



Hamilton Community Foundation

Impact Report

402.694.3200
PO Box 283, 1108 L St.
Aurora, NE 68818
www.hcfne.org

Year In Review

Dear Friends,

We are honored to present the 2023 Annual Report of the Hamilton Community Foundation. This past year has been a remarkable journey filled with opportunity, growth, and a steadfast commitment to our mission of igniting philanthropy within our community.

As the Board President and Executive Director, we have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that collective efforts can achieve. Despite the many needs in our community, our donors continue to show solidarity and an unwavering spirit of generosity.

Highlights of the Year:

- **Community Grants:** We distributed almost \$1.1M in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students that are making a significant difference in areas such as education, health, and social services. These grants have enabled essential programs to thrive and address critical needs within our community.
- **New Initiatives:** This year marked the launch of several innovative initiatives, including the launch of the Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Program. This program empowers high school juniors and seniors to become leaders in their community by engaging in hands-on learning about philanthropy, endowments and investments. The students also learned about local needs and will award \$10,000 in grants.
- **New Legacies:** We welcomed 15 new funds this year, expanding the philanthropic footprint of the Foundation. The generosity of our donors is the cornerstone of our ability to support transformative programs and projects.

Our accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your trust and investment in our mission have enabled us to respond swiftly to emerging needs and support long-term projects that build a brighter future for all.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to fostering a vibrant, thriving community. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and are confident that, with your continued support, we can achieve even greater heights.

Thank you for your trust, generosity, and partnership. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of many and creating a legacy of positive change.

Warm regards,



Brock Wyatt
Board President



Tammy Morris, M.S.
Executive Director



HAMILTON
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Tammy Morris
Executive Director



Lori Thiele
Community Outreach
Coordinator



Laci Fleming
Finance & Program
Coordinator



Jan Ediger
Scholarship Coordinator

Board Team



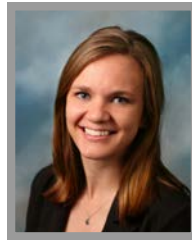
Rob Anderson



Bob Cool



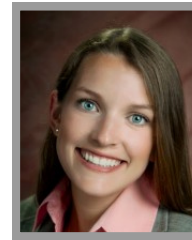
Phil Fendt



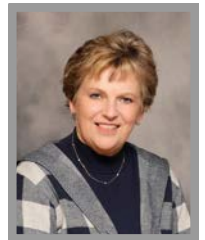
Asia Haack



Zach Hunnicutt



**Emily
Jasnowski**



Sharon Klute



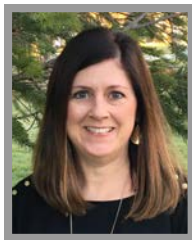
**Stephen
Knudsen**



Jim Kreutz



Doug Krueger



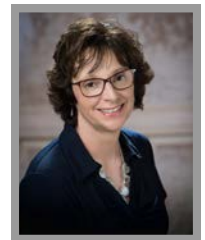
April Mason



Sue Mitchell



Jeff Morris



Barb Olsufka



**Maggie
Preissler**



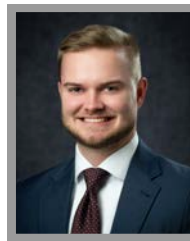
Dane Schafer



Laura Schuster



Chad Svoboda



Trevor Thorell



Susy Tournor



Brock Wyatt

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

176 LEGACY FUNDS

15 NEW FUNDS

\$619K IN CONTRIBUTIONS

\$1.1M IN GRANTS AWARDED

53% OF FUNDS ARE PERMANENTLY ENDOWED

\$22M GRANTED TO DATE



SCHOLARSHIPS

- 112 Scholarship Funds
- 120 Scholarships awarded ranging from \$500 - \$15,000
- Total of \$240,150 awarded
- 180 attendees at the Scholarship Breakfast
- 3,279 scholarships awarded to date

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Year End December 31	2023	2022
Assets	\$19,644,481	\$17,900,083
Liabilities	\$250,929	\$402,474
Net Assets	\$19,393,552	\$17,497,609
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$19,644,481	\$17,900,083

