



**Serving the residents of  
Custer County since  
1991**

Anselmo ♦ Ansley  
Arnold ♦ Berwyn  
Broken Bow ♦ Callaway  
Comstock ♦ Mason City  
Merna ♦ Oconto  
Sargent ♦ Westerville

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Scholarship application deadline is **February 1st**. For available scholarships and to download the application, go to [custercountyfoundation.org](http://custercountyfoundation.org) and select the scholarship heading.

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#### **Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Online: [custercountyfoundation.org](http://custercountyfoundation.org)

Winter 2024



### **Foundation Raises Over \$170,000 at Annual Gala & Auction!**

The Custer County Foundation held its 19th Annual Gala & Auction on Saturday, December 9th, at the One Box Convention Center in Broken Bow. The evening was deemed a success! Preliminary numbers show over \$170,000 was raised! The Foundation sincerely appreciates the generosity of the many businesses and individuals throughout Custer County. **THANK YOU** for making it possible to have a successful event!

As guests arrived, they had the opportunity to purchase cards for \$10 each. After all cards were sold, one card was drawn and four lucky winners won cash prizes donated by Muddy Creek Ag (\$250), Arrow Aviation, Inc. ~Casey & Melissa Williams (\$500), Custer Electric and Irrigation, and Edward Jones, Gateway Motors/Sandhills Motors, and Palmer Monument (\$1,000).

Other highlights of the evening included the ever-popular "Heads or Tails" game. For \$10/bead necklace, guests had the opportunity to win \$500 cash by simply choosing either "heads" or "tails" at the toss of a coin. Breanna Kaup (pictured right) beat out the competition and was the lucky winner of the \$500. Breanna generously donated her winnings back to the Foundation.

The evening would not have been complete without the drawing for the choice of a Polaris Ranger Side by Side OR an \$8,000 travel voucher with \$1,000 cash sponsored by Ag-Land ATV and Custer County Foundation Ag Boosters. And the winner was... Jessica Bollig (pictured left)! Jessica chose the Polaris. There always seems to be a fun element during the evening and this year was no different! Dave Birnie, once again, challenged Lindsay to an arm wrestling match with a friendly wager.

One aspect of the Gala, that makes this event unique, is that every community in Custer County was represented by auction items donated and guests attending. It's a true reflection that the Custer County Foundation is a county-wide organization.

Proceeds from the evening will be incorporated into the funds of the Foundation and returned to Custer County in the form of grants for charitable organizations and scholarships for non-traditional students.



## 2023 Fall Grant Recipients

The Foundation awarded \$42,450 to 10 Custer County organizations and one non-traditional scholarship this Fall. Following is a list of organizations selected to receive a grant:

**Ansley Food Pantry - \$4,200:** To provide food for the backpack program and food pantry.

**Arnold Little League - \$5,000:** To help purchase a batting cage and pitching machine.

**Broken Bow Optimists - \$750:** To help purchase flags for youth football.

**Broken Bow Wrestling Club - \$3,000:** To help with wrestling singlets.

**Callaway Kite Flight - \$2,500:** To help replace the building for Kite Flight.

**Custer County Grange #103 - \$500:** To help with the "Words For Thirds" third-grade dictionary project.

**Merna Area Promoters - \$5,000:** To help with telescoping flagpoles for the Merna cemetery.

**Sargent HS Leadership Class - \$10,000:** To help with new bleachers.

**South Loup Football - \$1,000:** To help upgrade football equipment.

**Village of Oconto - \$10,500:** To help resurface the flooring in the Community Hall.

Any nonprofit group, that falls under the guidelines of the Foundation's grant policy, is eligible for making a grant application to the Custer County Foundation. Guidelines and the application form can be found at [custercountyfoundation.org](http://custercountyfoundation.org). The goal of the Custer County Foundation is to improve the quality of life in the Custer County area by supporting the needs of the communities. The Foundation is, and will continue to be, a leader in meeting the needs of this county head on. Grant applications are accepted throughout the year and will be considered at the end of two deadline dates: April 30th and October 31st.



## New Scholarships Available

The Custer County Foundation is excited to announce five new scholarships that were established for high school seniors and college students. Please visit our website:

[custercountyfoundation.org](http://custercountyfoundation.org) to view all the scholarships available and to access the application. Below is a list of the new scholarships available. Thank you to the individuals who recently established these scholarships.

### Mary Blackburn Elementary Education Scholarship, \$1,000

- Must be a graduate of Broken Bow High School entering sophomore year or above in college.
- Student must be going into elementary education or special education.
- Must demonstrate a financial need.

### Micki Cox Memorial Scholarship,

- Must be a graduate of a Custer County high school.
- Student must have gained admittance into a Registered Nursing (RN) program.

