

DILLER 2018 *Hometown Connections*

• Diller Community Foundation Fund Newsletter •
An Affiliated Fund of The Nebraska Community Foundation



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Griffin Softball Scores Big with Diller Community Foundation



One -- Two -- Three strikes -- you're out!

Fans attending the summer ball games at the Diller Ball Park no longer have to rely on each other to keep track of the score. The score, innings, balls, strikes, and outs can now be seen on the new scoreboard located behind center field. With the support of the Diller Community Foundation Fund, the Diller-Odell Summer Ball Association purchased a new wireless scoreboard that can be controlled from the stands. Many positive comments have been heard about the new scoreboard. Stop up at the ball park, enjoy a game, and check out the score!

Thank You!

Thank you to all who generously donated to the Diller Community Foundation Fund this past year. We are grateful for your support and the financial resource your contributions will provide for the Diller community. Together we are building a tradition of giving back to our hometown and creating a lasting legacy to benefit future generations.

Inaugural Youth Philanthropy

The Diller Community Foundation Fund introduced a new opportunity for our young citizens to use their creativity, energy, passion and interest to make a difference and have a positive impact on our community. The youth were invited to submit an idea that they had perhaps been thinking about or a completely new idea that would be of benefit to others. Each project chosen would receive a grant of \$500 from the Diller Community Foundation Fund to cover the cost of the project.

We were pleased to award grants to two projects in 2018. Ashtyn Humphreys started vertical gardens of vegetables at Diller-Odell Schools. Eight vertical planter kits were purchased to hold the gardens. Plants in the



gardens included various vegetables and some herbs. Ashtyn worked with the elementary students in planting and caring for the gardens during the second semester of the school year. The project provided a valuable learning experience for the elementary students to grow their own, healthy food.

The second award was granted to the Happy Harbiners 4-H Club to plant flowers in the planters located on main street in Diller. This 4-H club has actually taken on this project for several years and we are pleased to recognize them for contributing to our community in this way. In addition to the initial planting, the members have set up a schedule to water and care for the plants over the summer.



Contest a Growing Success!

Kathy Engelman served in the Diller area or as a mentor for this project and provided guidance in plant selection and preparing the planters.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund will be awarding up to four grants of \$500 each for youth philanthropy projects again this fall. The Youth Philanthropy Contest is open to youth in Kindergarten through 22 years of age living

in the Diller area or a student at Diller-Odell Public Schools. Individuals, small groups, clubs or classes are eligible to apply. Youth groups or students working together are encouraged to plan and complete a project. The Youth Philanthropy projects are a way for young citizens to give of their time, talents and treasures for the benefit of all.



Endowment Fund Donations

Gifts received June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018

Rodney & Sharon Arthur
 Bryan & Janet Barnard
 Jean Bunger
 Dr. Curtis & Kimberly Schultis Burhoop
 Pamela Busboom
 In Memory of Mildred Kotas
 Caspers Construction
 Franklin & Betty Damrow
 Loren & Marcia Duerksen
 Darrell Freitag
 Roger Garton
 Larry & Sondra Germer
 Steve & Peggy Hemphill
 Troy & Micki Krieger
 Land O'Lakes, Inc. Foundation
 Brent Lottman
 Chad & Courtney Lottman
 Doug & Cindy Lottman
 Velma Newcomb
 Scott & Holli Pretzer
 Dean & Beth Roelfs
 Roelfs Transfer, Inc.
 Rolinda & Terry Sample
 In Honor of Dennis Schmidt
 Randy Sandman
 Steve & Julie Sandman
 William & Gladys Sandman
 Mark & Denise Schoenrock
 Karen Long Santos
 In Memory of Mattie & Glenn Long
 Joey & Kayla Schnuelle
 Richard Schnuelle
 Ronald & Kathy Schroeder
 Security First Bank
 Jona Simonson
 In Memory of Elmer & Bonnie Meyer
 Alan & JoAnn Svajgr
 In Memory of Ardys Schultis
 Larry & Cindy Svajgr
 In Memory of Joyce Svajgr
 Kenneth & Linda Thomsen
 Richard Timmerman
 Greg & Tamara Weers
 Marla Weichel
 Robert & Diane Wellsandt
 Several Anonymous Donations

2018 Grants

The Diller Community Foundation Fund announced the grants awarded for 2018 on January 21, 2018. The granting celebration was held in conjunction with a spaghetti feed hosted by the Diller Community Club at the Diller Opera House.

