

Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund Works to Bridge Learning Gap

School students in the Nebraska City community will once again benefit from funding acquired through the efforts of the Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund (NCCFF). The NCCFF is proud to be a part of a nearly \$1.2 million statewide effort to bridge the learning gap in the face of Covid-19. Through a funding opportunity available exclusively to affiliated funds of Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), NCCFF will receive \$17,600 to benefit Nebraska City Public Schools, Better Together and Lourdes Central Catholic Schools. When combined with the required 1:1 local match, that is a \$35,200 grant/match investment in Nebraska City students.

According to Stacie Higgins, Nebraska City Public School Board member, part of this grant money will be used by the Better Together collaborative, which will contract with a mental health care provider to supply care to students and their families in both community schools. "Better Together received Cares Act funding that must be spent down by December 31 for this project," Higgins said. "The Bridging the Learning Gap grant will allow the project to continue through the school year so students can receive continuity of mental health care."

The other part of the grant will be used by Lourdes Central Catholic Schools to purchase software that enhances language arts, math and social emotional learning.

A similar NCF/NCCFF matching-grant this past Spring, called Narrowing the Homework Gap, assisted many local students with acquiring educational materials and classes in their homes for summer reading programs and remote learning opportunities when school resumed in the fall.

Nebraska Community Foundation's Bridging the Learning Gap initiative was capitalized by an anonymous donor and the Alice DeVoe Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation, as well as several NCF donor-advised funds and numerous local donors who have stepped up to help meet the 1:1 local funding match required of the opportunity. In Nebraska City, the matching funds will be raised by the Nebraska City Public Schools Foundation, Better Together and Lourdes Parent-Teacher Organization.

"We are grateful that Nebraska City was approved to receive a second round of funds from the Nebraska Community Foundation to Bridge the Learning Gap," said Doug Friedli, long-time member of the NCCFF Foundation Advisory Council. "As soon as they are matched with local funds, schools will be able to provide even better education to our students. These grants are yet another fulfillment of Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund's mission of 'investing in people'," he concluded.

These grants were approved and allocated by a committee of six volunteer NCF-affiliated fund leaders who have educational expertise, including teachers, administrators and school board members. Importantly, learning gap needs were identified locally by school leadership, as were proposed solutions.

"We are deeply proud of the way the NCF network of affiliated funds came together to meet this need," said Jeff Yost, president and CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation. "We are so grateful to the visionary donors who are supporting this important work and to the local leaders and educators who are rolling up their sleeves to ensure our kids receive the educational experiences they deserve, even in the midst of a global crisis."

Since its founding 20 years ago, the Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund has focused on investing in the people of Nebraska City, which the Foundation considers its most important asset. NCCFF has raised and granted over \$5,500,000 to improve the quality of life for all generations in Nebraska City. This includes supporting youth, providing scholarships for non-traditional students, developing future leaders, assisting families, enabling donors to give back so the community can look forward. New and progressive ideas for growing and improving Nebraska City are always welcome.

The Nebraska Community Foundation unleashes abundant local assets, inspires charitable giving and connects ambitious people to build stronger communities and a Greater Nebraska. Headquartered in Lincoln, the Foundation serves communities, donors and organizations by providing financial management, strategic development, education and training to a statewide network of 1,500 volunteers serving 265 communities. In the last five years, 45,313 contributions have been made to Nebraska Community Foundation and its affiliated funds. Since 1994, Nebraska Community Foundation has reinvested \$393.1 million in Nebraska's people and places. For information, visit NebraskaHometown.org.

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