the best in people, dream big and choose positive influences.

In the months following the assemblies, both Scottsbluff and Gering high schools have formed a FOR Club (Friends of Rachel) that has been instrumental in creating new ways for student to share kindness and compassion with each other. Some of these ways have been simple to implement, like High-Five-Fridays, which requires participation and positivity as students passing each other in the hallways. Others are a bit more involved, like the "G Boutique" at Gering Junior High, and the Rachel's Closet at SHS, where students can donate gently used clothing to a school "store" where students in need can find something in an anonymous, judge-free environment.

We believe the program was successful in helping kids understand how their actions affect the people around them. We are hoping to bring this same program to other schools in the Panhandle in the future. If

you would like to donate or get involved in the Rachel's Challenge, please call us at OTCF: 635-3393.



*Gering Junior High's Friends of Rachel Club has opened up the G BOUTIQUE, which is a clothing "boutique" within the school, open to anyone who is in need of clothing, back packs, etc. Clothing is donated from students, for students.*

# 8

Middle School and High Schools participated in RACHEL'S CHALLENGE, aimed at promoting kindness and compassion within each school. These schools included Bayard, Bridgeport, Minatare, Mitchell, Scottsbluff and Gering

# \$89,450

in Scholarships awarded to students attending one of 33 different trade schools, community colleges, universities and state colleges in 6 different states

# 65

Scholarships Awarded to WyoBraska Youth pursuing careers in the Arts, Education, Engineering, Agriculture, Healthcare and More. Learn more at [otcf.org/scholarships](http://otcf.org/scholarships)

**Oregon Trail  
Community Foundation**

PO Box 1344  
Scottsbluff, NE  
308.635.3393  
**OTCF.ORG**

# \$447,500

Raised in 24 hours during the WyoBraska GIVES on November 13, 2018

# 17

## Community Grants Awarded . . .

Rachel's Challenge •  
Regional West Foundation •  
The Carpenter Center •  
Playtime Matters • City of  
Kimball • Haven on the Rock  
• Midwest Theater • Scotts  
Bluff County Volunteer Center  
• Violin Sprouts • Old West  
Balloon Fest • North Platte  
NRD • Friends of the Midwest  
Theater • Gering Prep  
Baseball • City of Gering •  
Minatare Public Schools •  
Nebraska Bicycling Alliance

# 106

Area Nonprofits Registered for the FIRST WyoBraska GIVES

# 6

New OTCF Funds in 2018!

Including:

- The Japanese Hall Project / Legacy of the Plains Museum
- Playtime Matters / Mitchell Elementary School
- Floyd's Truck Co. Inc. / Brian Greif Memorial Scholarship
- Rachel's Challenge/ Kindness Matters
- Human Trafficking Symposium
- Community Ever Green House

# 1638

donations made to nonprofits during the WyoBraska GIVES - from \$10.00 to \$147,500! Every single donation so valued and appreciated by all participating nonprofits who work every day to make our Valley great

**Thank you to the following sponsors for contributing to the printing of this annual report:**