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activity

Year End December 31	2023	2022
Revenue		
Investment Revenue/Loss	\$2,721,796	-\$2,831,960
Contributions	\$618,839	\$925,337
Total Revenue	\$3,340,634	-\$1,906,622
Expenses		
Administrative Expenses	\$220,429	\$192,102
Program, Grants & Scholarships	\$1,125,600	\$1,659,308
Investment Fees	\$98,663	\$88,014
Total Expenses	\$1,444,691	\$1,939,424
Change in Net Assets	\$1,895,944	-\$3,846,047

2nd Annual **SCHOLARSHIP** Breakfast



Giltner Community Foundation Scholarship representative, Daryl Hunnicutt, with recipients Addison Wilson and Austin Holtzen.



Keith and Norma F. Heuermann Foundation Trustee Scott Heuermann with recipient Aleah Vinkenberg.



Tanner Griffith, former Alfred Nelson Scholarship recipient, shares remarks with this year's recipients.



Rich Schaffert with Shayna Klute, recipient of the Stella Schaffert Memorial Scholarship.



Pat Phillips, Aurora Alumni Association representative, with 2023 recipient, Wyatt James.



Brandon Grosshans and Nick Grosshans with Connor Smith, recipient of the Gaylene Grosshans Memorial Scholarship,

WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY

New programs
launched in
2023.



Front row: Connie Cranston, Barb Bonifas, Virginia Koepeke, Myra Higgins, Dawn Shaw, Deb Nelson, Roberta Cool, April Mason
Back row: Laura Reeson, Jaime Kreutz, Tammy Morris, Lori Thiele, Maggie Preissler, Juanita Regier, Angie Coufal, Melanie Klute, Jill DeMers, Tonya Papineau

The Women in Philanthropy (WIP) initiative of the Hamilton Community Foundation, established in November 2022, unites women in Hamilton County to promote and advance philanthropy, awarding grants that help our community thrive.

Through collective efforts, WIP member dues and matching funds from HCF allocated \$8,000 to the Grant Committee. The awarded grants include \$2,000 to Hamilton Recreation for a popcorn popper at the 12th Street Cinema, \$2,000 to the Village of Hampton for Christmas lights along Hwy 34, \$3,000 to Opportune Acres for a special swimmers' program, and a \$1,000 scholarship for a female high school graduate in 2024.

The Education Committee mentored the inaugural junior cohort of the Youth Engaged in Philanthropy Program, focusing on the art, science, and business of philanthropy through monthly sessions from August to April.

The Membership Committee organized social and networking events, led new member recruitment, and hosted quarterly speakers or activities to enhance members' knowledge of philanthropy, grantmaking, and community needs.



YOUTH ENGAGED IN PHILANTHROPY

The Youth Engaged in Philanthropy (YEP) Program aligns with HCF's mission to foster philanthropy, aiming to cultivate the next generation of philanthropic leaders through a specialized two-year program for high school juniors and seniors.

The YEP program empowers students to grasp the intricacies of community philanthropy and engage in significant decisions regarding grants that benefit community well-being. HCF allocated \$10,000 to the YEP Program to distribute to local organizations next spring.



Inaugural YEP Students and Mentors

Front row, left to right: Roberta Cool, Maggie Preissler, Jasmine Hansen, Macy Miller, Morgan Calkins, Piper Oswald, Keelan Phillips, April Mason, Tonya Papineau. Back row, left to right: Angie Coufal, Kash Majerus, Bryce Joseph, Jake Cattau, Parker Smith, Emma Ellis-Sack, Kennedy Kleinschmidt, Lori Thiele. Not pictured: Kaylee Jensen

Junior Curriculum

- The art, science, and business of charitable giving
- Endowments and investments
- Grantmaking, nonprofit budgets and conflict of interest
- Site visits and consensus building
- Grant review and recommendations
- Social enterprise and volunteer service



Senior Year Curriculum

- Art, science, and business of fundraising
- Donor development and fundraising strategies
- Developing case statements and contribution levels
- Public relations and generational giving
- Socio-demographics and charitable giving characteristics
- Social entrepreneurship, investment capital and social challenges

GRANTS IN ACTION

Grantmaking is more than financial support; it's a catalyst for positive change within our community. Through the generosity of our donors, whose gifts fuel our grantmaking efforts, we invest in initiatives that address critical needs and empower local organizations. These grants foster innovation, collaboration, and sustainable growth, reflecting our commitment to building a stronger, more resilient community where everyone can thrive.



