



Photo Submitted by: Lori Hood



MERRICK
FOUNDATION

2024
ANNUAL
REPORT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kristen Hermansen-Ryan DDS

As we reflect back on another year in our community's journey, I am deeply honored to share with you the profound impact we've collectively made at Merrick Foundation.

In a world often defined by its challenges, our community has stood resilient, showing time and time again the power of unity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to progress. Together, we have made meaningful strides toward our shared vision of a stronger, more vibrant community.

In 2023, we were able to grant \$188,920 to 27 different organizations throughout Merrick County. Grants approved by our grant committee and full board have supported various community initiatives. These include assisting with funding to replace the heating and cooling unit at the American Legion Post #6, aiding Maplewood Corners in Palmer with renovations for low-income housing and funding Midland Area Agency on Aging for their home-delivered meals program in Silver Creek, Palmer, and Chapman. Additionally, we provided funding for a new ambulance in Silver Creek, supported Opportune Acres in offering supplemental therapy to children with disabilities, and contributed to numerous youth activities both recreational and educational in nature.

As we turn the page to a new year, I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the possibilities that lie ahead. Together, let us continue to build upon a strong foundation we've created, to inspire change, and to create a future where every member of our community thrives.

If you are interested in learning how you can give back to our community or help a specific organization, I encourage you to reach out to our staff. The possibilities really are endless and they can most definitely help you bring your vision to life.

BOARD MEMBERS



Larry Benson
Chapman



Tyson Benner
Central City



April Bolte
Central City



Morgan Clarke
Central City



Whitney Hake
Palmer



Jayme Hans
Clarks



Denise Hebda
Silver Creek



Kristen Hermansen-Ryan DDS
Central City



Brandon Konwinski
Silver Creek



Amy Kyes
Archer



Chase Samuelson
Palmer



Mary Steiner
Chapman



DJ Talbott
Central City



Kevin Urkoski
Clarks



Trent Wagner
Central City

STAFF MEMBERS



Courtney Retzlaff
Chief Financial Officer



Shauna Graham
Chief Development Officer



Amber Jensen
Program Manager

BOARD PRESIDENTS

February 1960 - December 2023

Donald F. Sampson
Ivan Martson
Harold Parker
Warren Marsh
John Hummel
Bruce Cowgill
Kirk Riley

William H. Kuhn
Phillip Greenwood
John McHargue
Michael J. Cave
Kathryn L. Mesner
Jerry Lentfer
Joel Ferris

Ed Detweiler
Dean Hartwig
Kurt Kuhn
Steve Twiss
Sean Wagner
Brian Buhlke
Dave Beck

Ed Dexter
Randy Rinkol
Shannon Hannappel
Barry Marsh
Doug Van Pelt
Kristen Hermansen- Ryan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

February 1960 - December 2023

Donald F. Sampson
Yvonne Ferris

Shirley Higgins
Marla Ortegren

Chuck Griffith
Shauna Graham

Courtney Retzlaff

Total Distributions

\$ 1,512,970

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Year ending
December 31, 2023

Contributions
\$581,694

Charitable Funds
\$234

Assets
\$19,082,320

Cumulative Grants
& Scholarships
Since 1999
\$21,961,972

Gift Facts

**\$50 = Median
Contribution**

**692 = Average
Contribution**

Statement of Financial Position as of October 31, 2023

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	
Cash and investments	\$16,784,823	Funds held for others	\$2,349,080
Prepaid expenses	3,975	Grants and scholarships payable	219,934
Property and equipment	132,697	Payables	28,830
Real estate investment	419,948	Unearned rent	400
Receivables	10,795	Net assets	14,753,994
Total Assets	\$17,352,238	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$17,352,238

This consolidated statement of financial position was taken from our audited financial statement, which is prepared by AMGL CPAs & Advisors. Copies of our annual audit are available in our office. Copies of our IRS Form 990 are available in our office or on our website at www.merrick-foundation.org.

