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**RIVERSTONE**  
BANK



PO BOX 1344, SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363-1344

**308.635.3393** **WWW.OTCF.ORG**



**Oregon Trail  
Community  
Foundation**

**20  
23**



# ANNUAL REPORT



[www.otcf.org](http://www.otcf.org)



### On the cover:

*Clockwise from top left:*

Spotlight on a few of the OTCF grants that were awarded to community projects:

- “Walk to the Rock” project at Chimney Rock
- Midwest Theater Marquee renovation completion
- Platte River Basin purchase of Carter Canyon







Rick & Tracy Tuggle



Linda Dedic, Patty Kelley and  
Helen Reinhardt



Zac and Cristina Karpf

# '23 Year in Review

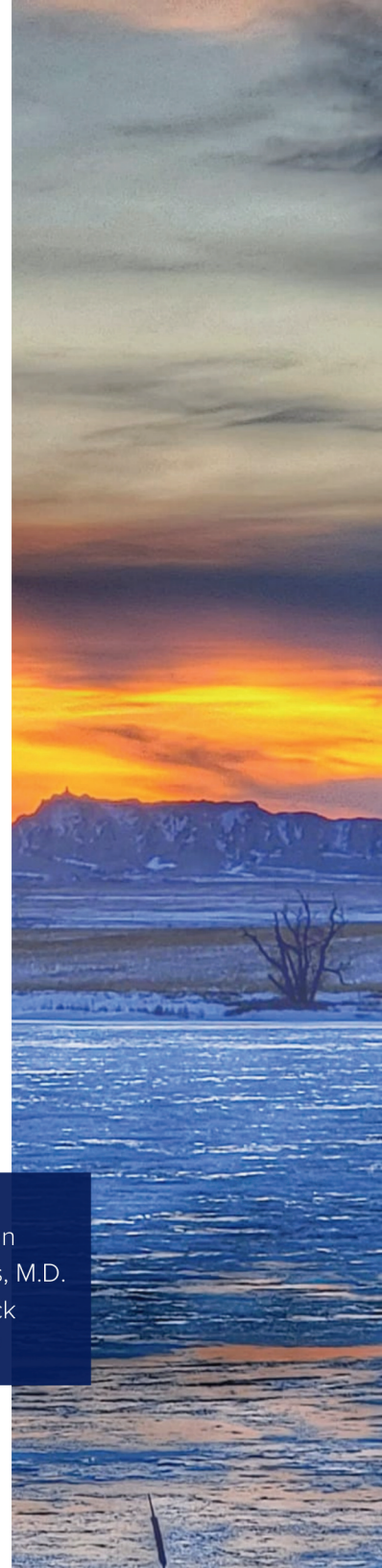
## Our Mission Serves Promotes Responds

*The Oregon Trail Community Foundation serves our community as a catalyst for community projects, promotes the spirit of charitable giving, and responds to community needs as a trusted steward of long-term gift arrangements*

### 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





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## 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



**Bev Overman**  
OTCF Finance



**John Selzer**  
OTCF Investments



**Marilyn Rahmig**  
Midwest Theater Liaison



**Jack Baker**  
Baker & Associates



**Lee Glenn**  
Counting House, LLC



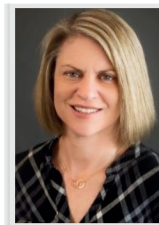
**Travis Hiner**  
Hiner Foundation



**Tom Holyoke**  
Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria,  
Reichert & Rice



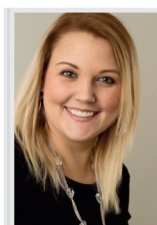
**Jeff Jones**  
Great Gardens Greenhouse  
Torrington, WY



**Jane Kelley**  
Western Nebraska  
Community College



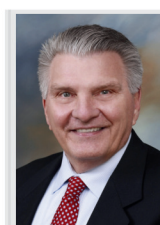
**Hod Kosman**  
Platte Valley Companies



**Krystal Palm**  
Aulick StoreAul



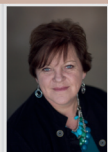
**Jodi Ruzicka**  
Platte Valley Investment  
Center Inc.



**John Stinner**

OREGON TRAIL  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*Staff*



**Cathy McDaniel**  
Executive  
Director



**Tera Willman**  
Financial  
Administrator

# OTCF GRANTS '23



### Foster Care Closet

This grant helped purchase clothing for the Mobile Closet for those in foster care from the Scottsbluff/ Gering area.

