

DILLER *Hometown Connections*

2019

• Diller Community Foundation Fund Newsletter •

An Affiliated Fund of The Nebraska Community Foundation

Sharing Our Legacy

In 2019 the Diller Community Foundation Fund is celebrating its 20th anniversary. And there is certainly a lot to celebrate!

In 2006 the Fund Advisory Committee accepted a challenge to raise \$150,000 to receive a \$50,000 matching contribution. Mission accomplished, and grants to community projects increased.

In 2013, Fund leaders completed action planning through Nebraska Community Foundation to firmly establish a vision for the community and a

mission and goals

to achieve Diller's dreams.

Last year the community came together again to celebrate another philanthropic milestone by matching The Sherwood Foundation challenge grant resulting in more than \$300,000 in additional unrestricted resources for community reinvestment.

And as of May 2019, the current unrestricted endowment is at \$792,080. Earnings from these invested



funds will provide nearly \$40,000 each year for community programs and projects in our hometown.

Yes, we are proud! And yes, we thank EVERYONE who has contributed in any way toward this magnificent dream!

Pictured at left, Peggy Hemphill and Dennis Schmidt share their support of DCCFF through their planned Legacy Gift.

Looking Beyond Tomorrow

We encourage people who love their hometown to continue their annual support as we continue to build our endowment. However, after looking back at 20 successful years, we need to turn our sights to the future, as community wealth passes from one generation to the next.

Recently, two former Fund Advisory Committee members, and long-time Diller volunteers and advocates, shared their reasons for creating their own Legacy Gifts – also known as planned gifts that are included in a person's estate plan or will.

"I never fully understood what the transfer of intergenerational wealth meant to a community. When

it became clear that so much money could leave the community, I felt I needed to do my part," said Peggy Hemphill, a lifelong Diller resident.

"I have a passion for this community. I grew up here, raised my children here, and have grandkids here! People here give so much, to their church and other organizations. Everybody's got everybody's back. My Legacy gift is not a large gift, but it is a lasting gift that will continue to grow. It's like an insurance policy for our community," she said.

Dennis Schmidt lives in Beatrice but grew up in Diller and considers it his hometown. "My family and I have always farmed there, went to

Church there, and giving back was just what came naturally," Dennis said. "We volunteered for everything from helping to build the Diller Community Building, mowing and working at Church or the cemetery or other projects. We stepped up and helped. It's part of 'farm pride.' Taking care of something and leaving it better than when you first found it.

"What attracted me to making a planned gift to the endowment is that the principal never gets spent, and the giving continues forever. It gives a community options way past 50 years into the future – when we may need a new water system or to take advantage of the latest technology. Things we cannot even fathom today," Dennis said.

Peggy Hemphill used a very easy method to make her Legacy Gift. She named the Diller Community Foundation Fund endowment as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy.

"It was a simple process. I got

a form from the insurance company and checked with Nebraska Community Foundation to get the correct wording for the document, and it was done!" Peggy said. "People need to talk about planning a future gift for their hometown. They need to be made aware, because most people probably have never talked about it and have never been asked."

Dennis adds, "Too often we don't really understand the giving nature of people. We could do so much better... so much more!" He thinks people use the excuse for being too 'busy' to think about or make a plan for what will happen to their estate after their life. To Dennis, 'B-U-S-Y' is a four-letter word that gets in the way of getting things done.

Peggy gets emotional when she describes her hometown. "Diller is just an awesome town. The people and the pride they have. Our schools and businesses are great. Pretty much everything is neat and clean. People

are tight-knit, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. It's just a great, safe place to raise a family.

"I'm hoping people will give this some thought and contact one of our Fund Advisory Committee members to see how they might give back or help the organization in any way," Peggy said. She added that some people might be more comfortable talking to the folks at Nebraska Community Foundation, which has helped hundreds of individuals and families with resources to guide donors and their financial advisors through the process of creating a Legacy Gift.

Peggy reminds us that considering a planned gift is a simple first step to investing in the future of your hometown. And if Dennis and Peggy's hopes and dreams come true, Diller's unrestricted endowment will hopefully increase to \$5 million someday with the help of others who care deeply about the future of their prosperous and welcoming hometown.

Contact any member of the Diller Fund Advisory Committee (on page 4) if you are interested in learning more about the Legacy Challenge. You may also visit Nebraska Community Foundation's gift planning website at www.necommfound.giftlegacy.com or for information on many gift options that will benefit both your family and your hometown!