Diller Picnic Committee (tents, fencing, bleacher repair & stage wiring)	\$2,700.00
Prairie Home Cemetery (electricity & lighting for Veteran's Memorial)	\$1,400.00
3D Extension Club (Painting bases of Main Street lamp posts)	\$300.00
Diller Bank Museum & Jefferson County Historical Society (repair front steps & install handrail)	\$2,400.00
Diller Opera House (purchase & installation of computer projector)	\$3,000.00
Village of Diller (Christmas lights for Main Street)	\$4,000.00
Diller-Odell Ball Association (Baseball/Softball Scoreboard)	\$2,800.00
St. Paul Lutheran Church (Vacation Bible School supplies)	\$250.00
Diller-Odell Spanish Club (13 students traveling to Yucatan, Mexico)	\$650.00
Diller-Odell Youth Football (Replace helmets & other equipment)	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 18,500.00

Thank you to all the organizations in our community that submitted applications for the grants and the work that you do. Please contact any Fund Advisory Committee member if you are interested in applying for a grant in support of a project, program or event in the Diller community.

General Account Donations

Michael Pralle, in memory of Keith (Rube) Pralle & Roelfs Transfer, Inc.

Museum Account Donations

Zona Scheele, in memory of LeRoy Louis Scheele & Several Anonymous Donations

Opera House Account Donations

Larry & Cindy Svajgr, Kenneth & Linda Thomsen, Dell & Virginia Wehling
 Several Anonymous Donations

Diller Remembers Endowment Achieves Magnificence

The Diller Community Foundation Fund held its second annual D.R.E.A.M. “Diller Remembers Endowment Achieves Magnificence” auction event in Diller on November 17, 2017 at the historic Diller Opera House. The evening was successful again as over \$25,000 was raised for the Diller Community Foundation Fund in ticket sales and silent and live auction purchases. The community was brought together again for a fun and festive evening. The Field Sports Bar of Diller held a cash bar and Ricky’s of Hanover catered the evening meal.

We were honored to have Jim Gustafson, Director of Advancement and Gift Planning at the Nebraska Community Foundation, present to give a brief talk prior to our live auction. Jim is widely known and respected and we were lucky to have him in Diller that evening, as several other communities throughout the state were also having auction fundraiser events.

Three flights of silent auction items were available, and many items were hand-crafted by local residents, which made this segment even more special. Denny Henrichs and The Auctioneers again provided auction service during the live auction segment and helped auction off many special items including dinners, vacation homes, and other experiences. Their entertaining and exceptional service was definitely appreciated.

Many local residents and



businesses made this evening possible through donations of live and silent auction items. It should be noted that for a community of less than 300, attendance for this event eclipsed 150 and local residents provided over 36 silent auction items and 40 live auction items. This is an incredible participation percentage for our community, and we all should be very proud of this. Again, a percentage of the proceeds from this auction event will be placed in the endowment account, which is essentially a “savings account” for our community for years to come.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund wishes

to thank all who made this evening possible, including committee members, donors, helpers, auction item purchasers, and spouses. Special thanks go to the Diller Odell FFA Chapter, who provided table service for the attendees, as well as setup and cleanup of the event (picture on page 11). A thanks to Jady Schultis and Allison Engelman for their musical selection also would like to be extended.

