

LEXINGTON COMMUNITY

Foundation Forum

March 2011

Volume 13 Issue 1

Together we can make a difference.

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PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Dear Friends:

Since 1982, the Lexington Community Foundation has been connecting people who care with projects that matter to enhance the many lives we touch. Thank you for your continued support in helping your Foundation celebrate another successful year in 2010. Through your generous gifts, the Key Event, and various grants, your Foundation was able to give support to our community with over \$1 million dollars to a variety of projects while, at the same time, continuing to increase the total value of its assets. Also, last year several local organizations established affiliate funds with the LCF. Through the establishment and maintenance of affiliate funds, The Foundation has been able to leverage the resources of those organizations in creating more efficient operations for maximum community impact. Later in this issue are examples of how this has positively influenced our community.

As we reflect on our past accomplishments, and continue to plan for the future, we renew our dedication to fulfilling our mission of improving our community and the lives of people who call it home. It is truly today's preparation that determines tomorrow's achievements. I can assure you that the entire Foundation board and staff is prepared and committed to you, as the "KEY", to our continued success.

We make it easy to support the causes and interests that are important to you and your family. As the LCF enters its 30th year of creating lasting value in our community, consider starting a family fund within the LCF as a way to leave a legacy for generations to come and as a way to direct your gifts to the projects and missions you feel most passionate about. The Foundation accepts contributions from individuals, families, businesses, corporations, and other foundations in support of community initiatives, special projects, and permanent endowment.

As we have witnessed, the power of philanthropy can and does transform a community. I invite you to be a part of our effort to continue to transform ours.

~ Dan Clark, President

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 Amy Biehl-Owens
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Scholarship

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LCF CELEBRATES 10TH KEY EVENT

by Dr. Tom Fagot, LCF Event Committee Chair

Ten years ago, a small group of the Lexington Community Foundation Board of Directors came up with the idea of having an annual auction/dinner fundraiser. Parochial schools across the state have been doing this for years as their one major fundraiser to support private education. Kearney Catholic and Grand Island Central Catholic are two schools who have had a long run of such events. Both event organizers were more than gracious in inviting us to attend their preview nights and hand over volumes of organizational material outlining the process of a successful one night event.

In 2002, we named our event “The Key”. With two raffle items, 42 live auction items, and 78 silent auction items and a sold out crowd we had a very hefty goal of \$60,000. We took in \$73,000.

Key Success! (gross \$ raised)	
2002	\$73,492
2003	\$85,593
2004	\$130,672
2005	\$154,340
2006	\$165,021
2007	\$189,520
2008	\$217,254
2009	\$233,574
2010	\$237,693

Each year we continue to hold the event around the first of May. Our goal is always the same, “a little bit better than last year.” We raffle such things as 4-wheelers, diamond jewelry, cash and stocks. We auction off things like trips, appliances, furniture, family portrait sessions, Husker football tickets and a truck load of cattle feed.

The greatest challenge each year is the acquisitions. Every current and past board member solicits contributions in the form of services, merchandise, trips, and cash from anyone and everyone they are related to or do business with. Our efforts extend far beyond the city limits. We don’t hesitate to point out to vendors, medical specialists, and very large corporations, the significance of Lexington’s economy to their bottom-line.

The space is limited at the Holiday Inn Express. The dining area is packed with 328 settings which are always sold out six months in advance. The most merchandise we can display and get through in one night is five raffles, 60 live, and 250 silent auction items. Things are really crowded that night, but it seems to add to the excitement. Last year, we took in a record \$237,000! The grand total for the first nine years is **\$1,154,769.58**.

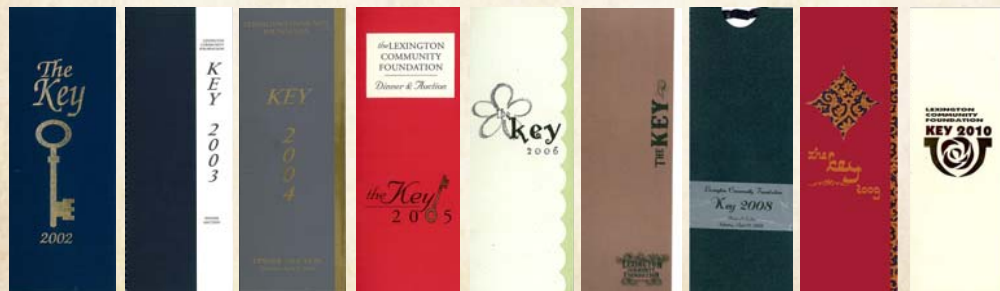
The most remarkable trait that makes our event stand out as one of the most effective fundraisers in the state is our ability to do all of this with only **13% overhead!** The volume of services and merchandise and cash donated certainly has a major impact on this kind of success, but there are two major reasons why our overhead is so low. One, the hard work of so many volunteers. LCF Board members, friends, family, and so many volunteers from the community put in a lot of time leading up to this night starting in January. Secondly, is the Holiday Inn Express. The Wilkinson family of North Platte offers the use of their Lexington facility for five days each year prepares and serves the food and drink at no charge to the Foundation. That, alone, saves several thousand dollars each year.