CHAMPIONING PROGRESS

Your Community, Your Legacy

“Five to Thrive.” It seems like a relatively simply statement, but it is a concept that could have huge implications for Merrick County over the next ten years. Five to Thrive focuses on transferring 5% of your wealth, back to your community. Transfer of wealth from one generation to the next has always occurred, but thanks to extensive research done by the Nebraska Community Foundation, we are now able to quantify the life changing impact it could have on local communities.

In Nebraska, an estimated \$100 billion is slated to pass from one generation to the next. In Merrick County alone, the projected transfer over the next decade amounts to \$514 million, with a staggering projection of nearly \$5 billion over the course of the next half-century. Can you imagine the impact that could be made in Merrick County?

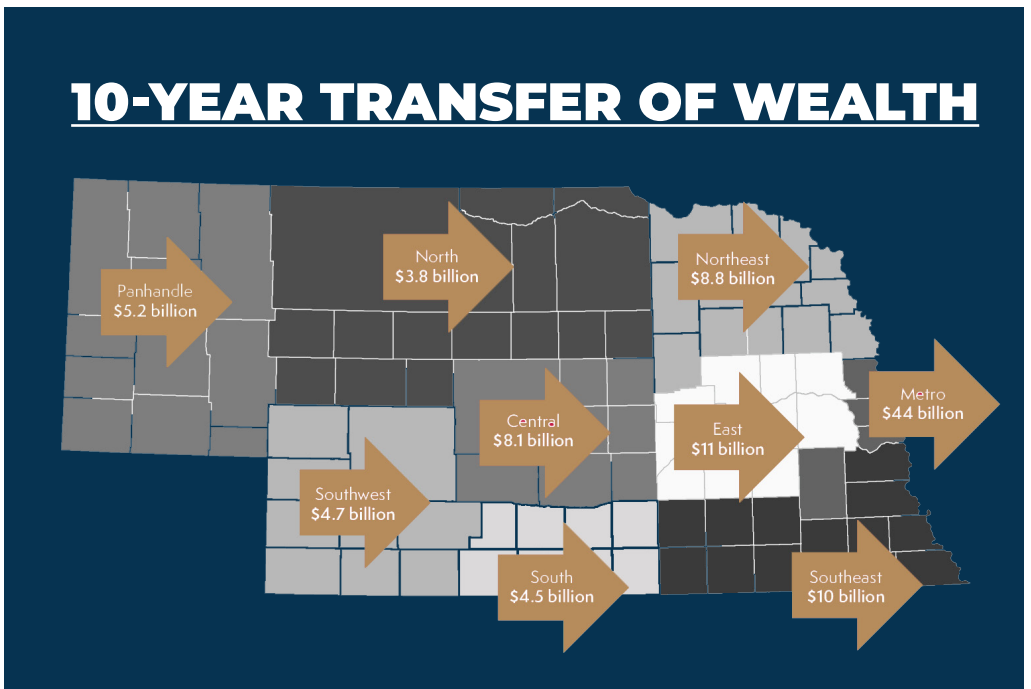
“The establishment of Merrick Foundation in 1960 was made possible through a generous contribution from Bernice Simmons,” states Shauna Graham, Chief Development Officer. “As a result, millions of dollars have been donated to the Merrick Foundation, by quite literally thousands of donors over the past almost 65 years.

From those contributions and earnings, almost \$22 million has been distributed throughout Merrick County in the form of grants or scholarships dating back to 1999.”

Donors have numerous avenues through which they can leave their mark on Merrick County. A substantial aspect of Merrick Foundation’s efforts involves collaborating with stakeholders to establish a cohesive strategy. “We really do take immense pride in meticulously documenting our donor’s intentions, ensuring that we will uphold and fulfill their vision,” states Graham.

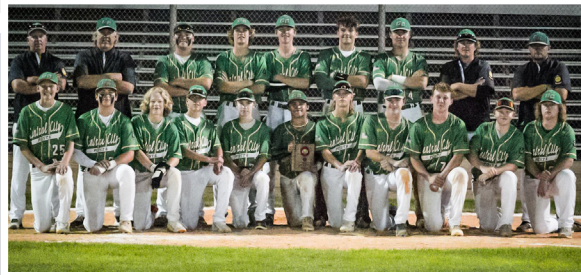
“Each donor’s journey can vary significantly. Some may

contribute through estate gifts, some may engage in their estate plans with us, while others may establish funds using their required minimum distributions during their lifetime. Additionally, we have several donors who make monthly contributions to funds they’ve established or are in the process of establishing,” states Graham. “We love being able to connect with donors and help bring their vision to life.” Your decision to leave part of your estate to your hometown can create a lasting impact, supporting vital initiatives and programs for people of all ages for generations to come. Join us in building a stronger, more vibrant community, together.