We plan to have our third annual event again the Friday prior to Thanksgiving, November 16th, 2018. Plans are already underway and ticket sales begin soon, and auction items are being gathered now. Please consider donating an item, or if you can help in any way with this event, please contact Scott Pretzer at sdpretzer@gmail.com.



Diller Students Are 'Shipwrecked' At St. Paul's Vacation Bible School

During the week of May 21st through the 25th all children of the Diller community were invited to attend the 2018 Vacation Bible School adventure at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Everyone, young and old were marooned on an uncharted island where kids learned that Jesus carries them through every storm of life and that they are rescued by Jesus! They learned to hold onto God's promises when they are lonely, they worry, they struggle, do wrong, and feel powerless.

Each day started with Castaway Singing and God sightings. Students met the day's new Bible Buddy, which included Hope the leopard, Beacon the toucan, Guac and iguana, Rae the

manta ray, and Moe a sloth.

During Bible Discovery kids experienced the daily story in a hands on way. They prepared a meal for Jesus and his disciples and prayed with Jesus at the garden.

At the Imagination Station they would dive into science experiments that helped the 25 students think, explore, and discover. A friction experiment helped kids understand how worry is like friction that can stop us in our tracks. They made their own toucan and watched it hop and stop just like worry stops us.

Ship Rec Games allowed kids to go bananas for the energy packed games connected to each day's Bible point. Land Lubber Lacrosse and plenty of water produced



many smiles and a lot of laughter. The Tropical Treats tied into each day's Bible verse.

Kidvid Cinema offered five stories of real kids dealing with the daily Bible point in their own lives. All castaways then reflected on their connection to the story and

Bible verse.

Kids wrapped up every VBS session with an energy filled Sail Away Send off that included the Spot Light slide show, a clever retelling of the day's stories with their smiling faces. Lots of music, dancing, and an audience involving object lesson helped

put a positive close to each day.

The Kid-to-Kid project was a collection of items for the area food pantries.

The Diller Community Foundation was pleased to offer support of \$250 to this community project which benefited 25 children.



A "SUPER" YEAR AT SUMMER READING



Superheroes are not just in the movies. During the month of June children from Diller-Odell and guests laughed, learned, and created around the theme "Reading is Super". A weekly joke and superhero challenge opened each of the four sessions. Everyone completed a survey and choose "Invisibility" as our favorite super power. Teams competed to win an Ironman challenge and faced danger to handle Kryptonite.

Kids learned about the REAL superheroes in their world during program time. Jeff Nelson of the Diller Fire and Rescue Department shared the fire truck and fire safety tips with everyone. KSDS Assistance Dogs of Washington, KS taught the children about the 4 legged superheroes who serve mankind. On week 3, Dennis Kenning of Farmers Cooperative delighted everyone with a visit from a horse. Dennis also explained the super work farmers do to feed everyone in the world with quality food. Howard Hill shared the superhero work of those in the military and the veterans. He talked about patriotism and modeled how to fold the American flag.

Each week children could earn prizes with their reading. During library time the youngest kids completed a coloring book about everyday superheroes and the 'middles' and 'bigs' played superhero BINGO.

Everybody got to create their own Super Popper made from pool noodles, superhero duct tape, balloons, and puffballs during week 2 in the craft room.

Power pellets (Smarties and Sixlets) and tickets along with weekly prizes were given to students for returning their books. Tickets were used to select the winners of the SUPER drawing. Prizes included a \$50 family pass to the Lincoln Children's Zoo, Hunt Brother's Pizza, Bonham and Beatrice movie passes, bowling at Landoll Lanes, Roll-a-Rena passes, swimming at the Beatrice Water Park, and passes to enjoy Mini Golf in Beatrice.

Sponsors include Diller-Odell Schools, the Diller Community Foundation Fund, RJM Design Group, Donna and Dennis Kenning, OACE, and the Fun Raisers.