Each year, HCF hosts entertainment for family night. The String Beans are a favorite among the kids!



The new Youth Practice Green at Poco Creek provides a dedicated space for all young enthusiasts to practice, fostering skill development in youth of all ages.



In addition to meeting critical housing needs, grants to the Aurora Housing Development Corporation have enhanced our community's capacity to attract new residents and support local businesses.



HCF board members Jim Kreutz and Bob Cool collaborated with artist, Karen Neppl to install new wings on the Groove Salon building in Giltner.



Penny Evans, from the Phillips Community Foundation, commemorates the new wings installed by HCF, which complement the annual Phillips 4th of July Celebration.



Led by Harry Eckerson, the new Merwyn and Betty Davison Disc Golf Fitness Trail at Streeter Park is a wonderful addition to the community.



Grants from the Carl Chader and Harlan and Emma Jane Peterson Funds have helped make many improvements to the Hordville Events Center.



The new mural, painted by artists Brianna and Bristol Lewis, created a vibrant new landmark for the community funded by HCF and local donors. Special thanks to Hamilton Telecommunications for generously providing their building as the canvas for this remarkable project.

GRANTEES

American Legion - Post 141
American Legion Lester S. Harter Post #42
American Red Cross of Central & Western Nebraska
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Aurora Child Care, Inc.
Aurora Housing Development Corporation
Aurora Humane Society
Aurora Public Schools
Aurora Softball Association
Aurora United Methodist Church
Aurora Volunteer Fire Department
Banisters Leadership Academy
Bremer Community Center
City of Aurora
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Disabled Veterans National Foundation, Inc.
Edgerton Education Foundation
Farmers' Valley Cemetery
Giltner Area Development Corporation
Giltner Hornets Booster Club
Giltner Public School Foundation
Haley Sigler
Hamilton County Agricultural Society
Hamilton County Ambulance
Hamilton County Backpack Program
Hamilton County Food Pantry
Hamilton County Historical Society
Hamilton County Senior Center
Hamilton County Youth Center
Hamilton Recreation Inc.
Hampton High School Post Prom Committee 2023
Hordville Lions Club
International Fellowship of Christians & Jews
Knights of Columbus Charities
Kronborg Cemetery Association
Marquette Rural Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department
Memorial Foundation
Merrymakers Association
Mt. Zion Cemetery
Nebraska FFA Alumni
Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation
Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild
Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
Opportune Acres
Patriotic Productions
Phillips Cemetery Association
Phillips Community Foundation, Inc.
Platte PEER Group
Prairie Plains Resource Institute
Richland Cemetery
Ronald McDonald House
St Joseph's Indian School
St. Joseph Catholic Church of Giltner
St. Jude Children's Hospital
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Stockham Cemetery
Students for Life of America
TeamMates of Aurora
The Crossing at Lexington
The Heritage Foundation
The Leadership Center
The Plainsman Museum
Tunnel to Towers Foundation
University of Nebraska Foundation
Village of Hampton
Yankton Catholic Community Foundation

2023 Eloie Award

Since 2011, the Hamilton Community Foundation has presented an Aurora Public Schools staff member with the William and Delight Eloie Award for Inspirational Academic Leadership.

Haley Sigler, the 2023 recipient, was honored for her dedication to providing research-based, developmentally appropriate curricula for students, and for her close collaboration with parents and colleagues.

With Aurora Public Schools since 2010, Sigler is a Title I Teacher at the Elementary School. She coordinates summer reading camps, works on Title Reading Audits, and is a member of the team that reviews academic and behavior plans.



HAILEY SIGLER
2023 ELOIE AWARD RECIPIENT



Eloie Award recipients reunite with Howard at the Foundation office.



Howard Eloie, son of William and Delight, established this award in appreciation for the support provided to his mother and family by Aurora Public Schools staff while their father was ill. Howard passed away in October, but has left an indelible mark on the community and his generous spirit continues to inspire us.

