

# MERRICK FOUNDATION, INC.

## Scholarships

## GRANTS

## MEMORIALS

## Financials

## Merrick County Projects

**Vision Statement:** The Merrick Foundation will strive to be a leader in attracting, mobilizing and focusing philanthropic resources to meet Merrick County's needs for generations to come.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Leave your lasting legacy in Merrick County, call us today 308-946-3707.

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ECRWSS or Current Resident

Merrick Foundation, Inc.  
1532 17th Ave., Suite B  
Central City, NE 68826  
(308) 946-3707





**Chuck Griffith,  
Executive Director**

Chuck has served as Executive Director of Merrick Foundation since 2006. Previously, Chuck served as an elementary teacher, principal, curriculum director, school planner and superintendent in Nebraska, Kansas and Louisiana. He also served as the Director of Academic Affairs at MTTI in Kansas City. He received a bachelors, masters and educational specialist certificate from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and obtained a Ph.D. in 1999. Chuck serves as treasurer of the Heartland Council of Foundations and on the board of the Nebraska Partnership for Philanthropic Planning. Chuck enjoys fishing, hunting, home renovation and Husker football. His wife Kathleen substitute teaches in Merrick County. They have two grown children, Cliff and Casey, both graduates of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

*Thank you to our retiring  
Board Members*



**Kathy Debas:** Kathy served on the Scholarship Committee during her term on the board. She served as Committee Chair for the Scholarship Committee in 2016.

**Randy Rinkol:** Randy served on the Grant Committee and one year on the Scholarship Committee during his term on the board. He served as Board President in 2016.

**Welcome Newly Elected Board Members**

At our annual meeting in November, Leah Brown, Lisa Kershaw, and Monica Simonson assumed their duties as board members. We extend a warm welcome to them.

**Merrick Foundation Board of Directors had the privilege this past year to approve \$241,513 in Grants to Merrick County projects.**

**Merrick Foundation Grantees – Fiscal Year 2016**

American Legion Baseball .....	Program Support
Archer Evangelical Cemetery .....	Annual Support
Burke Cemetery.....	Annual Support
CC Boy/Cub Scout Troop 102.....	Program Support
Central City Children’s Theater .....	Missoula Children’s Theater
Central City High School .....	Jr Academy of Science
Central City High School - Band.....	Student Trip to Branson, MO
Central City High School - DECA.....	Student Conference in Nashville
Central City High School - FFA.....	Dark Island Trail Maintenance
Central City High School - Speech .....	Student Nationals in Denver, CO
Central City Middle School.....	Student Trip to DC
Central City Public Library .....	New Microfilm System
Central City Senior Center .....	Annual Support
Central City Stampede Softball.....	Uniforms & Equipment
Central City Trails .....	Trail Maintenance & Development
Chapman Township Cemetery .....	Trees & Water System
Clarks Public Library.....	Drinking Fountain & Exotic Animal Visit
Covenant Cedars Bible Camp.....	High School Voc. Skills
Go Big Give.....	Go Big Give Sponsorship
High Plains Community Schools.....	Student Trip to DC
High Plains Community Schools - Teammates .....	Program Startup Funding
High Plains Community Schools - Band .....	Band & Choir Trip
Litzenberg Memorial Hospital .....	Loan Repayment/ Education
Lone Tree Literary Society .....	Annual Support
Merrick Arts Council.....	Program Support
Merrick County 4-H Youth .....	Student Washington DC Trip
Merrick County Child Development Center.....	Matching Funds
Merrick County Entertainment Corporation.....	New Movie Theater
Merrick County Historical Museum .....	Annual Support
Merrick County Home Delivered Meals .....	Delivered Hot Meals
Merrick County Youth Council.....	Dark Island Trail Maintenance
Merrick County Youth Council.....	Program/Facility Support
Merrymakers Association .....	Entertainment for Seniors
Midland Area Agency on Aging .....	Lifeline Support
Nebraska Christian School.....	Student Trip to DC
Nebraska Christian School.....	Festival of Lessons & Carols
NELAC.....	Sponsor NE150 Guide to More NE Authors
North Blue Cemetery .....	Annual Support
Palmer American Legion.....	Building Improvements
Palmer Commercial Club .....	Banners for Main St
Palmer High School .....	Student Trip to DC
Palmer High School - Band.....	Student Trip to New Orleans
Palmer Senior Center.....	Annual Support
Palmer Volunteer Fire Department .....	Fireworks/Helmets

## Merrick Foundation Grantees – Fiscal Year 2016 (Continued)

Platte Peer Group .....	Butterfly Garden/Deck
Prairie Plains Resource Institute .....	Merrick County Students to SOAR Camp
Riverside Park Association.....	Pavilion Roof Repair
Rose Hill Cemetery .....	30 Blue Spruce Trees
Royal Family Kids Camp II.....	Camp Support
Silver Creek Ball Association.....	Program Support
Silver Creek Cemetery Association .....	Matching Funds
Steps Dance Academy.....	Student Trip to New York City
Twin River Jr/Sr Legion Baseball .....	Program Support
Twin River PTO .....	School Carnival
Twin River Public Schools - FBLA .....	National Competition
Twin River Public Schools - FCCLA.....	National Leadership Conf
Wiegert Cemetery.....	Replace Fence