Betty Lawrence and Judy Landenberger were in charge of book checkout. Vonnie Schlichtman and Jill Duis planned programs. Donna Kenning and Amy Vitosh coordinated activities in the library. Kathy Schroeder and Beth Roelfs organized projects in the craft room. Thanks to ALL the Jr. High and High School volunteers who were SUPER

Remembering our Graduates



Graduation is a time of transition for students heading out into the world or college, the workforce, the military, or whatever their path may be down the road.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund together with the Odell Area Community Enrichment group collaborated to wish our local graduates well in whatever road they will travel.

Cards of congratulations were sent to 20 graduating seniors of Diller-Odell Schools this spring. The card included a cash gift and a letter noting that as they spread their wings, we hope that they will always remember their hometown communities and the roots that they have here. They were reminded, that if in their future the opportunity is there for them to return to this area, their home communities are always there to welcome them back.



Students Attend National FFA Convention



Caleb Schultis shares his experience at the National FFA Convention. “National FFA was a great and memorable experience. We learned a lot and made a bunch of new friends. The first day we went to many different sessions we listened to Sonny Perdue, the United States Secretary of Agriculture. The next day we toured Louisville, Kentucky. We learned the history of Churchill Downs and how Louisville Sluggers were made.

Apart from having fun all the time we stopped to learn a few new things. I went to a session that involved parliamentary procedure. I needed it because my parli pro skills were a little below par. I’d like to thank the Diller Community Foundation for sponsoring our memorable trip to National FFA Convention.”

Trip of a Lifetime



Adam Schultis describes his trip to Washington, D.C. “This trip has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Over the week and a half trip I was able to experience the rich history of areas like Washington DC and Gettysburg. I made so many memorable friendships. The most eye opening experiences for me would first be the White House, followed by the Holocaust Museum, and Gettysburg. These areas show our great nation at some of our strongest and weakest times. I am so fortunate to have experienced everything the east coast has to offer with a group of amazing people. Thank you so much for making it happen.”



Beauty by their hands!

Relentless! No, not the Nebraska weather but, the dedication of bighearted volunteers who step forward quietly each year to bring beauty to our community. Their hours of hard work enhance the ‘welcoming vibe’ of our hometown for residents and visitors. A shout out to Larry Germer for caring for the mini park on Main Street, Sandy Kotas for her dedication to the north and south ‘Welcome to Diller’ signs, and to Kate Schnuelle for tending the ‘Welcome to Diller’ sign at the intersection of highways 103 and 136. Also thank you to Jeanne Novotny for the lovely landscaping updates at the Community Building. Bob Wellsandt is doing a wonderful job of keeping Diller looking its best. We want to thank the Diller Community Club members for coordinating the City Park clean up this spring. The Happy Harbiners’ plantings will bring beauty to Main Street all summer and fall. Finally, to all who mow the roadsides into town and all who care for their own personal corner of Diller with pride, we say ‘Thank You’! We do not want their gifts to go unnoticed. It is this kind of dedication to community that makes Diller and many small rural communities hidden gems.

Generous Donors Build for the Future

Two years ago, the Diller Community Foundation Fund accepted the challenge of a Rural Development Philanthropy grant from the Sherwood Foundation. The challenge has given us the opportunity to engage community members as well as alumni to consider the benefits and possibilities that the resources of the unrestricted endowment fund will provide year after year.

Since July 1, 2016, the balance of the unrestricted Endowment Fund has increased by \$384,250 from contributions, its earnings and grants from the Sherwood Foundation. The balance of the Endowment Fund is currently \$727,612 as of April 30, 2018. With an Endowment Fund of this amount, the earnings also increase and the estimated investment back into our community will be approximately \$30,000 each year, depending on its earnings.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the campaign through donations to the Endowment Fund and The D.R.E.A.M. fundraising event as a significant portion of those proceeds are also added to the fund. The campaign is a starting point to continue to build for the future to create a stronger and more vibrant community.

