

## **NCCFF Showcases Investing in Nebraska City at Its Annual Meeting**

A hot topic on a cold November evening was the exciting news from the Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund (NCCFF) about the many investments in the people of Nebraska City that had been made during the past year. Held last week at the Lewis and Clark Visitors' Center, NCCFF supporters gathered to enjoy homemade soup and pie and hear about this hometown non-profit's successes during 2022.

Melissa Turner, Foundation Advisory Committee (FAC) Chair, opened the meeting by applauding NCCFF for investing over \$6.1 million back into the Nebraska City community during the past 22 years, making this a better place for everyone to live. She said in the past year, NCCFF grants have gone out to Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) at the Nebraska City High School, One Book One Community at all the Nebraska City schools and home schoolers, Lourdes Central Catholic School library, the Nebraska City D.A.R.E. program, SECC Workforce Enhancement Scholarships and Non-Traditional Student Scholarships.

Past NCCFF FAC Chair Brad Moyer presented Windmill awards to Carol Crook, Kay and Dr. Dan DeFreece and Kim and Dr. Jesse Dorman. Windmill awards are given to any NCCFF supporters who add a planned gift to their estate that will benefit the Foundation's Unrestricted Endowment. "These Windmills are a symbol of gifts that will continue pumping assets into the Nebraska City community forever," Moyer told the gathering, invoking the image of a windmill on a farm.

A major highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2022 Philanthropist of the Year. This year, the award went to the late Erwin 'Erv' Friesen and his wife Marcia. Marcia accepted the award at the meeting with the support of her daughter Julie Clark and Julie's husband Bob, granddaughter Gracie and great-grandson Zane.

Sally Juilfs, NCCFF Scholarship Chair, announced that two \$2,000 Non-Traditional Scholarships went out to NCHS educator Justin Aaberg and Veterans' Affairs advocate Chad Miller.

Turner recognized Sally Juilfs and Kiel VanderVeen who were retiring after serving nine and eight-year FAC terms, respectively. "Sally and Kiel generously donated their time, talents and treasure for the benefit of the Foundation and the people in this community," Turner said. "We give them our heartfelt thanks for helping NCCFF to 'invest in the people' of Nebraska City."

FAC Vice Chair Jesse Dorman wrapped up the meeting with thoughts on the Nebraska Community Foundation's new program "5 to Thrive". The program's goal is to encourage Nebraska residents to leave 5% of their personal estates to their hometowns by earmarking donations to local nonprofits. "Imagine the impact if just five percent of the coming transfer of wealth between generations were given back to the Nebraska hometowns where it was made and accumulated," Dorman said. "Harnessing just a small percentage of this wealth could be a gamechanger for the future of our Nebraska hometowns."

The Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund is a local, non-profit organization focused on investing in the people of Nebraska City and inspiring a culture of giving by developing knowledge, skills, leadership and the commitment necessary for community engagement. Since its founding in 2000, NCCFF has invested over \$6.1 million in the people of Nebraska City. The Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation. Learn more at [www.NebraskaCityCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.NebraskaCityCommunityFoundation.org) or [www.facebook.com/NCCFF](http://www.facebook.com/NCCFF) .