### Grant Application Procedures

1. The Community Grant deadline has been moved from the first of the month to the 10th of each month (following Monday if the 10th is on a weekend). Merrick Foundation meets on the 4th Monday of each month. No meeting is held in December. April's meeting is on the 4th Sunday in April (Scholarship Tea).
2. Grants are approved on the condition that grantees attend the Annual Meeting on the 4th Monday of November and present a poster board (provided) display describing their grant.
3. Grant applications over \$10,000 may require representatives to attend a board meeting. They will be notified by the Grant Committee.
4. Grant requests over \$15,000 will be reviewed in January, June and October. Applicants shall be required to attend a board meeting.
5. Only one grant application form needs to be mailed to Merrick Foundation.
6. A separate (shorter) form is now available for student educational trips. It is listed separately on the Merrick Foundation website. Schools are encouraged to apply as soon as possible for student trip funding. Grants for school trips are not to exceed the average class size in one year or twice the average class size in two years.

Application forms and grant guidelines are available on our website at [merrick-foundation.org](http://merrick-foundation.org), or you may request one by phone (308) 946-3707.



**Shannon Hannappel,  
Board President**

Shannon is a graduate from Osceola High School and attended college at Midland Lutheran in Fremont. She and her husband Don have two grown sons, Jacob and Tanner. They attend church at St. Michaels in Central City. Shannon is an insurance agent for Farm Bureau Financial Services. Shannon is a Nebraska Lead Fellow XXIII and has been a member of the Merrick County Farm Bureau since 2004. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, and any outdoor activities.

### *A message from the Board President:*

Merrick Foundation is proud to support the nonprofits that serve all parts of our county and people of all age groups and interests. Our fifteen volunteer board members represent each of our communities and do their best to serve the needs of all Merrick County residents. Our staff works hard to get the resources to those projects needing support. Staff members include Chuck Griffith, Exec. Director; Michelle Carroll, Accountant/Scholarship Coordinator; Andrea Green, Communications/Publications; and Anita Kucera, Education and Public Outreach. Drive around Merrick County and you will see where Merrick Foundation has transformed donations from the past into successful programs and facilities. Recent major projects include the Dark Island Trail, the State and Widman Theaters, the new Fairgrounds Building, Heartland Tribute to Veterans, and the Merrick County Youth Council building. We also look forward to enjoying a new museum. Scholarships have provided over \$200,000 in support for our graduating seniors and college students.



**Merrick Foundation, Inc.**  
*Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter.*

## STAFF



**Michelle Carroll,**  
Accountant/Scholarship  
Coordinator

Michelle grew up in Elwood, Nebraska and received her bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2000. She moved with her family to Central City in 2005. Michelle has four children: Khrystina, Jonathan, Faith and Tyler and one granddaughter, Skylir. Michelle enjoys running, spending time with friends and family and attending her children's activities. She currently serves on the Merrick County Child Development Center board.



**Andrea Green,**  
Communications/  
Publications

Andrea grew up in Central City and graduated from Central City High School. She received an Associate Degree in Business from the Lincoln School of Commerce in Lincoln, NE and also received her Emergency Medical Technician training from CCC in Columbus, NE. Andrea is a member of the First Christian Church. Andrea has two grown children: Jesse and Jordan. Andrea enjoys outdoor activities and many sports, reading, making crafts and spending time with family and friends.



**Anita Kucera,**  
Community Relations  
& Education

Anita (Nita) grew up in Lexington, NE and received her bachelor and master degrees from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She and her husband Dave retired in 2012 after being in education for many years. They have enjoyed living in Central City and being close to their only son, John, daughter-in-law, Tara and Granddaughter, Shaylin. She enjoys working with the Merrick Foundation Leading Locally program and says she is proud to be part of an organization that benefits the community with all they do. Nita enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, playing video games, and being involved with many projects. She is the current President for The Litzenberg Hospital Thrift Shop and works with the Tri Community Foundation.

## Merrick Foundation Staff & Board of Directors enjoy supporting our community



## Community Activities

Clarks Summer Reading Program • Soupfest  
Go Big Give • MCRYC Paint Wars • Parades



**Our website:**  
[merrick-foundation.org](http://merrick-foundation.org)

**Like us on Facebook:**  
[facebook.com/Merrick-Foundation-Inc](https://facebook.com/Merrick-Foundation-Inc)

**Follow us on Twitter:**  
[twitter.com/MerrFoundation](https://twitter.com/MerrFoundation)

**Watch our video on YouTube:**  
[youtu.be/6GmH88210ws](https://youtu.be/6GmH88210ws)

## ESI Camp

### Merrick Foundation sponsors

**an ESI Camp** for Merrick County middle school students. The annual week long summer camp teaches the campers skills necessary to start and run a successful business. The camp concludes with students selling their products at the Lone Tree Days Sidewalk Sale. Students may also choose to sell their products at the county or state fair. Students take daily trips to visit a variety of businesses and hear how they began and what is entailed in running a business. Guest speakers also talk with the students about business topics such as marketing,



(Left to right, front row) Ty Vanek, Kamryn Lemburg, Cole Kunz, Ben Olivo. (Back Row) Samantha Bierbaum, Olivia Brummett, Fallon Wells, Grant Blodgett.

business legal status, social networking, assessing risks, business loans, grants and other topics. Part of the ESI curriculum teaches the students how to decide on the product they will market and sell.