Diller Community Foundation Fund Completes Challenge Grant

The Diller Community Foundation Fund is pleased to announce that it successfully raised \$212,521 over a 30-month period ending December 31, 2018, securing a \$100,000 matching grant that will increase the unrestricted endowment by \$312,521.

Through its affiliation with Nebraska Community Foundation, the Diller Community Foundation Fund applied for and was selected by a group of peers hailing from communities across the state to participate in the Rural Development Philanthropy initiative. A 2:1 matching grant was offered by the Sherwood Foundation, an Omaha-based foundation that is promoting equity through social justice initiatives enhancing the quality of life in Nebraska.

Volunteers of Diller Community Foundation Fund met this ambitious goal through generous donations from individuals and organization who care deeply about the future of Diller as well as personally meaningful contributions of their own.

All funds raised through this campaign will benefit the Diller community unrestricted endowment account. Similar to a community savings account, unrestricted endowments are an important tool to keep hometowns across Nebraska growing, thriving and improving for future generations. While Diller Community Foundation Fund grants out a portion of the income earned by the unrestricted endowment each year to fund projects and programs to benefit the community, the principal remains intact and grows forever.

We are very grateful to all who contributed to make this campaign successful and your support for our community.

Annual Granting Celebration gives nearly \$30,000 to local groups



A \$2,150 grant is given to the Diller Bank Museum at the annual granting celebration.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund 2019 Granting Celebration was held at the Diller Opera House January 27th in conjunction with the Diller Community Club's spaghetti meal fundraiser.

In total, \$29,050 in grants were awarded during the ceremony. The organizations that received grants were: Village of Diller for Christmas lighting on main street, Memorial Park Committee for Christmas lighting, Diller Bank Museum for window replacement, doors, and to refinish the floor Diller Opera House to replace sidewalk and pave south parking area, Diller Community Club for the City Park walking path, Park Improvement Committee to replace tennis net, basketball poles and nets, and for painting, Diller-Odell Schools for hydroponic farm/research towers, Diller-Odell cheerleaders for cheerleading camp, Diller-Odell Close-Up for a government/civic leadership trip, St. Paul Lutheran Church for community Vacation Bible School supplies, Youth Philanthropy grants in the amount of \$500 were awarded to: Diller Community Leadership Group, Helping Us Grow Spiritually (HUGS) and Happy Harbiners 4H Club

You can find a full list of grants that were given out, along with their amounts on page 4.

Peggy Hemphill was recognized as outgoing president of the advisory committee at the celebration as well.

Visioning Helps Diller Prepare For The Future

This event aimed to...

- Create a space to think strategically about the future.
- Create a 5-7 year vision that was both achievable and bold.
- Explore which vision elements were the most energizing.

Three community groups came together to design a community vision during the session held on September 27. With nearly 30 community members participating, members first did a historical scan to uncover past and present successes and drawbacks. Then they moved to discuss what the future may hold for Diller.

Through the visioning process, eight ambitious themes emerged and during the debrief process participants were asked the question...Which one of these would accomplish multiple things if it was achieved? Many answers were given but there seemed to be a clear focus on housing and creating opportunities for future generations. The eight topics were: exploring resources for infrastructure improvements, wholistic community involvement, community services and assistance, quality diverse housing (assistance to home owners, help repair homes, rural grants, low income assistance), engaging youth opportunities, park improvements, cutting edge technology, and branding Diller.

The energy in the room was fantastic and community members decided that the next steps would be to bring more community members back together in November to create a unified vision and to craft some strategy and next steps for action.

At the second community session, the vision was posted back on the wall and the 50 community members in attendance were asked to re-vote to determine which areas would give the group the most energy and which should be focused

on for the next 18 months. After 4 vision areas of focus were selected for the next few years, the group worked to identify any/all blocks and then craft strategies for each vision element and determine who would be working in each area.

Committees were established to address housing, youth activities, park improvements, and cutting edge technology.

The sessions were facilitated by Kayla Schnuelle of Mission Matters. Kayla is a certified facilitator and member of the Diller community. Kayla generously donated a portion of her services with session costs being funded by the Diller Community Foundation Fund.



Diller FAC Serves on Mentor Team for Chester

The Chester Community Fund Advisory Committee hosted a series of 'Visioning Meetings' from January – April to generate ideas and receive feedback about Chester's future. A delegation from Diller (Beth Roelfs, Vonnie Schlichtman and Tammy Weers), spoke to the group and told of Diller's successes with their Community Foundation. Over the 3 meeting series the Diller team along with mentors from Shickley and Byron offered encouragement and insights into the development and benefits of a community foundation.