2023 DONORS

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Aurora Chamber of Commerce
Aurora Cooperative
Aurora Education Association
Aurora Mall
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Lucas Grossnicklaus
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Steve and Marilyn Gustafson
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Delora Hahn
Hamilton County Corngrowers Association
Hamilton County Visitors Committee
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Francis McDonald
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Memorial Foundation
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Benjamin Meyer
Robert Meyer
Curt and Mary Mickey
Mid-Nebraska Disposal, Inc.
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John and Patricia Miller
Katie Mitchell
Kurt and Sue Mitchell
Morris Patent Law, P.C., L.L.O.
Jeff and Robin Morris
Jim and Tammy Morris
Brian and Alison Morrow
Mindy Moyer
Wendy Mues-Bonge
Jane Nelsen

2023 DONORS CONTINUED

Alan, Sandy, Linda, and Russ Nelson
John and Deb Nelson
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Cassidy and Brooke Odean
Cory and Tracy Ohlson
Beverly Olsen
Betty L. Olson
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Phillips Community Foundation, Inc.
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ReeAnn Regier
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Steven and Dorothy Rogers
Madelene Rose
Dr. Linda Ross-Happy

Valta Ross Estate
Lois Saddler
Martha Salmon
Brent and Robin Sanderson
Dane and Jenny Schafer
Buck and Kim Schaffert
Richard Schaffert
Richard & Janet Schanou
Mary Schneider
Raymond and Diana Schneider
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Wortman Family Charitable Trust
Brock and Jenny Wyatt
Kristin Yockey

BENEFACTORS

We are honored to recognize our “Benefactor” level donors who have contributed \$25,000 or more in 2023. These donors have demonstrated extraordinary support for vital programs, initiatives, and emerging needs in the community.

Frank M. and Alice M. Farr Trust

B. Keith and Norma F. Heuermann Foundation

FRIENDS

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our “Friend” level donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more in 2023. Their commitment to philanthropy plays a crucial role in advancing the mission of the Foundation and makes a significant impact in the community.

Aurora Cooperative

Trudy Bredthauer

Bob and Roberta Cool

Giltner Alumni and Community Foundation

B. Keith and Norma F. Heuermann Foundation

Keystone Lodge No. 62

Myrl S. and Bessie Evans Mather Foundation

Bill Schuster

Dr. James and Mabel Woodard Charitable Trust

Wortman Family Charitable Trust

BOOK OF MEMORY

The Book of Memory offers a meaningful way for donors to honor the memory of a departed relative or friend through a legacy contribution. The names of these loved ones are permanently recorded in the Book of Memory, on display at the Foundation office. The following individuals were added to the Book of Memory in 2023.

1961 - Michael Furse - 2023
1924 - Charlotte Baasch - 2023
1931 - Florence Stevenson - 2023
1945 - Helen Davenport - 2023
1943 - Grant Saddler - 2023
1954 - Dan Willis - 2023
1929 - Harley Fassnacht - 2023
1932 - Richard C. Gustafson Sr. - 2023
1942 - William 'Bill' Holliday - 2023
1924 - Norma Jeanne Robertshaw - 2023
1933 - Robert 'Bob' Proctor - 2023
1930 - Loveda 'Vada' Proctor - 2023
1937 - Bonita 'Bonnie' Wendt - 2023
1936 - Carol Thomas - 2023
1933 - Joan Gowen - 2023
1961 - Jana Kay VanHousen - 2023
1935 - Deryl Arnold - 2023
1940 - Roger Happold - 2023
1946 - Patricia Eberly - 2023
1931 - Johnny Goertzen - 2023
1930 - Valta Ross - 2023
1956 - Joyce Nielsen - 2023
1950 - Barbara J. (Otto) Meyer - 2023
1936 - Charles "Chuck" Haase - 2023
1961 - Richard Arnold - 2023
1933 - Ken Killion - 2023
1930 - Joy Jacobsen - 2023
1945 - Evelyn May - 2023
1956 - Luke Jacobsen - 2023
1929 - J.C. Cranfill - 2023
1927 - Donald Schuster - 2023
1937 - Gladys Huebner - 2023
1946 - Jean Schuster - 2023
1923 - Lester Williamsen - 2023
1948 - Curtis Carlson - 2023
1940 - Glade Snoberger - 2023
1945 - Dwight Humphrey - 2023
1946 - Robert Sands - 2023
1965 - Denny Danielson - 2023



Valta Ross cherished his family and established multiple funds at HCF in their memory, including the Blanche Ross Charitable Fund in 1990 in honor of his mother, the Cindy Ross Scholarship Fund in 2011 in memory of his wife, and the Kelly Ross Scholarship Fund in memory of his son.