MERRICK FOUNDATION GRANTEES

- American Legion Post #6
- Bison After School Program
- Central City Boy Scouts Troop 102
- Central City FFA
- Central City High School
- Central City Legion Baseball Post 6
- Central City Stampede Softball
- Central City Track Club
- Clarks Public Library
- Heartland United Way
- Maplewood Corners - Palmer
- Housing Authority
- Merrick County 4-H Council
- Merrick County Junior High Rodeo
- Merrymakers Association
- Midland Area Agency on Aging
- Midland Area Agency on Aging
- Nebraska Christian Schools
- Opportune Acres
- Palmer Community Foundation, Inc.
- Palmer Public Schools
- Palmer Wrestling Club
- Palmer Youth Sports Association
- Silver Creek American Legion
- Silver Creek Rescue
- Twin River Public Schools
- Village of Chapman
- Village of Clarks



Is Your Organization Next?

Grant deadlines for nonprofits or community groups are the first of January, April, July, and October each year. Visit www.merrick-foundation.org today to apply!

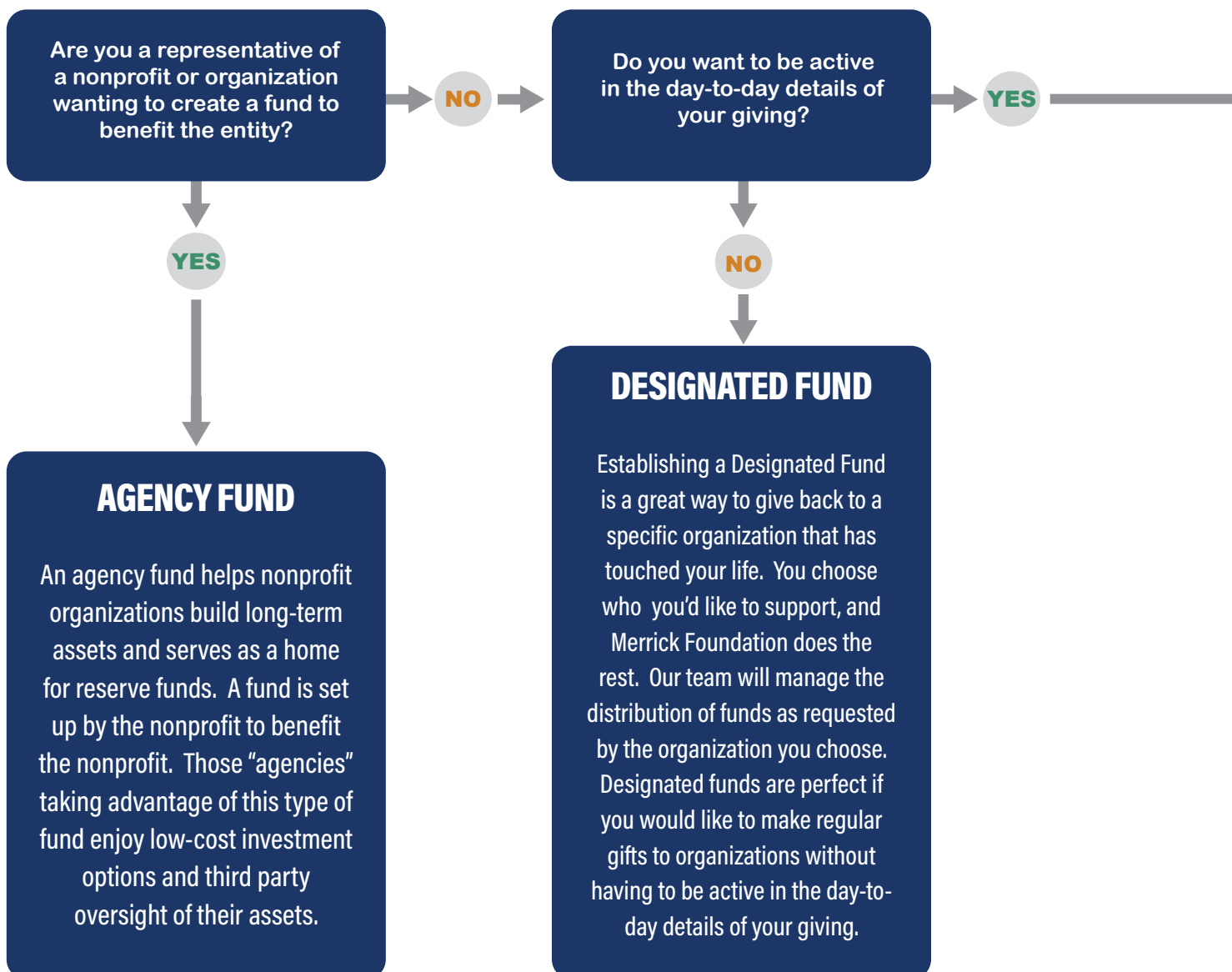
Total Organizations: 27
Total Funded: \$188,920