## SOAR CAMP & Youth Naturalist Program

Merrick Foundation awarded SCHOLARSHIPS to Merrick County youth to attend SOAR and the Youth Naturalist Program. Nine Merrick County youth participated in one of a kind summer camps where they explored the Platte River and surrounding environments. They learned about the natural history of the area and why the area they are from is unique and interesting. These camps get youth outdoors and help them develop naturalist skills and a love of the outdoors that last a lifetime. These youth also make new friends while attending these camps. They also benefit from interacting with guest presenters and professionals in the natural sciences, agriculture and the arts.



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### Leah Brown

Leah graduated from Central City High School and the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She and her husband, Darrin, farm near Archer and attend Fairview United Methodist Church. Leah has four children: Aaron (22), Ashton (20), Gwyneth (11) and Gretchen (10). Before making the decision to be a stay-at-home mom and farm wife 12 years ago, Leah owned Woody's Cafe & Lounge and later served as the director of the Merrick County Child Development Center. She has volunteered extensively in her community, church and school, primarily focusing on children and youth activities. Leah substitute teaches at Palmer during her spare time.



### Lisa Kershaw

Lisa is a graduate of Silver Creek Public Schools and received her Associate of Applied Science degree in Ag Business from SCC in Beatrice. Lisa is engaged to marry fiancé Travis Vanek. They have two sons: Ty and Gavin Vanek. Lisa is employed with RCIS and Whitetail. Lisa is a member of the Methodist Church. Lisa enjoys camping, fishing, and spending time with family.



### Monica Simonson

Monica grew up and continues to make her home in Palmer. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney earning her Bachelor of Arts Degree and Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College. Monica and her husband, Randy have two children: Logan and Bailey. Monica is employed with the Grand Island Public School where she has taught for 31 years. She is a member of the St. John's Lutheran Church and a variety of educational organizations. Monica enjoys reading, Husker volleyball, traveling, and air-boating.

## BOARD MEMBERS



**David J. Lee,  
DVM**

David graduated high school from Falls City High in Falls City, NE. He received his Bachelors of Science from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1997, his Masters of Science from Kansas State University in 2001, and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State University in 2005. David is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and was a past board member. He also serves on the Merrick County Economic Development board. David has been the owner of the Central City Veterinary Clinic since October 2009. David is married to Katrina Lee, and they have a five year old daughter named Johanah. David enjoys spending time with family and outdoor activities.



**Jared Wetovick**

Jared is a native of Fullerton and graduated from Fullerton High School. He received his BS in Business Administration with an emphasis in Ag-Business from Wayne State College. Jared works for Central Bank and has been in banking for ten years. His family moved to Central City four years ago. Jared and his wife Sheila have two sons: Dayle (12) and Gus (2). Jared likes to spend time with family and enjoys hunting, fishing, and golfing.



**Nicole Greving**

Nicole and her husband Shane live in Chapman. Nicole is a graduate from Central City High School and attended Northeast Community College. She is a stay at home mom of two kids: daughter Bailey (11) and son Braiden (8). Nicole is currently the President of Central City Elementary PTO. Nicole has finished a partial term on the foundation board and has now decided to join us for a five year, full term position. Nicole enjoys spending time with family and friends.