### Angie Brown Miller Spread Kindness Scholarship, \$2,000

- Must be a senior at a Custer County High School.
- Must be pursuing a degree in education.
- Preference will be given to a student pursuing an endorsement in special education or school counselor.
- Payable \$1,000 freshman year and \$1,000 senior year.

### Mark Wells Memorial Scholarship, \$500

- Student graduating from Anselmo-Merna High School going into welding.
- If there are no A-M students going into welding, then any Custer County Senior going into welding will be eligible.
- If there are no students going into welding, then any A-M senior going to a trade school would be eligible. If there are no A-M students any Custer County senior going to a trade school.

### BD Women's Initiative Network (WIN), Amount Varies

- Must be a child, grandchild, or sibling of a current BD (Broken Bow facility) associate or retired associate.
- Must be going into a STEM related field.
- Available for a 2-year/associate or 4-year/bachelor degree at an accredited school.
- Must have at least 15 college credit hours completed.
- GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Scholarship will be paid after completion of upcoming semester.

### BD Women's Initiative Network (WIN) Female, Amount Varies

- Available to Custer County high school seniors or Custer County high school graduates currently enrolled in college.
- Must be a female student.
- Must be going into a STEM related field.
- Available for a 2-year/associate or 4-year/bachelor degree at an accredited school.
- GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Scholarship will be paid after completion of upcoming semester.

### Michael B. Doheny Humble Hard Worker Scholarship, \$1,500

- Senior at a Custer County High School
- GPA of 3.0 or less.
- Must show a GPA improvement of at least .5.

### James Bissonette Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000

- Must be a senior at a Custer County High School.
- Must be attending a 2-year school.
- Student must volunteer.

### Broken Bow Class of 1959, \$1,000

- Must be a graduate of Broken Bow High School
- Must be a non-traditional student OR a college student.
- Must demonstrate financial need.



## Sustaining Membership

The Custer County Foundation is extremely grateful for the generous contributions of our sustaining members in 2023! THANK YOU for directly supporting the Foundation with your membership donation and helping us reach our goal. Your gift ensures that we can continue our mission of charitable giving to benefit the residents of Custer County.

The success of the Foundation is a direct reflection of our generous supporters. Donations from our valuable members allow us to perform daily activities which, in turn, create opportunities for a greater impact.

The Foundation thrives today because of past and present Custer County residents who have a strong desire to give back to communities where they have lived, prospered, worked, and played. These generous donors help our Custer County communities excel. Please consider becoming a Sustaining Member today!

**When we circle together,  
we CAN make a difference!**



### Diamond Membership

Brian & Carrie Barber (Barber Appraisals, LLC)  
Anne Cech  
Jack & Jill  
James Downey  
James Sr. & Marilyn Girardin  
Insurance of the Heartland  
Dennis & Janet James on  
behalf of Reed & Irene James  
Wayne & Marvel Mills  
Dorothy Wenquist  
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Curtis & Marla Stallbaumer  
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### Silver Membership

Jami Anderson  
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Jack & Julie Lindstrom  
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Jerry & Diane Scott  
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DeLoy Titkemeier  
Jim & Kathy Varney  
Tiff Varney  
Jerry and Mary Vaughan  
Janice White

### Platinum Membership

Ansley Lumber & Supply  
Broken Bow Wind II  
Brookestone View  
Jim & Deb Girardin  
Grassland Veterinary Hospital  
Lamb Farm and Feedyard  
Rod's Body and Paint  
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Ted Talbot  
Mike & Dianna Whitesel

### Bronze Membership

Doug & Jeanette Birnie  
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### Gold Membership

Jerry & Linda Adams  
Mike & Karen Connelly  
Phil and Susan Gaffney  
Jim & Deb Girardin  
Con & Dona Hensley  
Doug & Tami Nichols Family  
Russ & Lisa Rice  
Chris & Betsy Smith

*We sincerely apologize if your name was inadvertently omitted from our list, which reflects what was current as of December 31, 2023. Many donors wish to remain anonymous. Please contact our office if your listing needs to be updated.*

**Yes!** I want to support the efforts of  
the Custer County Foundation!

### Individual • Family • Business MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000+	<b>DIAMOND</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$999	<b>PLATINUM</b>
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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear in CCF Publications.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I request to remain anonymous in any publications.

**Please make checks payable to  
Custer County Foundation & return to:**  
PO Box 304 • Broken Bow, NE 68822

**Thank You!**

The Custer County Foundation, Inc. is a public charity and your gift, in most cases, will qualify for a federal income tax deduction. As required by law, it is important to acknowledge that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for this contribution.