The Endowment Fund Campaign has once again shown that the Diller community has big ideas and big dreams for the future supported by generous donors.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of April 30, 2018

Endowment Fund	\$ 727,612.55
General Account	\$ 47,361.28
Main Street Account	\$ 1,708.43
Museum Account	\$ 1,345.81
Opera House Account	\$ 4,483.09
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$ 782,511.16

Annual Training and Banquet

Diane Wellsandt, Tammy Weers, Kathy Schroeder and Dennis Schmidt attended the Nebraska Community Foundation Training and banquet in November at the Embassy Conference Center in LaVista, NE.

This year's theme was "Together a Greater Nebraska". The training focused on identifying your opportunities, imagining new possibilities, and acting together to bring about the hometown of your dreams.

The Sandman Family Foundation of Diller served as an event sponsor.

Challenge Peer Learning Session

On September 22, 2017 a few members of the Diller Community Foundation Fund attended a Peer Learning Session for the Rural Development Philanthropy Challenge that was held at Red Cloud, NE.

The session was held in the historic Opera House that is part of the Willa Cather Foundation Center. Networking with community foundations who are also involved with the RDP Challenge was achieved that day.

A community tour of Red Cloud was held at lunch time. After the sessions were over we participated in a tour by Ashley Olson, Executive Director of the Willa Cather Foundation. We toured the Willa Cather Center, an arts and culture center that serves as a living memorial to renowned author Willa Cather.

New Lighting Illuminates Veteran's Memorial

As daylight fades at Prairie Home Cemetery, 'Old Glory' and the Veteran's Memorial Wall are now illuminated through the collaboration of several organizations. The Diller American Legion Post and Prairie Home Cemetery Board coordinated the effort. Funding, through the DCFF, of \$1,400, was used to cover expenses. Cemetery board members volunteered to complete the trenching. Steve Behrends, owner of Diller Electric, donated the use of his trencher and time to install the cable and light. He may also donate materials to the project. Doug Schmidt fabricated the stainless steel cover for the lighting fixture.

Now, as folks travel near Prairie Home after sunset, the beauty of the memorial will serve as a reminder of those who have served their community and country with honor.

Area Youth Attend N-Power Leadership Conference

Five Diller-Odell youth attended the 2017 NPower Leadership Conference held July 26-27, 2017, on the campus of Concordia University at Seward, Nebraska.

The NPower Conference is a partnership between 4-H, FFA, FBLA, FCCLA, DECA, SkillsUSA, HOSA and Nebraska Human Resources Institute to provide a leadership development opportunity for all Nebraska youth leaders entering 6th-12th grades.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund and the Odell Area Community Enrichment Group co-sponsored the students attending the leadership conference. Those attending from Diller-Odell were Karli Heidemann, Elecea Saathoff, Sidney Gegg, Abby Vater and Madeline Swanson.

Karli Heidemann had this to say about her conference experience:

"I really liked N-Power. It was super fun! It helped me learn a lot about leadership. I also got to meet a lot of new people that were very nice. I wish I could have went this year but unfortunately I couldn't. We did so many fun activities that also helped me learn a lot, such as the water Olympics. I believe that everyone that has a chance to go should go."

Who is on the Foundation Board?

Chairman : Peggy Hemphill
 Vice Chairman : Scott Pretzer
 Recording Secretary : Diane Wellsandt
 Correspondence Secretary : Micki Krieger
 Treasurer : Tammy Weers
 Brett Landenberger, Kendra Weers, Beth Roelfs, Kathy Schroeder

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SHOOTING STARS SEASON



BULLETS SHOOTING STARS players enjoyed the 2018 season. The Diller Community Foundation provided a financial gift to support the league, which included fourteen players, two were Diller-Odell students. This was the fourth year for the league. The Beatrice Bullets baseball teams partner with the Shooting Stars to provide on-field assistance, modeling, and safety. Registration is free and shirts and hats are provided for free to the Shooting Stars players. The Foundation's grant was used to purchase equipment.