The night of the Key takes on a life of its own! Everyone comes to raise money for the Foundation projects and to party! Over the years, the Foundation has really gained the community trust in knowing that the money raised this night will all be spent very judiciously and will touch the lives of thousands in the area.

Our tenth event, Key 2011, is scheduled for April 30th.

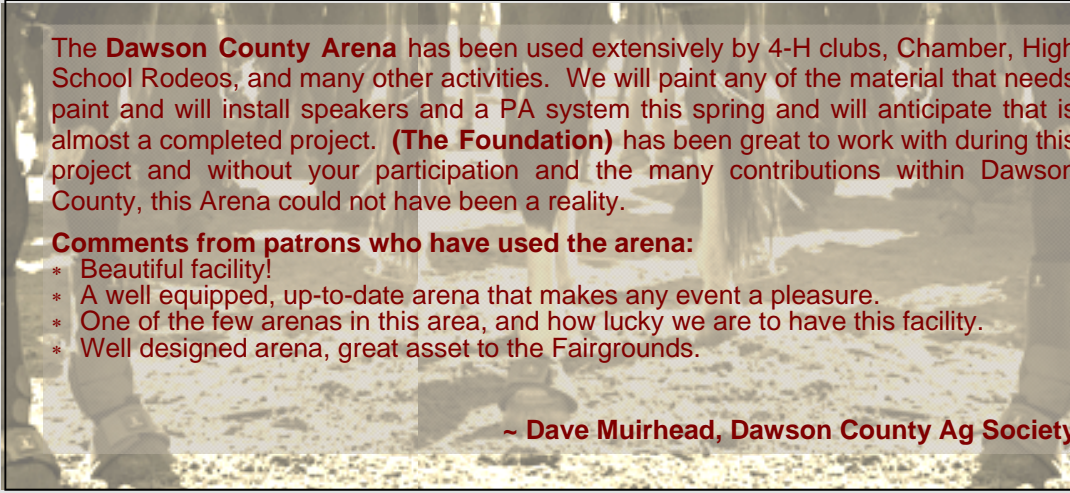


Ten Years of Key Catalog Covers



The **Lexington Community Foundation** not only provides grant support, administration, organizational development support and grant writing and fundraising organizations in this area. The LCF Board of Directors believes that a community foundation is a profit network in a community.

In this segment of the *Foundation Forum*, read about the impact of programs and projects of the organizations that the Lexington Community Foundation has assisted.

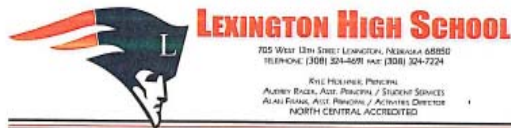


The **Dawson County Arena** has been used extensively by 4-H clubs, Chamber, High School Rodeos, and many other activities. We will paint any of the material that needs paint and will install speakers and a PA system this spring and will anticipate that it is almost a completed project. **(The Foundation)** has been great to work with during this project and without your participation and the many contributions within Dawson County, this Arena could not have been a reality.

Comments from patrons who have used the arena:

- * Beautiful facility!
- * A well equipped, up-to-date arena that makes any event a pleasure.
- * One of the few arenas in this area, and how lucky we are to have this facility.
- * Well designed arena, great asset to the Fairgrounds.

~ Dave Muirhead, Dawson County Ag Society



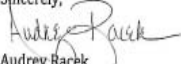
February 9, 2011

Dear Lexington Community Foundation Member:

Need has no age limit. When I was working at Morton Elementary School I saw the needs of so many young children in the district. When I was transferred to Lexington High School I did not realize that these young adults have needs also. Often times, they will ensure that their younger siblings are provided for first. These past couple of weeks as we have faced the extremely cold temperatures many of our students have gone without socks, hats, gloves, and even coats. For some, this is an individual choice, however there are many students who have no option but to go without. For these young adults, I thank you for providing the needed clothing items for those students who so desperately needed them.

The look of relief and the continuous "thank you miss" when they received the item(s) provided by the Lexington Community Foundation was a reward that I wish each and every one of you could have witnessed.

Thanks to all of you for making a difference in the lives of the students in Lexington. You are awesome! Please stop by the high school and visit with our students and see all the potential that each can contribute to this community.