DCFF Participate in Regional Networking

Kendra Weers, Diane Wellsandt, and Beth Roelfs joined foundation members from Shickley, Byron, Chester, Red Cloud and Hebron at the Stastny Center in Hebron in April for the opportunity to network and discuss topics such as high impact grant-making, youth engagement and more! The Diller Fund hosted a table discussion about the DREAM, the ACRE program and Youth Philanthropy Granting.

Weers and Roelfs Present at Nebraska Connecting Entrepreneurial Community Conference

Tammy Weers and Beth Roelfs were part of a presentation by the Nebraska Community Foundation for the CEC Conference held April 24-25 in Beatrice. The presentation, 'Unleashing Local Assets for Community Impact', highlighted stories of positive community engagement in Diller, Syracuse and the Lewiston Consolidated School which are all using tools of philanthropy to imagine a bright future.

Endowment Fund Donations

Gifts received June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019

Bryan and Janet Barnard
 Kimberly Burhoop
 Tom & Joyce Carpenter
 Larry & Sondra Germer
 Steve & Peggy Hemphill
 Land O'Lakes, Inc.
 Foundation
 Doug & Cindy Lottman
 Sharon Ocker
 Ron & Judy Parks Donor
 Advised Fund of NCF
 Scott & Holli Pretzer
 Dean & Elizabeth Roelfs
 Joey & Kayla Schnuelle
 Greg & Tamara Weers
 Robert & Diane Wellsandt

General Account Donations

Cynthia & Robert Milligan,
 Sandman Family Founda-
 tion & Several Anonymous
 Donations

Opera House Account Donations

Dennis Schmidt & Several
 Anonymous Donations

2019 Grants

The following grants were announced at the granting celebration held on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at the Diller Opera House in conjunction with a spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Diller Community Club.

Village of Diller (Christmas Lighting)	\$3,600.00
Memorial Park Committee (Christmas Lighting)	\$1,000.00
Diller Bank Museum (Window Replacement, Doors, Refinish Main Floor)	\$2,150.00
Diller Opera House (Pave Parking Area & Replace Sidewalk)	\$9,000.00
Diller Community Club (City Park Walking Path)	\$4,000.00
Park Improvement Committee (Replace Tennis Nets, BB Poles & Nets, Paint)	\$1,500.00
Diller-Odell Public Schools (Hydroponic Farm/Research Towers)	\$5,000.00
Diller-Odell Cheerleaders (Supplies for Cheerleading Camp)	\$250.00
Diller-Odell Close-Up (Government/Civic Leadership Trip)	\$800.00
St. Paul Lutheran Church (Supplies for Community VBS)	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$ 27,550.00

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.

Who is on the Fund Advisory Committee?

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

2018 NCF Affiliated Fund Training, Expo and Banquet

Unleash abundant assets! Inspire charitable giving! Connect ambitious people! These elements were used to engage attendees of the NCF Affiliated Fund training!

Three members of the Diller Community Foundation Fund attended the NCF Annual Celebration in Norfolk NE on November 8, 2018. Attending were Tamara Weers, Micki Krieger and Diane Wellsandt. Breakout training sessions were held during the day at various locations. Funds from many towns across Nebraska, including Diller, provided displays at the expo to highlight their communities and the impact their funds have made.

Diller Pays It Forward

Two heads are better than one. With that in mind, Tammy, Peggy, and Beth joined the Wymore-Blue Springs Area Fund board for their July 2018 meeting to share ideas and answer questions. The Wymore-Blue Springs group is hoping to build their endowment, promote the Wymore-Blue Springs fund, and learn strategies to approach community members for support. The Diller members praised the commitment of the Wymore team, reflected on challenges, and applauded the success of the Wymore Fund.

DCFF has benefited from supportive mentoring over the years and it is now an honor to support our neighbors in their efforts to build a Foundation Fund for their community.

ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of May 31, 2019

Endowment Fund	\$ 792,080.04
General Account	\$ 34,443.93
Main Street Account	\$ 1,643.43
Museum Account	\$ 1,280.81
Opera House Account*	\$ 389.34
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$ 829,837.55

* Funds in the amount of \$4,500.00 from the Opera House Account were used for part of the cost of replacing the sidewalk and paving the parking area on the south side of the Opera House.