**Awarded \$2,500**



### The Goodhand Theater

OTCF helped the Historic Goodhand Theater (Kimball) purchase the new red and black leather rocking chairs.

**Awarded \$3,500**



### Chimney Rock "Walk to the Rock" Project

OTCF provided essential funds to complete construction of the hiking trail to the base of Chimney Rock, including bridges and alternate paths.

**Awarded \$25,000**



### Playtime Matters

Installation of green space at the Mitchell Elementary School. This grant was for materials including sod, topsoil, concrete for sidewalks and edging and a sprinkler system.

**Awarded \$10,000**



# '23 OTCF GRANTS



## Hemingford Legion Post #9

This grant was for completion of security and safety enhancements to entrance doors of facility. **Awarded \$2,000**



## Scotts Bluff County Volunteer Center/ Meals on Wheels

This grant was for the purchase of bags to deliver food and essentials for the Meals on Wheels program and Snow Angels program. **Awarded \$2,000**



## Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society

Grant to fix the current fireplace, which is the only heat source in this historic building. **Awarded \$25,000**



## 11 13 Ministries

Purchase of 12,800 sealable containers and commercial, high capacity roasting pans for the "By God's Grace Mobile Meals" program in 2023 **Awarded \$6,700**

## 2024 Elected Board Members

### Three-Year Term 2024-2027

Travis Hiner  
Bev Overman  
Joanne Krieg  
John A. Selzer  
Jeff Jones  
Jane Kelley

## PREVIOUSLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Three-Year Term 2022-2024

Lee Glenn  
Tom Holyoke  
John Stinner  
Rick Tuggle  
Dennis Hadden

### Three-Year Term 2023-2025

Jack Baker  
Hod Kosman  
John Massey  
Krystal Palm  
Marilyn Rahmig  
Jodi Ruzicka  
Jim Reinhardt  
Barb Schlothauer



## OTCF 2023 COMMITTEES

### Governance Committee

Tom Holyoke, Chair  
Jeff Jones  
John Selzer

### Finance / Investment Committee

John Selzer, Chair  
Jack Baker  
Lee Glenn  
John Massey  
Jodi Ruzicka  
Rick Tuggle

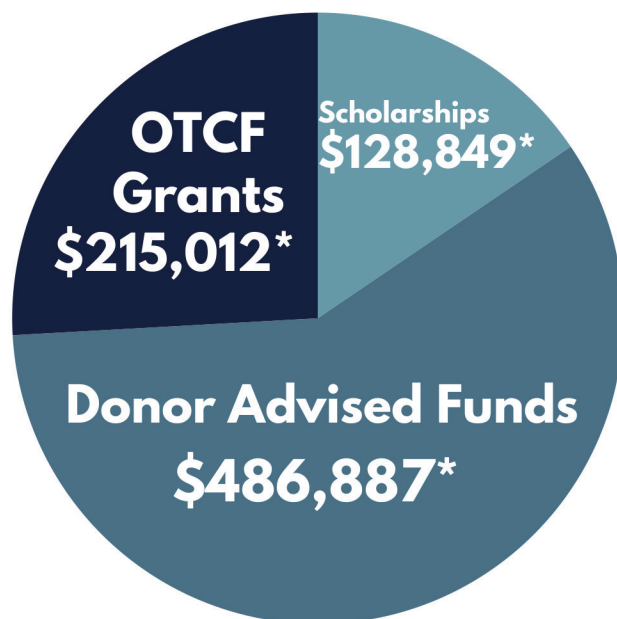
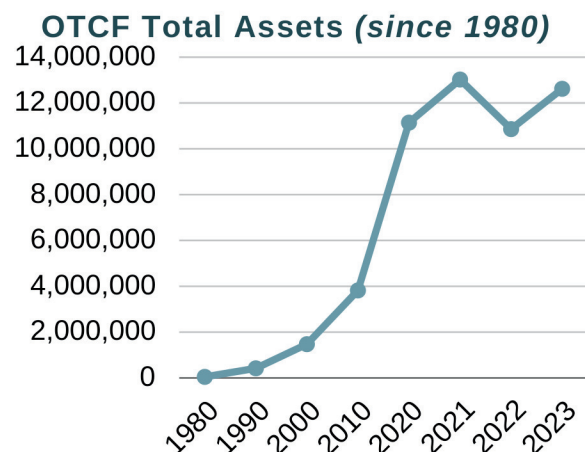
### Scholarship Committee