Sincerely,

Audrey Racek
Assistant Principal
Lexington High School

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Library Program Initiative

Since Lexington does not have a Community Arts Series, the Lexington Library Initiative (funded by the **Lexington Community Foundation** and the Lexington Library Memorial Fund) provides cultural programming that is unique to the area. For the past four years the grant parameters have afforded a variety of entertainment for

different ages. Children and children enthusiastically watched Chris Puppert perform while adults enjoyed Carr Family Band. At the core of a program we hear, "When will the program be coming to the library?"

~ Kathy T

Lexington Public



Your gift does make a difference

Affiliate Funds

ort for local programs, but also provides fiscal
 ising assistance to affiliate funds and nonprofit
 ndation exists to help strengthen the entire non-
 projects from the perspective of those within a few



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homsen,
 Director
 Library



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Destination Graduation Initiative

On behalf of the students and staff at Lexington High School, please accept my appreciation and gratitude to the **Lexington Community Foundation** for its commitment to our youth and their educational endeavors. The Lexington Community Foundation Board's unanimous decision to support the **DESTINATION: GRADUATION** initiative for the next four years is extremely gracious. The LCF's support in this effort has firmly established a progressive pledge to the educational focus and future success of the youth in our great community. The LCF Board of Directors have provided a special opportunity for our students and staff that should provide solid support in our efforts to improve graduation rates at Lexington High School.

~ **Kyle Hoehner, Principal**
Lexington High School



JOHNSON LAKE TRAIL

The **Johnson Lake Hike and Bike Trails** add a new outdoor experience to the lake community. The Larry Roper Trail winds for 1.1 miles from the outlet canal, through the Game and Parks campground, to the swimming beach at the east end of the dam. The Paul Matson Trail starts at the Game and Parks campground at the lake inlet and follows the irrigation canal for 2.0 miles to the Sandy Point area in the middle of the dam. The two trails are joined by a shared roadway across the main dam. The trails have been constructed with funds donated by the CNPPID, area businesses, and private supporters of the lake community. The **Lexington Community Foundation** has administered the handling of the contributions as well as provided supplemental funding to make the trails become a reality. Whether you are looking for a relaxing walk close to nature or a vigorous walk or bike ride come and enjoy the scenery around beautiful Johnson Lake.

~ **Ron & Kathy Fowler,**
Johnson Lake Trails Committee

LEXINGTON BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

A new scoreboard has been added to the Lexington Optimist Ball Field. This will benefit many ball players in Lexington and surrounding communities. **Lexington Community Foundation** supported the project financially and was very supportive of the improvement to the old score board. It's going to be a great summer at the ball field with the new addition!

~ **Jamie Gruntorad, Treasurer**
Lexington Baseball Association

LEXINGTON: ONE COMMUNITY, ONE THEATER. IT'S MAJESTIC!



A student organization called NNER (National Network for Educational Renewal) is raising funds to purchase the Majestic Theater. Students have decided to try to raise money to purchase the Majestic Theater and run it as a non-profit theater. We are currently working with the **LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** and the city of Lexington to help accomplish our goal. Right now we are raising awareness about the project. We have also started to raise money through t-shirt sales and also donations. Our hope is through our generous community we will be able to raise the \$75,000 needed to purchase the theater.

The desire is that eventually a community board will help run the theater with the help of us, students, as workers. We believe a community theater will benefit everyone in Lexington. We plan on charging less at the gate for entry and less for concessions therefore, giving the community a viable option for movies in downtown Lexington. Money raised from the theater will be used to help renovate the theater. We have contacted theaters in Arapahoe and Alma and have seen that this type of theater can be very appreciated in small communities. Why not Lexington as well?

Taking on this project has been eye opening. We have seen how many people are very interested in having a theater in Lexington. We have also learned about fundraising and grant writing. Our plan is to be involved with the whole process all the way through. Eventually we will be able to gain hands on learning experience from a number of people who have donated their skills to the project. We are hoping that by the year 2015 (our graduation year and the centennial anniversary of the theater being in Lexington) the renovation of the theater will be complete.

Working with the **LEXINGTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION** has added validity to our project. The Foundation's reputation has helped to encourage many people to give to our project. The partnership that we have started with the Foundation will be instrumental in the success of our project.

~ Jason Sullivan,
LMS 8th grade Social Science Teacher
& NNER Project Coordinator

LCF Director's Note: Contributions to this youth-driven project, or any of the projects included in this newsletter, may be sent directly to the Lexington Community Foundation.

See the enclosed donation card and return envelope.

YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Together we can . . . achieve greater results.