Improvements To Diller Opera House



The Nebraska Community Foundation Board Members and NCF Staff held their August 24 meeting at the Diller Opera House. Board Members represented 10 hometowns and 10 counties, and the NCF staff represented 9 hometowns and 7 different counties. Part of their day consisted of a "Walking Tour" of downtown Diller, which gave them a chance to see and hear about our area businesses, and see the different projects that the Diller Community Foundation Fund has been a part of. The DCFE was host for the event.

Needed repairs to preserve the structure of the Diller Opera House and to address safety concerns has moved forward thanks to a grant from the Diller Community Foundation Fund in the amount of \$9,000. The sidewalk on the south side of the building has been replaced and the parking area has been paved. Additional repairs will include tuck pointing the outside bricks on the Opera House. The total cost of the repairs will be approximately \$25,000. Funds designated to the Opera House account with the Diller Community Foundation will also be used to cover the cost of the repairs. The Diller Opera House holds a shrimp feed on the first Saturday of February each year to raise funds to cover the operating expenses of the Opera House. Additional donations are appreciated for improvements and major repairs to preserve the building.



Founded
October 13, 1880

Prideful, Delightful



Painting Lampposts

The Merry Modern Extension Club was awarded a grant through the Diller Community Foundation. With this grant they painted the lamp posts that line the main street that runs through Diller, NE. There are 20 posts that line the street. The money helped buy the stain that was used to paint the posts black.

At the 2018 granting ceremony the group asked for help on getting the painting done. So, we, the Happy Harbiners 4H club volunteered to do the painting. The Happy Harbiners painted the posts on October, 20 2018. The group that painted that day consisted of 12 members, their two sponsors, and another parent. The group started painting early in the morning and finished shortly after lunch. The Merry Modern Extension Club were gracious enough to buy the painters lunch for the work at the Field in Diller.

Talented Hands and Awesome Volunteers

The community of Diller receives many compliments on the appearance of its Commercial Street and village signs. Visitors have shared their positive first impressions and what they see is no accident. Many volunteers work to make it happen. Larry Germer, Sandy Kotas, Kate Schnuelle and the Happy Harbiners 4-H Club plant, mow and tend the mini-park, community signs and the street planters. Several pots include whimsical fairy gardens, hidden to be discovered. There are also those who mow the approaches into the town making a manicured statement that Diller is a community with pride. The efforts of all of these dedicated community members are greatly appreciated.

Downtown Diller!



Happy Harbinger's Youth Philanthropy Project

The Happy Harbinger's 4-H Club was awarded \$500.00 through the 2019 Youth Philanthropy Contest to plant flowers in the six large planters on main street in Diller. They completed the plantings the first part of May and we are pleased to recognize them, once again, for their time and talents to complete this project for all of us to enjoy.

The Happy Harbiners 4-H Club is an area group made up of kids from the Diller, Fairbury and Odell areas. They meet once a month and have a goal of completing one if not two group service projects a year. Our annual service project is planting flowers in downtown Diller, in nine large pots that line both sides of the main street. We try to do this project late April or early May.

In 2018 we were awarded the Youth Philanthropy Award, through the Diller Community Foundation. With the grant we were able to buy potting soil, flowers, succulent plants and some garden accessories. One or two of our pots actually resembled fairy gardens. We have had the help of a great mentor, Kathy Engelman, who is a former leader of the group.

We were once again awarded the Youth Philanthropy Award in 2019. We will try to do this fun activity for as long as we can. On May 8th, 2019, we were able to get this year's project done. If you are ever in town check out the flower pots!



3rd Annual D.R.E.A.M. Event Held

The Diller Community Foundation Fund held its third annual D.R.E.A.M. "Diller Remembers Endowment Achieves Magnificence" auction event in Diller on November 16, 2018 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 Charles Barber, past RDP Campaign Chair, present to give a brief talk prior to our live auction. Entertainment during intermission was provided by Kelsay Schlichtman and Melina Kostal, students

at Diller-Odell High School. Two flights of silent auction items were available, and many items were handcrafted 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. 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 Communi-

ty 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. The Chapter was provided with a check for \$500 at the Granting Celebration in January as a thanks for their efforts.

Next year's D.R.E.A.M. auction will be the Friday prior to Thanksgiving, November 22nd, 2019. Plans are already underway and ticket sales begin soon, and auction items are being gathered now. If you would like to support this event and the Diller Community Foundation Fund in any way, please contact Scott Pretzer at sdpretzer@gmail.com.