SUPPORTING CAUSES

How You Can Make A Difference

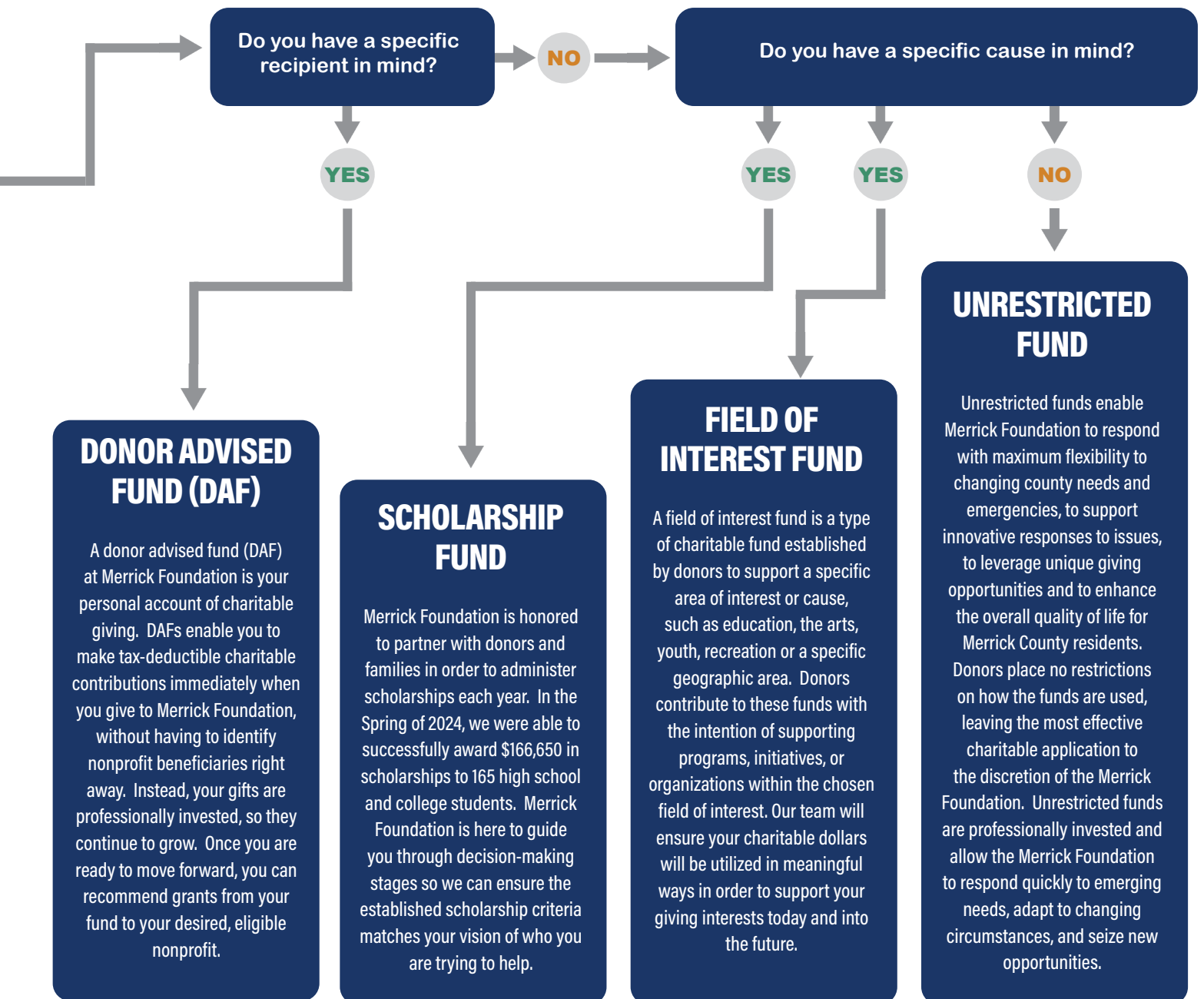
You don't have to be a millionaire to give like one. Merrick Foundation works with you to support non-profits, community based organizations as well as causes that you are passionate about. Our goal is to help you make a lasting impact through thought, strategy and planning.