# Book of Memory

Leroy Allen Jr.....	1945 - 2016	Fred A. Marsh .....	1871 - 1963
Raymond Bandt.....	1945 - 2016	Virginia Ivy Marsh.....	1871 - 1957
Steven L. Bankson .....	1962 - 2016	Ellard Matousek .....	1939 - 2011
Richard C. Bauer.....	1945 - 2015	Marilyn McHargue Alexander .....	.....
Shirley Beck.....	1935 - 2015	.....	1936 - 2016
Gilbert Joe Bolen .....	1944 - 2016	Tom McMahan.....	1939 - 2012
Alice Brandes.....	1925 - 2015	Norma McMillan .....	1924 - 2015
Ricky L. Brokaw .....	1959 - 2016	Melvin Meyer.....	1926 - 2015
Dan Cahill		Max Nelson.....	1927 - 2016
Janet Carnes .....	1939 - 2014	Kay M. O'Meara .....	1935 - 2016
Mary L. Chochon .....	1941 - 2015	Harold Parker .....	1904 - 1977
Scott A. Cotner.....	1971 - 2005	Lois Parker .....	1923 - 2009
Neta Deeds .....	1931 - 2015	Martha Pullen .....	1919 - 2008
Ivan Dittmer .....	1934 - 1999	Joanne Rankin	
Lola Felske .....	1937 - 2015	Evelyn Rudolf .....	1922 - 2016
Donna Ferris.....	1915 - 2003	John Sock .....	1936 - 2016
Rexford Ferris .....	1913 - 1998	Clarence Stratman.....	1913 - 1995
Georgena Frauen .....	1928 - 2015	Irwin Stratman .....	1915 - 2009
Judith Gibson Sharp....	1942 - 2016	Lucille Stratman.....	1916 - 2015
Loy Glause .....	1932 - 2010	Clarence "Stu" Stuart...1938 - 2016	
Zac Grigsby.....	1996 - 2015	Roger Sweet	
Rose Joanna Hahn .....	2016 - 2016	Margaret E. Tooker .....	1924 - 2015
Norma Haith .....	1922 - 1997	Effie Torpin .....	1914 - 2010
Neal LaVern Hartford ..	1927 - 2005	R. Stanley Torpin .....	1916 - 2003
Van Hesselgesser.....	1946 - 2016	Lucile Tyler .....	1922 - 2000
Tyler Hook Hillmer.....	1998 - 2013	Wayne Tyler .....	1921 - 1998
Thomas Benton Hord...1850 - 1910		L. T. "Buss" Van Winkle .....	.....
Kevin Knight.....	1956 - 2016	.....	1917 - 1997
Thomas D. Kuhn .....	1941 - 2004	Zelda "Zee" Van Winkle .....	.....
J. Bert Kunz.....	1918 - 2016	.....	1921 - 2004
Orvis (Sonny) Larsen...1939 - 2016		Lloyd (Bud) Wagner ....	1924 - 2015
Carolyn Larson.....	1939 - 2011	Dallas Wegner .....	1922 - 1977
Marvin H Leamons .....	1926 - 2016	Alice Duffy Wilson .....	1908 - 1998
H.R. "Dick" Lippincott	1922 - 2009	Olan "Bus" K. Wilson..1907 - 1990	



## Remembering Earl Brandes

Merrick Foundation lost a longtime friend and generous supporter when Earl Brandes of Central City passed away on Thanksgiving, November 24, 2016. Earl and his late wife Alice were constant supporters of various community projects throughout Merrick County. We all enjoyed when Earl would stop in the office to visit with a smile on his face. Earl will be deeply missed.

## Special Memorials

Accumulated gifts of \$100 or more creates a special memorial in the name of a loved one. The names are also entered in the Book of Memory if they had not previously been added. Special memorials were received for:

**Alice Brandes**

**Mary L. Chochon**

**Scott A. Cotner**

**Feehan Family**

**Donna & Rexford Ferris**

**Judith Gibson Sharp**

**Norma Haith**

**Neal LaVern Hartford**

**Van Hesselgesser**

**Thomas Benton Hord**

**Thomas D. Kuhn**

**J. Bert Kunz**

**Orvis (Sonny) Larsen**

**Fred A. & Virginia Ivy Marsh**

**Tom McMahan**

**Martha Pullen**

**Clarence "Stu" Stuart**

**Margaret E. Tooker**

**R. Stanley & Effie Torpin**

**Wayne & Lucile Tyler**

# 2017 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



**Fatima Al-ebadi**  
Leonard & Doris Aerni Memorial



**Caitlyn Anderson**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Christina Bailey**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Kolin Banks**  
Derek Aspedon Memorial



**Brianna Bankson**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Mikayla Bankson**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Emily Beaver**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Rachel Beck**  
Hohnroth Family



**Katelyn Becker**  
Benjamin Thomas Lindner Memorial



**Katherine Benner**  
Leonard & Doris Aerni Memorial



**Kristen Benner**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Paige Benner**  
Raymond, Leonard & Lois Steger Memorial



**Trystan Bennett**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Corrina Beyard**  
Ralph Stanley & Ella Halstead Severance Memorial



**Jaeden Beyer**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Jenna Blase**  
Vernie Lock



**Austin Blodgett**  
Industrios Student; Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Kaley Brandenburg**  
Raymond, Leonard & Lois Steger Memorial



**Laura Budde**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Leah Buller**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Brandon Burruss**  
Albert & Dorothy Emgarten Memorial



**Elaina Callahan**  
Dinsdale Sophomore



**Sable Campa**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Micah Carlson**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Mitchell Carlson**  
Jack & Dorothy Burger



**Ethan Cave**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Richard (Buck) Church**  
Central City Scale



**Logan Cuba**  
William & Emma Steffen Nursing



**McKenzie Cuba**  
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Katherine Cumpston**  
Raymond, Leonard & Lois Steger Memorial



**Sara Czarnick**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Shayla Czarnick**  
Silver Creek Alumni



**Samantha Dankert**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Tyler Djernes**  
Leonard & Doris Aerni Memorial