Joanne Krieg, Chair  
Barb Schlothauer  
Marilyn Rahmig  
Jane Kelley  
Krystal Palm

### Grant Committee

Jim Reinhardt, Chair  
Travis Hiner  
Tom Holyoke  
John Massey  
Bev Overman  
John Selzer  
Krystal Palm  
Rick Tuggle





## Grants 2023

Gifts, Grants & Scholarships in 2023

Amount Pledged to Nonprofits in 2023

**Total: \$101,800**

**Total Grants (OTCF and DAFs): \$701,899**

*\*Amount Paid in 2023  
This includes all grants and scholarships paid that were pledged in year(s) prior*



**Kid's First Preschool/Childcare**  
The funds will be used to expand and resurface existing playground for the Kid's First Preschool. This will allow for a safer and larger environment for the children to play and learn.  
**Awarded \$2,000**



**West Nebraska Arts Center**  
Upgrades in the lighting system in the Main Gallery. This improved the lighting for both gallery and classroom use.  
**Awarded \$3,000**



**Friends of the Midwest Theater**  
OTCF paid the final installment of the grant for the marquee renovation. This was a four year commitment totalling over \$100,000.  
**Awarded \$25,000**



**Platte River Basin Environments**  
OTCF paid the 2nd and final installment of the \$50,000 grant to Platte River Basin for the purchase of the Cox-Kiowa Creek Ranch in the Wildcat Hills.  
**Awarded \$25,000**





## Legacy of the Plains Museum

This grant is to help build a playground in 2024 near the front portion of the museum's campus. to serve as a marker for traveling and local families to stop and visit the museum. **Awarded \$10,000**



## Creative Beet District

This grant was awarded to the Creative Beet Art District to help aid in the process of adding more murals to the Art District and pay for the artist and materials. **Awarded \$1,000**



## The Carpenter Center

This grant was awarded to the Carpenter Center to be used for equipment and scholarships for the new Carpenter Center After School Program. **Awarded \$7,100**

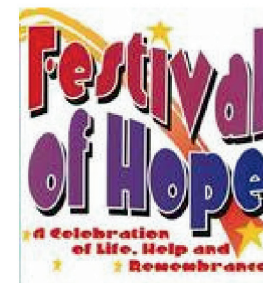


## Community Christian

Grant awarded to upgrade technology for students enrolled in their expanded educational ministry. **Awarded \$1,000**

## OTCF NEW FUNDS IN 2023

- A Hand Up Scholarship
- Festival of Hope
- Playtime Matters / Mitchell Elementary
- Scottsbluff Creative Art District
- Autumn H. Elsen Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Shane Siegfried Memorial Scholarship Fund
- M Joan Cromer Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Austin Mitchell Memorial Fund
- Gering Pickleball Court Project
- Scottsbluff/Gering Sports Council
- Peggy A. Olsen Scholarship Fund



Scan QR code to learn more and **DONATE** to one of our managed nonprofits



# '23 THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

## Hiram Scott \$5,000 & above

Fliesbach Family Foundation  
Hod & Willa Kosman  
Couplamatic Systems  
Fliesbach Foundation / Jane Fliesbach  
John & Rita Stinner  
Kosman Inc  
Jim & Helen Reinhardt  
Paul Reed Construction & Supply, Inc.

## Trailblazer \$2,500 - \$4999

Travis & Sue Hiner  
Platte Valley Bank

## Monument \$1,000 - \$2499

Matt J. Ziegler  
James and Nancy Kerr  
WPCI  
John & Megan Massey  
Debra & Clarence Gealy  
Barb & Dr. George Schlothauer  
Chris & Jane Kelley  
Foote Family Dentistry, Inc.  
Fred and Carol Lockwood  
Julie Fancher  
Owen & Karen Palm  
Terry Schank  
Dr. Vince & Vicki Bjorling  
Dr. Kent & Gayle Lacy

**Thank you! You can't imagine how excited we are to have these bags...we appreciate you guys so much for all that you do.**

*Shanna Halstead, Executive Director  
Scotts Bluff County Volunteer Center  
reflecting on the grant the  
Meals on Wheels program  
received from OTCF for their seniors*

**“**  
*The Oregon Trail Community Foundation is a hub for charitable organizations and a source of grants to improve our communities. OTCF cannot do this without the generous support from our long-term members and donors. Thank you so much for your support over the years. I am so proud of what we have accomplished with your partnership and look forward to another year of improving our communities.*