# Grant Stats



## 2023 Grant Program at a Glance

**36** Total Organizations that Submitted Applications

**32** Total Organizations Awarded Grants

4 Anselmo - Merna, 3 Ansley, 4 Arnold, 6 Broken Bow, 4 Callaway, 1 Comstock, 5 Custer County, 1 Gates, 1 Oconto, 3 Sargent

**\$107,360** Total Grant Amount Awarded

**\$1,097,457** Total Grant Amount Awarded Since 1991





The following organizations were awarded grants from the Custer County Foundation in 2023.

**7 Valley Kids - \$6,000:** To provide outdoor playground equipment and indoor tables and chairs.

**Anselmo-Merna Public Schools - \$3,000:** To help purchase tables and chairs for the school library.

**Anselmo-Merna Youth Football - \$1,000:** To help purchase helmets for the youth football program.

**Ansley Food Pantry - \$4,200:** To provide food for the backpack program and food pantry.

**Ansley Rural Fire Protection District #1 - \$4,200:** To help purchase protective equipment and gear.

**Arnold Little League - \$5,000:** To help purchase a batting cage and pitching machine.

**Arnold Public Schools - \$3,000:** To help with equipment for the weight room.

**Broken Bow Library Foundation - \$1,210:** To help with the summer reading program.

**Broken Bow Optimists - \$750:** To help purchase flags for youth football.

**Broken Bow Police Department - \$1,000:** To help with equipment for an 8th officer.

**Broken Bow Swim Club - \$2,100:** To help purchase competition lane ropes.

**Broken Bow Township Cemetery - \$2,000:** To help with gravestones for unmarked graves.

**Broken Bow Wrestling Club - \$3,000:** To help with wrestling singlets.

**Callaway Good Life Center - \$1,000:** To help with a wheelchair scale.

**Callaway Kite Flight - \$2,500:** To help replace building for Kite Flight.

**Central Nebraska Interact #225704 - \$5,000:** To help revitalize the Arnold Recreation Pond with fountains.

**Comstock Rural Fire District \$7,500:** To help with a LifePak Cardiac Device.

**Custer County Childcare Association - \$500:** To help purchase toys for the toy lending library.

**Custer County Children's Theater Association - \$1,500:** To help with the Missoula Children's Theater.

**Custer County Grange #103 - \$500:** To help with the "Words For Thirds" third-grade dictionary project.

**Dog Gone Fun 4-H Club - \$400:** To help with rally for the 4-h dog club.

**Gates Cemetery Board - \$2,000:** To help with the brick column entrance.

**Merna Area Promoters - \$5,000:** To help with telescoping flagpoles for the Merna cemetery.

**Merna Emergency Medical Services - \$5,000:** To help with Stair-PRO stair chair.

**Muddy Creek Celebration - \$500:** To purchase a sound/PA system.

**Prairie Pioneer Center - \$1,500:** To help with the interior and exterior painting of their building.

**Sargent Ambulance - \$7,500:** To help purchase Power Load.

**Sargent HS Leadership Class - \$10,000:** To help with new bleachers.

**Sargent Township Library - \$500:** To help with a lamppost.

**South Loup Football - \$1,000:** To help upgrade football equipment.

**Village of Callaway - \$10,000:** To help with a new aquatic facility.

**Village of Oconto - \$10,500:** To help resurface the flooring in the Community Hall.





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Broken Bow, NE 68822

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**Living Up to Our Motto:**  
"Preserving Our Heritage...  
Planning Our Future."

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donation.



## **Custer County Foundation, Inc.**

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President: Andrew Tickle, Arnold;  
308-529-1919

Vice-President: Brent Custer, Broken Bow;  
308-872-5105

Secretary: Hunter Thomas, Broken Bow;  
308-870-4386

Treasurer: Julie Johnson, Broken Bow;  
308-870-1117

### **Board of Directors:**

Lizzie Bartak, Merna; 308-643-9131

Logan Govier, Broken Bow; 308-872-2232

Shelly Griffith, Callaway; 714-745-2634

Alicia Hermsmeyer, Ansley; 402-631-7577

Travis Johnson, Ansley; 308-212-0081

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Kim Schipporeit, Merna; 308-643-7024

Jodi Smith, Milburn; 308-215-8020

### **Executive Director:**

Lindsay Cook, Broken Bow; 308-627-2198

### **Office Assistant:**

Lisa Bell, Broken Bow; 308-870-3513

### **Our Mission**

**The Custer County Foundation is a non-profit, community trust which is structured to seek out, receive, and administer funds to meet the present and future needs of the residents of Custer County. The funds are administered in the areas of health, arts and culture, social welfare, environment, education, and civics.**

**CUSTER COUNTY  
FOUNDATION, INC.**  
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