Fed From The Farm

New to the Diller-Odell Schools this upcoming year will be a program Fed from the Farm. This program is being started through the Diller-Odell FFA Alumni and collaboration with the Diller Community Foundation Fund. Fed from the Farm program will be supplying Diller-Odell students with locally raised beef and pork in their lunch programs.

Our goal is to provide the students of Diller-Odell with healthy, flavorful and nutritious beef and pork 1-2 times per week. It will also provide educational components to help students understand the nutritional value of beef and pork. Education on crop production and the feed raised to feed the animals as well as an understanding of farm to fork.

Several other areas schools already have this program started and have been very successful. The beef and pork will be raised by local producers and donated to the program.

We are hoping that other local consumers and patrons will be excited about this wonderful benefit for our students and get involved by donating an animal or making a monetary donation that would be used for purchasing animals or processing of the meat. Processing will be completed by the Diller Locker, who also assisted many of the surrounding schools already with this process.

If you would like to get involved or make a donation please contact Andrea at the Diller-Odell High School and we can provide more information for you. All monetary donations should be made payable to DCFF-Fed from the Farm and are tax deductible. Please help our school and students with this great opportunity.

The Pancake Feed

By: Michelle Klecan and Madison Vater

Saturday, June 30th, Diller Picnic hosted a pancake feed to assist students, involved in Close-Up, with funding their trip to Washington D.C. and New York City. We were a few of the lucky students that got to help the original Pancake Man serve our community. Our shifts lasted from 6:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in which we set up tables and chairs, brought in equipment, and served sausage, butter, and drinks to the eager customers. The feed lasted until 11:30 a.m., which is when we started to clean up. During this time, there was a steady flow of 167 people, turning a profit, for Close-Up alone, of nearly \$300. The Diller community was very supportive of our cause, although we think the delicious pancakes might have played a role. Sometimes, the Pancake Man would even toss the pancakes to the customers to see if they could catch them. Overall, this was a great experience, we are so excited about our trip and thankful to our community for all the support.

Post Prom Game Night

Game Night' was the theme for the 2019 Diller-Odell post prom party on March 16th. The event took place at the Diller-Odell Elementary gym. Sixty students took part in games of family feud, knocker balls, and laser tag. A mechanical bull was also a big hit for students. Many board and card games were played among the students as well. Post prom began at midnight and went until 3 a.m. Many prizes were given out at the end of the night including, televisions, luggage, and many gift cards just to name a few.



Diller Community Foundation was a proud corporate sponsor of the 2019 Post Prom!

Students visit Washington D.C. and New York City



In March, nine students had the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. and New York City as part of the Close-Up program. Although students were able to see the sites and learn about the many memorials within both cities, this trip offers much more. Students are introduced to policies that are currently being discussed in Congress. They also have the opportunity to meet their state's representatives and have a voice in their workshops and debates. Not only do these students learn about the sites but they also learn what it means, and takes, to be a citizen of the United States of America. These students now have more knowledge about our government, and were able to meet some really great people and friends along the way. The following are bits of each student's trip that they wanted to share.

"While this trip was very fun, there were plenty of opportunities to learn about our government. I started the week with zero knowledge about what efficacy was. What is efficacy you ask? Efficacy is how much you know about exercising your rights as a voter of this country, and how to be confident in your opinions and political views. Throughout the week, our group leader helped us better understand efficacy so we are able talk to our state representatives and get our point across. Realizing we are the future voters of this country, we have to be the change we want to see and this was eye-opening to me. Overall, I really enjoyed my time in Washington D.C. and New York City." -Neleigh Weers

"Close Up was an amazing experience."
-Michelle Klecan

"My favorite place that I visited on the Close-Up trip was Rockefeller Center in New York City. We were able to see it at night, and the views from the top were incredible. Both Washington D.C. and New York City provided different, yet similar, environments because of the big city atmosphere. It was an eye opening experience that forced me to open up and make new friends while also exploring different political views. Close-up gave me a strong base to being a contributing, educated citizen in the future."

-Madison Vater

"This trip helped me to open my eyes to how important my role as a citizen is."

-Michelle Klecan

"Washington D.C was an amazing experience for many reasons. When we were there I had an amazing workshop leader and it helped me see that people in Washington D.C. are great people. We visited many monuments, but my favorite out of all of the sights would have to be the Lincoln memorial. It was an amazing attraction to witness. On the walls of the memorial was Abraham Lincoln's speech, The Gettysburg Address. While we were there we always split up into groups and we discussed many topics along the line of government. Our discussions focused on liberty, equality, and justice. Another great thing that happened was that I was able to meet a lot of people and make some new friends. All in all D.C was amazing and I would love to go back."