*Rick Tuggle,  
OTCF Board President*  
**”**

## Platte River \$500-\$499

Albert L. or Teri L. Metcalf  
John A. & Ann Selzer  
Dr. Sam & Reine Mark  
H. Hunter & Tish Kosman  
Bill & Cheryl Trumbull  
Chad & Carlye Johnson  
Joanne & Dr. Jacob Krieg  
Judy Chaloupka  
C.W. Yount Foundation, Inc.  
Chris & Holli Nelson  
Dr Eric & Kristin Wiebe  
Dr. Jud & Sue Martin  
Intralinks, Inc.  
Jeff & Bridget Peck  
First National Bank of Omaha  
Gary & Patty Kelley  
J. Carr & Sarah Trumbull  
Jack Webb  
Nossaman Pettitt Law Firm, L.C.  
Rick & Patti Ediger  
Robert Jr. & Rossell Kelley  
High Plains Beverage  
Christian & Stacy Bach

# NEW OTCF SCHOLARSHIPS '23



### Shane Siegfried Memorial Scholarship

Shane Siegfried's Memorial Scholarship is for Bayard High School Graduates. Shane was a 1990 graduate of Bayard High School. Shane's family and friends have established this scholarship to support students who reflect the generosity and school and community spirit that Shane exemplified.



### M Joan Cromer Memorial Scholarship:

The Joan Cromer Memorial scholarship was established by her family as part of her final wishes. It was her strong desire to provide scholarship opportunities to help underserved youth formerly from the Head Start program pursue a college education. The M Joan Cromer Memorial Scholarship offers one scholarship of \$4,000 annually to a low-income graduating senior who attended Head Start as a child. This scholarship is available to students in Scotts Bluff County.



### The Peggy Olsen Scholarship

The family of Peggy Olsen have established a scholarship in her name to recognize her years of teaching at St. Agnes School and the difference she made to so many students during that time. The scholarship will annually provide funds for tuition at St. Agnes School to be distributed among students who qualify under need guidelines set by the school. Interested applicants must apply at St. Agnes School.

**“**  
*Our scholarship program is designed to benefit students in western Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. We're pleased to offer both academic and vocational scholarships that help regional students pursue their educational interests and hope that, ultimately, they will return to our communities to live and work.*

*Joanne Krieg, OTCF Scholarship Chairperson*  
**”**





## NEW OTCF SCHOLARSHIPS



The Oregon Trail  
Community Foundation is  
pleased to introduce

## 5 NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Available for the 2024-25 school year.

These scholarships have been established to provide educational resources for students that meet specific criteria. Detailed information about each of our scholarships can be found on the Foundation's website at [otcf.org](http://otcf.org).



### Autumn H. Elsen Memorial Scholarship for Education or Fine Arts Majors:

Autumn Hope Elsen was a Gering High School graduate who was pursuing a degree in elementary education at Chadron State College. The Autumn H. Elsen Scholarship is available to high school seniors pursuing a career in Education or Fine Arts. The scholarship is available throughout the Nebraska panhandle. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded annually.



### A Hand Up Scholarship

A Hand Up Scholarship provides two scholarships per year. Qualifying students may be full or part-time students pursuing a two-year, four-year or trade school degree, or any kind of medical or veterinary certification required for employment (CNA, Vet Tech, LPN, Paramedic license, etc.).

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS



### Conestoga

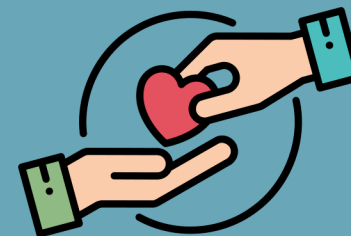
\$250 - \$499

W F or Barbara M Ropp  
Rick & Tracy Tuggle  
Rick & Starr Lehl  
Mark & Bev Overman  
Carlo & Libby Holmes  
Galen & Kathy Larson  
Mike Weimer Memorial Fund  
Monty & Cheryl Reisig  
Patty Gritzfeld  
Ruth & Jim Kozal  
Dan & Julie Marshall  
Maurice Deines  
Tony & Libby Kaufman  
Dr. Don & Meredyth Gentry  
Gering Valley Plumbing & Heating  
Linda Dedic, Home Team Realty  
Jerry & Brenda Darnell  
Dr. Somer & Jeff Pieper  
Patricia Larsen  
Rod & Kathy Schildt  
Sandberg Implement, Inc  
Stephen & Patricia Doll  
Team Auto Center  
Sandy Massey  
Jody & Lucretia Miles  
Jeff Jones  
Thom & LaRita Van Boskirk  
Tom & Carol Holyoke  
Zac & Cristina Karpf  
Lee & Deb Glenn  
Bob & Elaine Pile

### Pioneer

\$50 - \$249

Doug & Melody Leafgreen  
Agromac International, Inc.  
C.A.R.E. Chiropractic  
Charles & Vicki Schaepler  
Steve & Sara Olsen  
Gordon Joachim  
Brent & Cathy McDaniel  
Giovanna G. Kampmeyer  
Karen Anderson



Set up your donation  
to OTCF annually or  
monthly by scanning  
the QR code below.  
It's quick and easy!



“  
Thank you for the \$25,000 Grant for  
the Walk to the Rock. As you know,  
Chimney Rock is such an important  
symbol of our state, providing hope  
& reassurance to westward  
travelers. We can't wait to promote  
this national landmark, and we  
couldn't do it without your help!

Carolyn Hove,  
Nebraska State Historical Society







**\$93,250 in  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Agri-Business Scholarship**

Braydon Binger (Hay Springs)  
Kaden Bohnsack (Gering)

**Atkins Scholarship**

Cierra Schwartzkopf (Scottsbluff)

**Dorothy Bronson Scholarship**

Tilly Fogle

**CSI Scholarship**

Destina Cervantes (Scottsbluff)  
Jackson Allen (Scottsbluff)  
Sarah Griess (Scottsbluff)

**CSPM Scholarship**

Eli Marez (Gering)  
Cassidy Flores (Gering)  
Ariel DeMaranville (Gering)

**Class of '66**

Elijah Lara Johnson (Scottsbluff)

**Dill Scholarship**

Halsey Clark (Scottsbluff)  
Fliesbach / McAlister Scholarship  
Lily Krahulic (Mitchell)



Jackson Allen



Tierra West



Sarah Griess



Braydon Binger



Axi Benish



Ismael Garcia

**Jane & Chet Fliesbach  
Scholarship**

Celeste Arias (Scottsbluff)  
Gisela Felix Morales  
Tierra West (Scottsbluff)  
Jaime Modec (Scottsbluff)

**Floyds Truck Center Inc /  
Brian H. Greif Memorial  
Scholarship**

Vance Meyer (Sidney)  
Jasper Neal (Amherst)

**Hispanic Advisory Committee**

Lluvia Montelongo (SB)  
Jennifer Camargo (Scottsbluff)  
Alyssa Mendoza (Scottsbluff)

**Sharon M. Hoffman Music  
Educators Scholarship**

Ella Ningen (Chappell)

**Lawrence Lemons Scholarship**

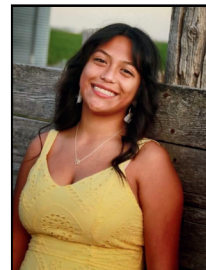
Michael Mickey (Scottsbluff)

**Lawrence & Pauline Lemons**

Natalie Garcia (Gering)  
Maddux Janecek (Gering)



Avery Davies



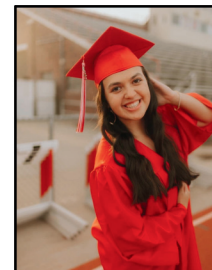
Lluvia Montelongo



Avery Weibert



Maddux Janacek



Alyssa Mendoza



Tamika Eastman

**Lovercheck Scholarship**

Kaitlyn Peterson (Gering)

**Mitchell Community  
Scholarship**

Ismael Garcia (Mitchell)

**Clara E. Muehlberger Scholarship**

Cort Rummel (Gurley)  
Drew Leisy (Bridgeport)  
Axi Benish (Gurley)  
Aubree Branson (Mitchell)  
Taryn Spady (Scottsbluff)  
Ashley Maschmeier (Gering)  
Tamika Eastman (Harrison)  
Avery Davies (Hemingford)  
Halsey Clark (Scottsbluff)  
Kathryn Blankenship (Banner Cty)  
Madison Herbel (Gering)  
Avery Weibert (Bridgeport)

**Panhandle Drug-Free Youth**

Kaden Bohnsack (Gering)

**Don & Dian Roth Scholarship**

Kara Higgins (Lincoln)



Kaitlyn Peterson



Drew Leisy

**\$93,250 in  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