MEMORIALS

AUGUST 1, 2010 – JANUARY 31, 2010

*To remember;
to pay tribute to;
to honor;
these are the people
who have touched our lives.*

In memory of
Harlan Anderson
Florence Anderson

In memory of
Keith Anthony
Hap & Audrey Hardesty
(YMCA of Lexington)

In memory of
Lloyd Bacon
Hap & Audrey Hardesty
(YMCA of Lexington)

In memory of
Betty Barta
Scott & Corky Anderson
(Class of '77 Scholarship)

In memory of
Vern Becker
Muriel Shea (Library)

In memory of
Lynda Biehl
Ed & Lisa Derrick

In memory of
Dick Carr
Terry & Beth Delp
Mike & Karla Denker

In memory of
Ruth Carr
Terry & Beth Delp
Terry & Donna Trueblood
(Library)

In memory of
Mary Dorwart
Hap & Audrey Hardesty
(YMCA of Lexington)

In memory of
Brian Eilers
Ed & Lisa Derrick
(Eilers Scholarship Fund)

In memory of
Dutch Ernst
Bill & Sarah Carver
Curt & Kandy Denker
Kay Denker
Mike & Karla Denker
Heldt & McKeone
Nancy L. Hundley, Broker,
P.C.
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Jones
Duane & Jan Phillippi
Doran & Pat Post

In memory of
Dale Hanway
Lee & Delphine Sanks

In memory of
Ed Hernandez
Mitch & Jackie Berke
Tod & Michele McKeone
(YMCA of Lexington)

In memory of
Gary Jackson
Ed & Lisa Derrick
Rick & Pam Trampe
(Concert Fund)

In memory of
Toki Kanda
Lee & Delphine Sanks

In memory of
Eunice Keller
Hap & Audrey Hardesty
(Grand Generation Center)

In memory of
Bill Kelly
William & Elsie Barrett
Elizabeth Barrett
Ed & Joni Bennett
Pete & Bernie Bishop
Dean & Pam Brand
Bill & Laverne Brinkman
Delbert & Doris Carroll
Bill & Sarah Carver
Ed Darby
Curt & Kandy Denker
Kay Denker
Mike & Karla Denker
Mary Edenburn
Tom & Cathy Fagot
Dave & Carolyn Fairbanks
Steve & Maureen Hatting
Mike Jeffrey
Jeanne K. Kelly
Linda Linn
Wesley & Neala
Lubberstedt
Randy & Patty Margritz
Bill & Meredith Orthman
Doran & Pat Post
Lee & Delphine Sanks
(Johnson Lake Trails)
Al & Katy Seberger
Bob & Patricia Sherman

Hanford & Ardis Smith
Steve & Mary Smith
Mary Stewart
Dennis & Nancy Stuckey
David & Jill Thomas
Jon & Julie Thomas
Dwight & Darlene
Trautman
Keith & Pauline White
Brad & Jill Williams
Stephan & Margery
Woodman

In memory of
Lillie R. Kolb
William & Patricia Kolb
(Library)

In memory of
Marilyn Larsen
Rob & Natalie Anderson
(HMMV)
Mogens Knudsen
Pinnacle Bank
Doran & Pat Post

In memory of
Leenda Liakos
Lee & Delphine Sanks

In memory of
Jason Libal
Arlan & Pam Ackerman
(Alumni Association)
Mike & Patty Mandelko

In memory of
Kay Linch
(Memorials have been
directed to the Kay Linch
Memorial Scholarship)
Randolph McIver
Maderia Parker
Don & Sheryl Parker

In memory of
Bill Linn
Byron & Olinda Boslau
Terry & Beth Delp
Ed & Lisa Derrick

In memory of
Dr. Bill Long
John Ayers

In memory of
Sidney Magoon
Anonymous
(Samaritan Fund)

In memory of
Cindy McKeone
Mitch & Jackie Berke
(YMCA of Lexington)
Doran & Pat Post
(YMCA of Lexington)
Al & Katy Seberger
(YMCA of Lexington)

In memory of
Ervin "Andy" Poehler
Hap & Audrey Hardesty
(Grand Generation Center)

In memory of
John & Pat Racek
Arlan & Pam Ackerman
(Alumni Scholarship)

In memory of
Harley Richardson
Lorin & Dorothy Bremer
Mike Jeffrey

In memory of
Leanne Richardson
(Memorials have been
directed to the Liz
Richardson Scholarship
Fund unless otherwise
noted.)

Anonymous
(Samaritan Fund)
Nancy L. Hundley, P.C.
Logan Kinnison & Anne
Stuart Kinnison
Gerald Richardson
Bruce & Theresa Stuart
Fred & Nancy Stuart
Hap & Audrey Hardesty
(Grand Generation Center)
Jean King
Ed & Lisa Derrick

In memory of
James Roberts
Mitch & Jackie Berke
Bill & Laverne Brinkman
Harold & Joan Brown
Ed Darby
Heldt & McKeone
John & Tami Reynolds
Lee & Delphine Sanks
Brent & Connie Smets
Steve & Mary Smith

In memory of
Stan Stewart
Boyd & Donna Ferguson

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www.lexfoundation.org

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Your gift does make a difference!