**Trang Doan**  
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Zachary Dockweiler**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Chandler Donsheski**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Colten Drage**  
Alice Klingenberg Memorial; Donald Nouzovsky Memorial; McCullough-McGuire Memorial



**Clair Dush**  
Hohnroth Family;  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Kadie Dvorak**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Reilly Dvorak**  
William & Emma  
Steffen Nursing



**Kaylee Eberle**  
Edna Widman  
Memorial; Matthew  
Fishburn Memorial



**Chloe Engel**  
American Legion Post  
#6 4 & 80; Glen D. &  
Doris E. Neel Memorial



**Tana Engel**  
Karen & Danielle  
Bannister Memorial;  
Silver Creek Alumni



**Trey Engel**  
Donald Nouzovsky  
Memorial



**Hans Epp**  
Donald Nouzovsky  
Memorial



**Tessa Epp**  
Austin & Cleo  
Vanderford



**Amber Erickson**  
Austin & Cleo  
Vanderford



**Edie Erickson**  
Donald & Jackie  
Sampson; Austin &  
Cleo Vanderford



**Hylee Esch**  
Donald Nouzovsky  
Memorial



**Matthew Euse**  
Les Johnson Memorial



**Marilla Flynn**  
Ray & Mildred Miller  
Memorial; Donald  
Nouzovsky Memorial



**Elizabeth Forbes**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Valerie Fousek**  
Donald Nouzovsky  
Memorial; Raymond,  
Leonard & Lois Steger  
Memorial



**Caleb Fuelberth**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



**Amy Gathje**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke;  
Donald & Jackie  
Sampson



**Jill Gathje**  
Austin & Cleo  
Vanderford



**Kathryn Gathje**  
Charles & Ann  
Kuhlman Memorial



**Xuanyi (Corina) Ge**  
Donald Nouzovsky  
Memorial



**Thomas Geiger**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



**Matthew Gilg**  
Leonard & Doris Aerni  
Memorial



**Kordell Glause**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Kristin Glause**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Michaela Glause**  
Richard "Dick"  
Chochoh Memorial;  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Mitchell Glause**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Isabella Gomez**  
Albert & Dorothy  
Emgarten Memorial



**Cailyn (Ostrand)  
Grabill**  
Austin & Cleo  
Vanderford



**Alexandria Gragg**  
Austin & Cleo  
Vanderford



**Jacie Gravert**  
Charles & Doris  
Benner



**Krissa Gulbrandson**  
Austin & Cleo  
Vanderford



**Bailey Hamer**  
Merrick Foundation  
Founders; Joel Holbrook  
Memorial; Ernest &  
Peggy Naby Memorial



**Kordell Hamer**  
Virgil & Nora Lindner;  
Austin & Cleo  
Vanderford



**Tanner Hannappel**  
Warren & Virginia  
Marsh



**Tyler Heins**  
Industrious Student



**Whitney Heuermann**  
Albert & Dorothy  
Emgarten Memorial;  
J. Oren Hoback  
Memorial



**Abbie Hillmer**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



**Kaylee Hostler**  
Albert & Dorothy  
Emgarten Memorial



**Shayleen Hubbard**  
William & Emma  
Steffen Nursing



**Dayna James**  
Leonard & Doris Aerni  
Memorial; William &  
Emma Steffen Nursing



**Brooke Johnson**  
Merrick County Pork  
Producers





**Hannah King**  
Ralph Stanley & Ella Halstead Severance Memorial



**Jamie Knight**  
Eugene Fishburn



**Cameron Langemeier**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Andrew Lee**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Jessica Lee**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Amanda Macke**  
Raymond, Leonard & Lois Steger Memorial



**Marshall Makowski**  
Michael V. Bittinger Memorial



**Abby Maresh**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke; James & Marilyn Heins



**Mollie Maresh**  
James & Marilyn Heins



**Trevor McDiffett**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Kincaid McMaster**  
Dinsdale Sophomore



**Cole McReynolds**  
Derek Aspedon Memorial; Central Bank; Matthew Fishburn Memorial



**Meagan Meyer**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Madeline (Maddie) Moser**  
Dylan Van Pelt Memorial; Elton & Nancy Erickson



**Tara Murphy**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



**Hannah Myers**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Matthew Myers**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Ethan Nelson**  
Ervin & Bonnie Blauhorn



**Huy (Harry) Nguyen**  
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Kallen Nickell**  
Gary Monter Memorial



**Hannah Niemeier**  
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Sarah Niemeier**  
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Mackenzie Nordlund**  
Industrious Student; Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Jeremiah Ohlman**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Vincent Ohlman**  
Lindner-Van Pelt Heritage



**Cassidy Ostrand**  
Warren & Virginia Marsh



**Tera Paczosa**  
Bonnie Kohl Memorial



**Tiffanie Paczosa**  
Gregory Rinkol Memorial; Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Jordan Paup**  
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Jonah Peterson**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