Do you want to contribute to local child development centers? Programs that directly support our elderly? Invest in graduating seniors as they embark on their college journey? No matter what your vision entails, we're here to assist in building bridges and facilitating impactful change. We've created a flow chart below that details the various ways you can get involved and make a difference.



Do you work with a nonprofit that wants to think about its long term future? Merrick Foundation is the perfect place to create an endowment or agency fund to support your organization. We view ourselves as partners who value the opportunity to support you and the important work you do every day in Merrick County.

For more information on this opportunity, please reach out to us at (308) 946 – 3707 or via email at merrickfoundationdev@gmail.com.



2024 Scholarship Awards



Drew Bailey
Albert E. & Dorothy E.
Emgarten Memorial;
Barry & Alta Marsh



Brooke Bannister
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



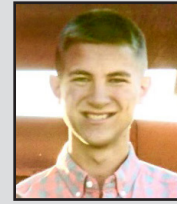
Roberto Barrios
Merrick Foundation
Industrious Student



Shayla Bennett
Guy & Pauline
Lamberson Memorial



Molly Blanchard
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



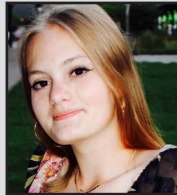
Blaze Blauhorn
Clinton M. Wegner



Faith Blauhorn
Clinton M. Wegner



Grant Blodgett
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Katelynn Blomstedt
Robert & Lillian Krug
Memorial; Joel
Holbrook Memorial



Megan Blomstedt
Virgil & Nora
Lindner



Graci Boersen
Brynlee Zimbelman
Memorial; Myrtle &
Jim Clarke



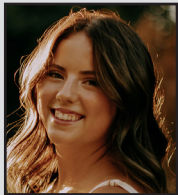
Caleigh Botsch
Willis C. Lenz
Memorial



Clay Brandenburger
Edward Gentleman
Memorial



Clark Brown
Albert E. & Dorothy E.
Emgarten Memorial



Gwyneth Brown
Dinsdale
Sophomore



Olivia Brummet
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



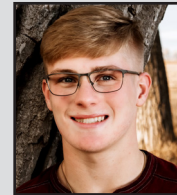
Alexandra Bruning
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Adelaide Buhlke
Raymond, Leonard &
Lois Steger Memorial



Ella Buhlke
Raymond W.
Starostka Memorial



Tristan Burbach
Edna I. Widman Memorial;
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Ethan Burdett
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



Akeyli Bush
Charles & Doris Benner;
Ervin & Bonnie Blauhorn;
Joe Hesselgesser



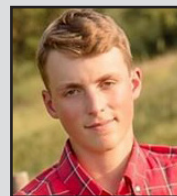
Faith Campa
Raymond, Leonard &
Lois Steger Memorial