-Connor Klecan

"Close-Up offered me an experience that I will never forget: it introduced me to new, lifelong friends, showed me the political side of our country, brought my attention to problems within our country, and inspired me to improve our country with my actions and ideas." -Michelle Klecan

"I was one of the lucky students that went on the Close-Up trip to Washington D.C. and New York City. On this trip, I met a bunch of people and was introduced to a lifestyle completely different than what I'm use to. Our workshops went through many museums and memorials, which were all very informative. I found them all very interesting and I learned more details about our history. My workshop leader, Katherine, was a great leader. She pushed my workshop group to really look at our political views and helped us all learn what responsibilities we have as U.S. citizens. While on this trip, us Nebraskans got to meet our senators. Both Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse told us the inside scoop about their jobs and about the political system. One of my favorite places in D.C. was the Holocaust Museum. I liked this museum because it was a very touching place to walk through; it made me think and showed me some information that I haven't been taught in school. It was a very informational museum. All around I enjoyed this trip and all of its learning experiences, but I personally liked D.C. better than New York."

-Kyleigh Barnts

“ROAR”-Life is Wild. God is Good!

Surrounded by tigers, jungle and giraffe, everyone who participated in St. Paul's Vacation Bible School were treated to fun, learning and Christ centered fellowship.

The program incorporated lessons through music, interactive stories, a life relevant daily video, snacks and games that were linked to the key point for the day and the Imagination Station that provided a hands-on connection to the day's theme. Highlights included a visit from the Pharaoh and zany skits.

Twenty-eight children from the congregation and community worked on a caring project to collect 150 pounds of food to be donated to a local food pantry. The challenge was extended to the congregation and will conclude at the end of June.

The DCFE supported the program with a grant of \$250 so that the community program could be provided as a free youth activity.



L.E.A.R.N. Meets a Visioning Goal for Youth

During the recent 'community visioning' sessions a goal to increase activities for youth was established. As a result, a group of enthusiastic and skilled students from Diller-Odell High School has started a program called "L.E.A.R.N." The name stands for the Leadership, Education, and Responsibility Network. The organization benefits elementary students at Diller-Odell Elementary. Key leaders are Mahaila Engelman and Alisyn Wenzbaur.

The program tutors elementary students at least two days per week. The tutoring sessions provide an opportunity to get extra help and provides a quiet space to do homework.

L.E.A.R.N. is also an after school program for the students. These activities are held twice a month. At the beginning of each month, students do a fun activity. Then, towards the end of the month, an educational activity is the target. Throughout the year several community service activities are also completed.

This project was awarded a 2019 Youth Philanthropy Grant of \$500 by the Diller Community Foundation Fund.

Reading is 'Dino-Mite'

Children ages 4 through the 4th grade were treated to everything DINOSAUR during the 4 week summer reading program held at the Diller-Odell Elementary library. During each Thursday in June they completed

investigations into topics like the size of these ancient beasts, by standing shoulder to shoulder kids discover that the 89 foot long creature was 69 kids long. Experiments and experiences also helped participants learn about the

size and shape of dino eggs, how tiny (7.5 cm) or large (260 cm) a dino footprint could be, the working of the dinosaur's stomach, how dinosaurs are named, the making of a fossil and the work of a paleontologist. Kids cre-

ated games and craft projects related to the theme of the day. Creations included hatching dinosaurs, dino ornaments, a dinosaur fact book, and Dino-Dig pudding cups. Openings included jokes, dancing to the Dino Stomp and Dino Pokey, Dinosaur fact games and a Dinosaur-in-a-Can. This contraption simulates the 'ROAR' of the dinosaur using a garbage can, rope and imagination. Students enjoyed checking out books from the library with the chance to win prizes for their

reading. Betty Lawrence and Judy Landenberger helped to check out books. Many other adult and youth volunteers helped to organize and make the program a success.

Sponsors for the 2019 program include Diller-Odell Public School, the Diller Community Foundation Fund, Odell Area Community Enrichment, the Fun Raisers, and Robert Mueiting. A DINOSAUR size thank you to all volunteers and sponsors.



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"Ride the Wave of Giving" was the theme of this year's Foundation float. Mason Schlichtman navigates his kayak down a sparkling mountain stream.

Save the
Date!

2019 D.R.E.A.M.
November 22, 2019
Diller Opera House