**Luke Peterson**  
Donald & Jackie Sampson



**Miranda Pospisil**  
Gary Monter Memorial; Clinton M. Wegner



**Morgann Pospisil**  
Gary Monter Memorial; Clinton M. Wegner



**Alexis Potter**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Matthew Reeves**  
Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Hunter Reimers**  
Mary Chochoh Memorial; Clinton M. Wegner



**Kaden Reimers**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Michaela Reimers**  
Albert & Dorothy Engarten Memorial



**Mackenzie Rinkol**  
William & Emma Steffen Nursing



**Dillon Rose**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Armando Ruvalcaba**  
Albert & Dorothy Engarten Memorial



**Chase Samuelson**  
Dinsdale Sophomore



**Brett Santin**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Amber Scherer**  
Wayne & Mildred Hilder; William & Emma Steffen Nursing



**Bradley Schoch**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Andrew Schuller**  
William L. & Velma R. McLean; Donald Nouzovsky Memorial



**Isabella Schultz**  
Gary Monter Memorial



**Morgan Schulze**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Andrew Schwartz**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Tatum Sharman**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Emily Simmons**  
Raymond, Leonard & Lois Steger Memorial



**Sarah Simmons**  
Industrious Student



**Bailey Simonson**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Jacob Simonson**  
William L. & Velma R. McLean



**Jonathan Simonson**  
Albert & Dorothy Emgarten Memorial



**Kevin Smith**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Alex Stocker**  
Albert & Dorothy Emgarten Memorial; Elwin & Lucile Ferris Memorial



**Rachel Sundberg**  
Leonard & Doris Aerni Memorial



**Paige Sutton**  
William & Emma Steffen Nursing



**Clair Thede**  
Elwin & Lucile Ferris Memorial; Merrick Foundation Founders



**Madison Tibbetts**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Randi Tomasek**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Haylie Tyler**  
Joe Hesselgesser



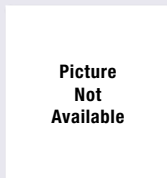
**Jessie Valasek**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Kara Valasek**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Whitney Valasek**  
Clinton M. Wegner



Picture Not Available

**Minh Vu**  
Albert & Dorothy Emgarten Memorial



**Ross Wagner**  
Industrious Student



**Will Wagner**  
Ervin & Bonnie Blauhorn



**Beau Wattier**  
Albert & Dorothy Emgarten Memorial; Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Riley Weller**  
Dinsdale Sophomore



**Emily Wiegert**  
Albert & Dorothy Emgarten Memorial



**Kara Wiegert**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Sydney Williams**  
Robert & Lillian Krug Memorial; Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Jasmine Wilson**  
Albert & Dorothy Emgarten Memorial



**Trey Wilson**  
Austin & Cleo Vanderford



**Andrew Winsterman**  
Myrtle & Jim Clarke



**Emilie Wolfe**  
Clinton M. Wegner



**Michael Wolfe**  
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**Barry Marsh**

Barry attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Colorado State University, and the Graduate School of Banking-University of Colorado and earned his Graduate School Certificate. Barry retired in 2010 after 41 years in banking. Barry is married to Alta and has two daughters: Anita of Lincoln and Andrea (who is deceased). Barry is a member of the Methodist Church. He also enjoys woodworking, landscaping, and gardening.



**Tara Urkoski**

Tara is a graduate of Monroe High School and Central Community College and has a degree in Nursing. Tara is employed with Genoa Medical Facilities. Tara and her husband Jason have three children: Jamison, Korbe, and Tate. Tara is a member of the St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Krakow and is on the Alter Society at Krakow. She is also a member of the Twin River PTO and Booster Club. Tara enjoys camping, watching her children play sports, and family time.



**Kevin Waring**

Kevin is a graduate of Orchard High School, Wayne State College, and Kearney State College earning his Bachelor/ Arts Education from Wayne State College and his Master in Science Education from Kearney State College. Kevin is now retired from 38 years of teaching at Central City High School. Kevin and his wife Joan have three children: Chad, Tracey, and Mitchell. Kevin is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Kevin has served on many boards including church and Willow Bend. Kevin also has professional memberships to education associations. He also enjoys motorcycles, golfing, music/guitar, and water sports.

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**Michael Thede**

Michael is a graduate of St. Paul Public Schools and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Michael and his wife Jean have four children: Clair, Anna, Christian, and Joseph. Michael and his family reside in Palmer. Michael attends St. Peter and Paul Church in St. Paul.



**Sheri Wruble**

Sheri is a graduate from Ravenna High School and received her Associate Degree in Accounting from Central Community College at Hastings. Sheri and her husband Jerry farm in Clarks and have three children: Brendan, Kenzie, and Evan. Sheri is employed with Myers Insurance Inc. in Clarks, NE as a part-time licensed insurance agent. Sheri is a member of St. Peter Catholic Church in Clarks, NE and is Treasurer for Altar Society, CCD Coordinator and Teacher. Sheri enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys watching her kids' sports activities.