Faith Carroll
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



Tyler Carroll
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial; Jack &
Dorothy Burger



Kade Caspersen
Clinton M. Wegner



Caitlin Chiles
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



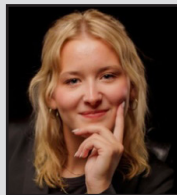
Shane Cook
Ethel Sweet Memorial; Glen
D. & Doris E. Neel Memorial



Marissa Crumrine
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



Chandra Davis
William & Emma Steffen



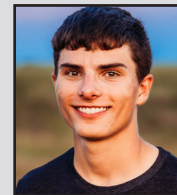
Charity Davis
Clinton M. Wegner



Trevor Davis
Berney-Manuel;
Joe Hesselgesser



Yuhan (Cyan) Deng
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Cameron Ditloff
Tyler Hook Hillmer
Memorial



Adam Dittmer
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Kennedy Doyle
Clinton M. Wegner



Ngoc (Sam) Duong
William & Emma Steffen



Caleb Eilers
Gary Monter Memorial; Albert
E. & Dorothy E. Emgarten
Memorial



Makayla Enevoldsen
Warren & Virginia
Marsh Memorial



Crystal Erickson
William & Emma Steffen



Jade Erickson
James & Marilyn Heins



Dayton Falk
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford

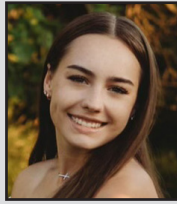
2024 Scholarship Awards



Gavin Falk
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



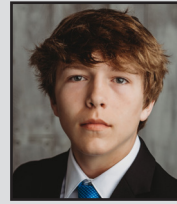
Van Fasbender
Central City Scale-Ron &
Jeanette Hawthorne



Makenzie Fousek
Michael V. Bittinger
Memorial



Julieanne Gallion
Eugene Fishburn



Andrew Garfield
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



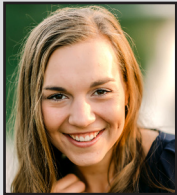
Emily Gay
Clinton M. Wegner



Savannah Glause
Bonnie Kohl Memorial;
Clinton M. Wegner



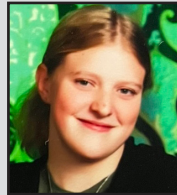
Bailey Greiving
Vernie L. Lock



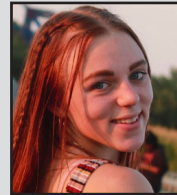
Molly Griess
William & Emma
Steffen



Rachel Hale
Elwin & Lucile Ferris



Natalie Hall
Clinton M. Wegner



Brielle Hamer
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Kirk Hebda
Edward Gentleman
Memorial



Nathaniel Heins
Maynard & Lois Fullington;
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



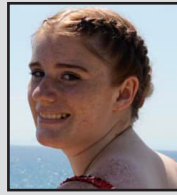
Isaac Herman
Ralph Stanley & Ella
Halstead Severance
Memorial



Cayden Homolka
Hohnroth Family



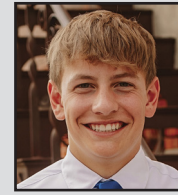
Seth Hower
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



Shana Jackson
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Timothy Jarecki
Les Johnson
Memorial



Blake Jensen
Darrell & Twila Widman
Endowed Medical



Kale Jensen
Raymond, Leonard &
Lois Steger Memorial



David Johnson
Benjamin Thomas Lindner
Memorial



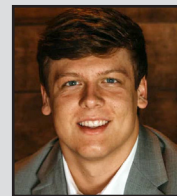
William Johnson
Stanley Ferris Agriculture;
J. Oren Hoback Memorial



Lincoln Kelley
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



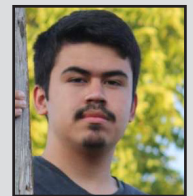
Claire Kelly
Albert E. & Dorothy E.
Emgarten Memorial



Reid Kelly
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



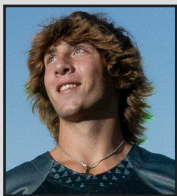
Brianna Konwinski
Edward Gentleman
Memorial



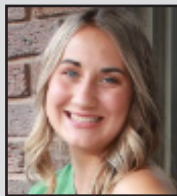
Jacob Kosmicki Gutierrez
Clinton M. Wegner



Elizabeth Krance
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



Jacob Kucera
Derek Aspedon



Claire Kunze
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



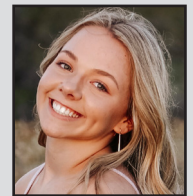
Lucie Lautenschlager
Albert E. & Dorothy E.
Emgarten Memorial



Kamryn Lemburg
Edward Gentleman
Memorial



Epsie Lesiak
Tom & Teri Beck; Larry
Dearing, DVM Memorial



Hailey Lindburg
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



Logan Lovejoy
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



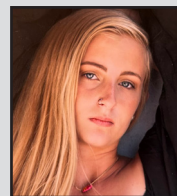
Justin Mayberry
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Presilia Mbutshitshi
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Karlee McClellan
Clinton M. Wegner



Morgan McClellan
Richard "Dick" Chochoy
Memorial; Gary Monter
Memorial



Charles McGinnis
Griffith Family; Donald
Nouzovsky Memorial



Graci McGinnis
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford

2024 Scholarship Awards



Shelby McHargue
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Ethan Merchant
Ralph Stanley & Ella
Halstead Severance
Memorial



Kylie Merchant
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



Marissa Morris
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Celeste Moser
Summer Paulsen Simon,
Class of 2001, Memorial



Gabrielle Moser
Raymond, Leonard & Lois
Steger Memorial; Donald
Nouzovsky Memorial



Kyleigh Muller
Clinton M. Wegner; Justin
"Skippy" Bennett Memorial



Mackynzi Muller
Clinton M. Wegner



Marlie Mundt
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Grace Musgrave
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Richie Musgrave
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



Chelsey Myers
William & Emma Steffen;
Richard J. Steiner Memorial



Amanda Needham
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Jonathan Needham
Albert E. & Dorothy E.
Emgarten Memorial



Aydon Nelson
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



Minh (Ryan) Nguyen
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Grant Nielson
Richard Mattson
Memorial



Jacob Nokelby
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



Brynn Ohlman
Aaron Stephenson Memorial;
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



Jessica Ohlman
William & Emma Steffen;
Charles & Ann
Kuhlman Memorial



Adriana Orozco
You Are Worth It; Tom &
Nancy Wagner; Phoebe
A. McCullough-Barbara A.
McGuire Memorial Education



Wuttichart Panyasakorn
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Mallory Paul
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Micah Perdew
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



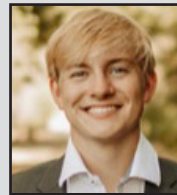
Elijah Peters
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



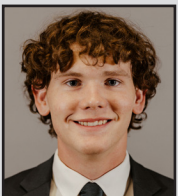
Nehemiah Peters
William & Emma Steffen



Derek Pfeifer
Austin & Cleo
Vanderford



Dylan Pfeifer
William & Emma Steffen



Aidan Pipher
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Taevit Poongkumarn
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Kaylee Powell
Hohnroth Family



Clay Purkerson
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



Rachel Rathjen
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Delaney Reeg
Emil & Dorothy Czarnick



Brayden Rinkol
Edward Gentleman
Memorial



Mason Rinkol
Albert E. & Dorothy E. Emgarten
Memorial; Silver Creek Alumni



Sarah Roberts
Donald Nouzovsky
Memorial



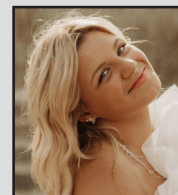
Hallie Rutherford
Lindner-Van Pelt
Heritage



**Jonathan
Ruvalcaba-Guzman**
Dinsdale Sophomore



Charlee Ryan
Albert E. & Dorothy E.
Emgarten Memorial; LeRoy
Hongsermeier FFA Memorial;
Tim Christensen Memorial



Teagan Sadler
Donald R. &
Jackie Sampson



Emily Samuelson
Clinton M. Wegner

2024 Scholarship Awards



Chloe Scheer
Henry "Bud" Santin Memorial; Albert E. & Dorothy E. Emgarten Memorial