The Diller-Odell FFA Chapter proudly provided table service, set up and tear down for the 2nd annual D.R.E.A.M. event, held in November. This story can be found on page 5.



'CATCH THE TRADITION OF GIVING' was the theme of the Foundation entry in the 122nd Diller Picnic Parade. Members of the Krieger family depicted the family tradition of fishing while parade goers were invited to consider the habit of giving.

Save the Date!

2018 D.R.E.A.M. Event
November 16, 2018
Diller Opera House

Social Hour : 6:00pm
Dinner : 7:00pm
\$30 per ticket
Dinner catered by Ricky's of Hanover
Cash bar provided by The Field.

Ultimate Field Trip for Spanish Club

Our first full day in Mexico was full of adventures and many educational experiences. To start the day, we headed off to the Vida y Amor orphanage in Mérida. We put our Spanish skills to work with the kids as we used coloring and sticker books and polished the girls' nails. The big hit was playing phone games and taking pictures with Snapchat filters.

After we said goodbye to our friends at the orphanage, we headed to Santa Elena to visit a Mayan family. The Zamora family welcomed us into their home to show us some aspects of their daily lives. These tasks included making 150 corn tortillas by hand, extracting plant fibers to make rope, and how to properly sleep in a hammock.

When our visit with the Zamora family came to an end, we ate lunch at a restaurant called Sol. This meal provided a taste of authentic Mexican food other than tacos from the night before. We got the opportunity to try Sopa de Lima (lime soup). From here, we ventured to the Mayan ruins of Uxmal.

As if our first three stops weren't enough, Uxmal was an experience like no other. Uxmal was the first of many historical locations we would visit during the trip. We learned about Mayan pyramids, ball courts, architecture, and religious beliefs. One of the most eventful parts of our visit at Uxmal was climbing the 74 stairs to the top of the third pyramid.

The next day we visited



the ancient city of Chichen Itza. Our tour guide Ricardo explained to us that Chichen Itza has a pyramid that has a set of 91 stairs on all four sides. $91 \times 4 = 364$. $364 + \text{the temple on top} = 365$ for the calendar days. This pyramid actually has another entire pyramid built inside of it. After Chichen Itza, we visited the cenoté, Salaam. It was a very beautiful underground natural lake. There was a gorgeous waterfall and you could see fish swimming in the crystal clear water. We had a great time "cliff jumping" into the water off the stairway that took us down to the surface.

The following morning we went to Xelha, a tropical eco park water resort. We

to sightsee, relaxing at the resort was a welcome change. In the evening, we took the bus to Xcaret at Night in order to take in a few more cultural events. Our guide, Alejandro, took us through a replica of a Mayan village and Mexican cemetery. The tombs were not only above ground, but very ornate compared to what we see in the U.S. Afterwards, we experienced a panoramic view of the Yucatan Peninsula. We saw the coast as well as Mayan ruins from a bird's eye view. Finally, we settled in the amphitheater for a 2-hour show that included two Mayan ball games, a dramatization of Mexico's history, and famous dances from around the different regions of Mexico.

On our free day, some of us chose to either go deep sea fishing or para sailing. In the early evening, we took taxis downtown to Avenida 5 for a little bit of shopping. Everyone had a good time spending their last pesos and picking

up a few souvenirs. That evening we went to a really nice restaurant, Hacienda Don Diego, for a four course meal. For starters, we had poblano soup and nachos 3 ways. The main course was steak and it was delicious along with chocolate cake for dessert.

Despite missing our first day due to flight issues, everyone had a great experience on the trip. We regretted that we couldn't attend the school visit because of our missed flight, but the students and principal were very grateful for the gifts we gave to them via our guide. All students were very willing to become immersed in the culture. They showed the utmost respect for everyone they encountered and didn't hesitate to interact with the locals whether they were shopping, making plans, or getting to know individuals. As time moves on, it is likely that this experience will remain a part of each person and affect their outlook on the world.