**Rodney Lee**

Rodney and his wife Sara live in Central City and have two children: Jessica and Andrew. Rodney is a graduate of Holdrege High School and the University of Nebraska at Kearney earning his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education. Rodney is employed at the Central City Mall. Rodney is a member of the Heartland Evangelical Free Church. Rodney enjoys spending time with family, golfing, Husker football, and traveling.

# LEADING LOCALLY



**Participants included:** Bobby Hanquist, Brooke Bruland, Chesney Reeves, Cora Menke, Delaney Carlstrom, Gabriella Homolka, Gracie Baker, Ian Anderson, Joseph Zwiener, Maddie Young, Marley Roepker, Shelby Bamesberger, Sierra Boroviak & Stacy Bohlken.



## Leading Locally 2016-2017

Merrick Foundation's Leading Locally 2016-2017 class matched fourteen civic-minded students with a curriculum that builds leadership skills for future community leaders. The ninth annual class met monthly from September through February. Coursework included skill-building activities including:

- True Colors personality assessments
- Matching peoples strengths with project needs
- Conducting effective meetings
- Working with difficult people
- Traits of successful communities
- Knowing the demographics of Merrick County
- Moving from talk to action

The group took monthly tours of local businesses and guest speakers shared their experiences and roles in the community. A highlight each year is the annual trip to Lincoln to tour the capitol and visit the legislature in action. Leading Locally's goal is to give the students a better understanding of how to make their community better by solving problems and organizing people to make effective change. **Leading Locally is provided at no cost, thanks to the generosity of Cornerstone Bank, Pinnacle Bank, Archer Credit Union, CC Dairy Queen, and Central City Mall.**

# LEVELS *of* GIVING

Donors are recongnized for their giving levels to the Merrick Foundation if their gift stays at the Foundation. Total gifts to the general fund or another endowment fund qualifies a donor to be recognized in the following categories:

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Edward & Francis Chader  
Richard & Mary Chochon  
Dr. Jeff & Kristy Clarke  
Joe & Cyndi Clarke  
Jeanne M. Czarnick  
Dairy Queen  
Robert Davis  
George T. Dinsdale  
Howard A. Dinsdale  
Elton & Nancy Erickson  
Robert D. Erickson  
First State Bank  
Dr. Fred & Wilma Fouts  
Bob & Willa Freeland  
E. Marie (Hummel)  
Friedrichsen  
Margie Fritz  
Dr. Jerome & Doris Gacke  
Garwood Family Limited  
Partnership  
Kay Georgiana  
Linda Gilson  
Mark & Jane Gloor  
Charles & Kathleen Griffith  
Marilyn Heins  
Richard Hensley  
Van Hesselgesser  
Wayne Hilder  
Allen Hohnroth & Renee  
Berlin  
Floy Hohnroth  
Nancy Hohnroth  
Harvey & Sonia Holbrook  
Herber & Effie Hord  
C. Richard & Nancy B.  
Johnson  
Jim Johnson  
Rick & Katherine Johnson  
Alice M. Klingenberg  
William H. Kohl Jr.  
Norm & Sue Krug  
J. Bert & Edith A. Kunz  
Martin A. Larson  
Lone Tree Medical Associates  
Iva & Zora Mack  
Dr. Steve & Becky Mahnke  
Kent & Nancy Malm  
William Marsh, MD  
Ivan & Noama Martson  
James & Martha McGahan  
Dr. George & Rebecca  
McLean

Pat McMahon  
Merrick County Pork  
Producers  
Cliff & Kathy Mesner  
Ray & Mildred Miller  
Ernest & Peggy Nabity  
NE Therapeutic Riding  
Academy  
Glen & Doris Neel  
Pfizer Foundation Matching  
Gifts Program  
WM J. Pullen  
Frederick Roebeoltmanns  
Russ Russell Estate  
Bob Sampson  
Bud & Marcy Santin  
Dale & Michelle Sell  
Edith Severance  
Silver Creek Alumni  
Association  
Silver Creek Cemetery  
Association  
Helen Solt  
Artie R. Stainaker  
Robert & Christine Steinke  
Ethel Sweet  
Syngenta, LLC  
Neal & Lois Thomas  
E. Thomas Thurber, DVM  
Rich & Susan Torpin  
Daniel & Tonya Van Pelt  
Tom & Nancy Wagner  
William & Jean Wenke  
Edna Widman  
Jack & Marilyn Wilson  
Harold & Fern Zamzow  
Harold & Verna Zmek