Jerzie Schindler
Wayne & Mildred Hilder; Gail Gregg Ferris Registered Nurse; Matthew Fishburn



Garrett Schmierer
Willis C. Lenz Memorial



Sierra Schneider
Ervin & Bonnie Blauhorn; Myrtle & Jim Clarke



Tanner Schneiderheinz
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



McKenzie Schweitzer
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Terrigen Sebek
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Hope Seip
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



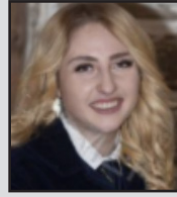
Karlee Seitz
Hunter Philip Hawthorne Memorial



Cassidy Shuda
Mary Chochon Memorial; Ernest & Peggy Naby Memorial



Juliana Sidak
Raymond, Leonard & Lois Steger Memorial



Hannah Siwinski
Dinsdale Sophomore



Ava Steinke
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



Noah Stocker
Merrick County Pork Producers; Albert E. & Dorothy E. Emgarten Memorial



Grace Strong
William L. & Velma R. McLean



Dalton Stull
Albert E. & Dorothy E. Emgarten Memorial



Hannah Swanson
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



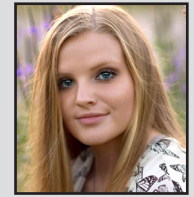
Shelby Swanson
Edward Mitchell



Christian Thede
Elton & Nancy Erickson



Hunter Thornton
Karen & Danielle Bannister Memorial; Ervin & Bonnie Blauhorn



Bree Tumlinson
Raymond, Leonard & Lois Steger Memorial



Jake Twiss
Albert E. & Dorothy E. Emgarten Memorial



Hannah Urban
Edward Gentleman Memorial



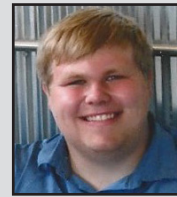
Wyatt Urkoski
Merrick Foundation Founders



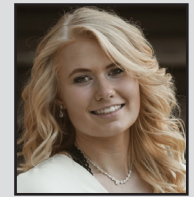
Lydia Vleck
Alice Klingenberg Memorial



Taryn Wagner
William & Emma Steffen



Brayden Weller
Clinton M. Wegner



Fallon Wells
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Addison Wemhoff
Warren & Virginia Marsh Memorial



Kaitlyn Wemhoff
Ray & Mildred Miller Memorial



Kenzie Wert
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



Seth Wert
Albert E. & Dorothy E. Emgarten Memorial



Kamryn Wright
Willa Freeland, Women in Business; Austin & Cleo Vanderford; Joe Hesselgesser



Max Ye
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Canran (Mabel) Yin
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Hannah Yrkoski
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



Rose Zelinski
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



Lydia Ziemba
Silver Creek Alumni; Larry Meyer Memorial



Ayden Zikmund
Berney-Manuel; Matthew Fishburn

Congratulations to the
165 STUDENTS \$166,650
who received in scholarships

BOOK OF MEMORY

Donations received in memory of a loved one are recorded in the Book of Memory, which is always on display at our office. Donations can be made in memory of a loved one to a specific fund or our General Endowment. Any donations made to our General Endowment are used to fund various community projects throughout Merrick County. The time frame captured below is from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.

Dorothy Adkinson	1930 - 2022	Fritz Engel	1932 - 2004	Frances Jensen	1948 - 2023	Margaret Ratcliff	
Chas Anderson	1868 - 1925	Donna Ferris	1915 - 2003	Norman Krong	1920 - 2009	Campbell	1897 - 1967
Vivian Anderson	1933 - 2022	Rexford Ferris	1913 - 1998	Eileen (Arnold) Krong	1921 - 2017	Joy Reeves	1932 - 2023
Gary Bader	1942 - 2020	Otto Frauen	1920 - 2006	Robert Krug	1916 - 1996	Mike Reeves	1950 - 2023
Jack Barton	1947 - 2023	Georgena Frauen	1928 - 2015	Lillian Krug	1920 - 1997	Rosalie Regan	1938 - 2023
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