Valta Ross grew up in Stockham, moved to Aurora his junior year of high school where he lived for the remainder of his life. He served as the Veterans Service Officer for Hamilton County for 30 years and operated numerous businesses in Aurora over five decades.

Valta played baritone in the Hamilton County Band from 1945-2023 (78 years), served his community as an Aurora City Council member from 1966-1968, and was a past President of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. He had many hobbies and was rarely seen around town without one of his beloved pups.

Valta led an exemplary life, quietly leaving a lasting impression of love, kindness, loyalty, honor, hard work, humor, faith, and family for all who had the privilege of knowing him.

LEGACY SOCIETY

We gratefully acknowledge the following Legacy Society members who have included the Hamilton Community Foundation in their estate plans. The foresight and generosity of these donors will have a lasting impact, enriching our community for generations to come

Albert Ackerman
Nelda Akerson
Ward Andrews
Elmer Barrick
Agdie J. Bengtson
Ellen J. Benson
Eric Berggren
Donald & Ingeborg Beyer
Evelyn Bish
William Bobst
Bertha Bremer
*Thomas Budnick
Eva J. Bute
Florence C. Bute
*Bonnie Campbell
Carl Y. Chader
*Robert and Roberta Cool
LouAnn DeBoer
Alice Eberhard
Julie Eriksen
Frank M. and Alice M. Farr
Esther W. Freeman
*Butch and Nancy Furse
Robert K. Gerloff
Victor C. Gustafson
Richard A. Hansen
Eva E. Haworth
John E. Haworth
Madge Haymart
Henry J. Herbst

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Wesley C. Huenefelt
Jean L. Jemison
Marie Johnson
*Jim & Virginia Koepke
Lois Kreutz
Norma J. Kreutz
Mabel Matson
*Jim & Tammy Morris
Myrtle Myers
Alfred P. Nelson
Therese Nelson
Zoe C. Nielsen
Clifford and Gladys Olson
Alta Louise Otto
Harlan and Emma Jane Peterson
Theodore "Ted" Regier
*Dr. Jeffrey D. & Melissa K. Ross
*Murray & Dianne (Waldron) Ross
Valta Ross
*Linda Ross-Happy
Donald L. Schaffert
Wayne and Ethel Marie Shaneyfelt
*Karla Smith
Harold "Hap" Stark
Anne Peterson Tappan
Eunice Troester
Beatrice L. Gorham Wolcott

*Denotes gifts that have not been realized



Leave a Legacy with the Hamilton Community Foundation

Consider making a lasting impact on our community through a planned gift. By including the Hamilton Community Foundation in your estate plans, you can help ensure that future generations benefit from the programs and initiatives that matter most to you.

Types of Planned Gifts

- **Bequests:** Include a gift to HCF in your will or trust.
- **Beneficiary Designations:** Name HCF as a beneficiary of your retirement account, life insurance policy, or financial accounts.
- **Endowed Funds:** Establish a permanent fund in your name or in honor of a loved one to support causes you care about forever.

Benefits of Planned Giving

- **Tax Advantages:** Many planned gifts offer significant tax benefits.
- **Enduring Impact:** Create a legacy that reflects your values and passions.
- **Flexible Options:** Choose a giving option that fits your financial and charitable goals.

How to Get Started

To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please contact Tammy Morris at 402.694.3200 or tmorris@hcfne.org. We can help you explore the best options for leaving a meaningful legacy.

Thank you for considering a planned gift to the Hamilton Community Foundation. Your generosity will make a difference for years to come.

SAVE THE DATE

Please save the date for our Spirit of Philanthropy Banquet.
The event will be held at the Hordville Event Center.

Nov. 7th, 2024

6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Tickets available the end of September