## Statement of Financial Position

October 31 <sup>st</sup>	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash .....	\$55,127	\$128,345
Investments .....	\$7,667,150	\$8,097,516
Note receivable .....	\$320,073	\$335,627
Interest receivable .....	\$16,393	\$20,231
Investment in real estate .....	\$524,503	\$524,503
Property and equipment (net of accumulated depreciation) .....	\$284,918	\$234,039
Investments- permanently restricted .....	\$6,950,599	\$6,666,767
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$15,818,763</b>	<b>\$16,007,028</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Assets held for the benefit of others .....	\$2,324,482	\$2,157,392
Accounts payable .....	\$1,656	\$836
Payroll taxes payable .....	\$5,521	\$4,936
Accrued vacation .....	\$1,761	\$1,700
Accrued real estate taxes .....	\$24,000	\$21,500
Grants payable .....	\$618,151	\$914,784
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$2,975,571</b>	<b>\$3,101,148</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated .....	(\$309,693)	(\$157,616)
Designated .....	\$2,772,283	\$2,749,885
Total Unrestricted .....	\$2,462,590	\$2,592,269
Temporarily restricted .....	\$3,430,003	\$3,646,844
Permanently restricted .....	\$6,950,599	\$6,666,767
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$12,843,192</b>	<b>\$12,905,880</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$15,818,763</b>	<b>\$16,007,028</b>

## Schedule of Amounts Held for the Benefit of Others

October 31 <sup>st</sup>	2016	2015
American Legion Baseball .....	\$31,804	\$29,774
Archer Evangelical Community Cemetery .....	\$16,678	\$16,822
Burke Cemetery .....	\$16,886	\$17,035
Central City Art Fund .....	\$109	\$104
Central City Children's Theater .....	\$14,175	\$11,012
Central City Library .....	\$43,514	\$39,301
Central City Schools .....	\$18,311	\$14,766
Central City Senior Center .....	\$34,932	\$35,235
Central City Stampede Softball .....	\$4,255	\$
Central City Trails .....	\$3,496	\$4,466
Clarks Cares .....	\$560	\$3,796
Clarks Community .....	\$552	\$529
Clarks Schools .....	\$43,624	\$45,238
Dinsdale-Palmer Schools .....	\$103,152	\$101,240
Merrick County 46ers .....	\$681	\$169
Heartland Council of Foundations .....	\$5,524	\$4,587
Heartland Veterans Memorial Tribute .....	\$16,925	\$24,505
Litzenberg Health Care Foundation .....	\$337,567	\$320,445
Merrick County Historical Museum .....	\$609,374	\$566,004
Merrick County Museum Special Project .....	\$869,329	\$790,488
North Blue Cemetery .....	\$5,596	\$5,642
Palmer Schools .....	\$104,511	\$96,771
Silver Creek Cares .....	\$1,987	\$1,481
Silver Creek Schools .....	\$17,750	\$17,026
Storm Youth Sports .....	\$4,165	\$3,930
Tri-Community .....	\$12,113	\$
Valley View Recreation .....	\$3,161	\$1,992
Miscellaneous Donor Designated .....	\$3,751	\$5,034
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$2,324,482</b>	<b>\$2,157,392</b>

## BOARD MEMBERS



**Lori Parachini**

Lori is a graduate of Zion Lutheran School in Worms, NE and Central City High School. Lori is employed with Hornady Manufacturing Company in Grand Island, NE. Lori was married to the late Joseph Parachini and is the daughter of the late Otto and Georgena Frauen. Lori is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Worms and Clerk of Prairie Creek Township. She enjoys gardening, air boating, and spending time family and friends.



**Doug Van Pelt**

Doug is a 1979 graduate of Central City High School and has a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, a B.A. in Secondary Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and a M.A. in Educational Leadership from Doane College. Doug is employed with the Central City Public Schools district as a Secondary Social Studies teacher. Doug and his wife, Donnette have seven children: Josh (wife Stacey), Jake (wife Jenna) Van Pelt, Logan, Micah and Noah Carlson, along with Kaden and Karsyn Van Pelt. Doug is also a proud grandparent of Ryan and Madison Van Pelt. Doug is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Central City. Doug enjoys traveling, landscaping, coaching, and Pittsburgh Pirates baseball.

## Merrick County Youth Council



Merrick Foundation helped provide the Merrick County Youth Council a new place to call home. A modular building was moved into town so the kids could have a meeting place and the sponsors could have an office space at the same location. The new building sits just west of 17th Street and 13th Avenue.



## Painting the Legacy of Nebraska- 150 Years

Merrick Foundation is a proud sponsor of the “Painting The Legacy of Nebraska” calendars. Nebraska will celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2017. “Painting the Legacy of Nebraska” was implemented to provide an opportunity for recognition and pride throughout the entire state. Todd A. Williams, Fine Artist said, “My heart’s desire for this project is to reawaken an appreciation for the Arts while preserving the unique beauty and heritage that Nebraska has to offer.” Limited quantity of calendars are available for purchase at the Merrick Foundation office.



Merrick Foundation is a sponsor for Go Big Give. This event is held annually. It is one day (24 hours) to give back to your local non-profit organization! Go Big Give is Wednesday, May 3, 2017.

## Dark Island Trail is Now Complete to Marquette



Several groups and individuals have come together with hard work and perseverance to make a dream come true. The Dark Island Trail runs from Highway 30 and 13th Avenue in Central City, NE to Marquis Street in Marquette, NE. ***Get out and explore, experience, and enjoy!***

## Merrick Foundation is proud to support our Merrick County Schools:

