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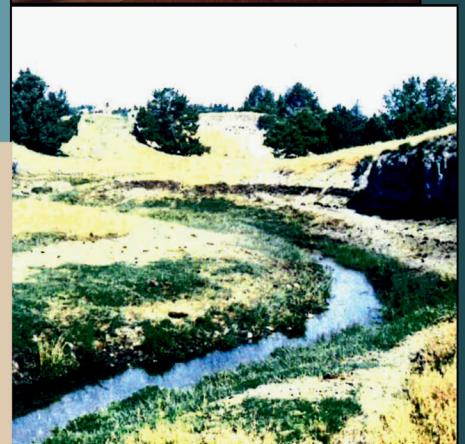


**Oregon Trail
Community
Foundation**

**20
23**



ANNUAL REPORT



PO BOX 1344, SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69363-1344
308.635.3393 WWW.OTCF.ORG

www.otcf.org



Thank you to all who came to our donor appreciation Holiday Party. We hope you know how much we value your partnership and shared vision for our community

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





'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. Rohrck
- 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
Scholarship 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



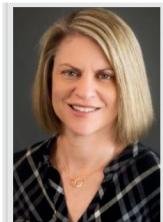
Travis Hiner
Hiner Foundation



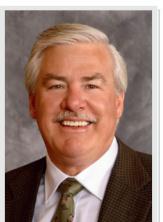
Tom Holyoke
Holyoke, Snyder, Longoria,
Reichert & Rice



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

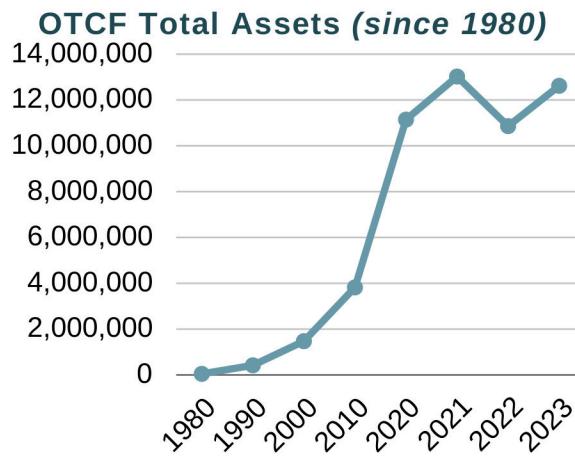
John Selzer,
Chair
Jack Baker
Lee Glenn
John Massey
Jodi Ruzicka
Rick Tuggle

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



**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*

Grants 2023

**Gifts, Grants &
Scholarships
in 2023**

**Amount
Pledged to
Nonprofits in
2023**

Total: \$101,800



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**



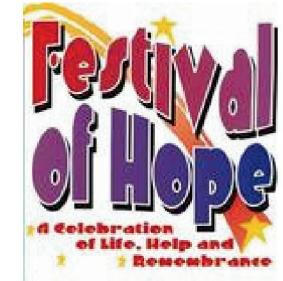
Community Christian

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
ME**



Scan QR code to learn more and **DONATE** to one 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

— “ —
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 Petitt Law Firm, L.C.
Rick & Patti Ediger
Robert Jr. & Rossell Kelley
High Plains Beverage
Christian & Stacy Bach

— “ —
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

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 Memoorial 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 shcolarship 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

'23

'23

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.



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

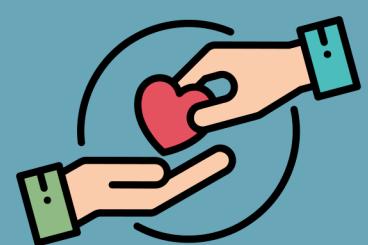
'23

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 & Meredith 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
— ” —



'23

**\$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
Eliyah Lara Johnson (Scottsbluff)

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



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



Tamika Eastman



Avery Weibert



Maddux Janacek



Alyssa Mendoza

**\$93,250 in
SCHOLARSHIPS**

'23

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)



Drew Leisy



Kaitlyn Peterson