



a community service
Dedicated to
Serving Today
for Tomorrow
To make Our
Community a Better
Place in which
to Live.

1976



years of focus
1976 - 2026



Phelps County
Community
FOUNDATION

Atlanta
Bertrand
Funk
Holdrege
Loomis



give2
NOVEMBER 13, 2025
GROW

\$1,491,147

598
Donors

82
Organizations

Thank you for



The Foundation
PHELPS COUNTY COMMUNITY



50 YEARS OF FOCUS

Celebrating 50 Years of Generosity and Community Impact

This year, we proudly celebrate 50 years of focus, generosity, and community partnership at the Phelps County Community Foundation.

Five decades ago, Irene Anderson made a generous estate gift to establish the Phelps County Community Foundation, aiming to enhance the lives of individuals in Phelps County. Thanks to her vision and the support of other generous donors, our charitable assets have now grown to over \$33 million, creating a significant impact in our community.

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Foundation's success. Every gift, big or small, has made a meaningful difference and strengthened our community. We are inspired by the generosity of our donors, the great work done by local nonprofits, and the hard work of our board and staff. Together, we are making a positive impact in Phelps County.

Sincerely,

Lacy Chapman, Executive Director



Lacy Chapman



Accreditation Achieved!

In December 2025, PCCF received accreditation with the nation's highest standard for philanthropic excellence. Community Foundation National Standards® establish legal, ethical, effective practices for community foundations everywhere. We are proud to have earned this status.



FOCUS ON OUR FOUNDERS

One Woman's Vision Shapes Generations of Giving

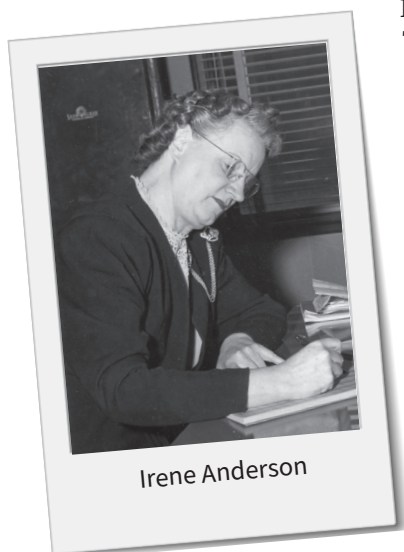
The Phelps County Community Foundation was established in 1976 through the generosity of a bequest from Irene Anderson, a retired Holdrege businesswoman whose gift continues to benefit Phelps County today.

Irene was born in Palisade, Neb., where she grew up on a farm. She later worked as a bookkeeper in McCook, where she met Ray W. Anderson. They married in 1929. The couple operated Chevrolet agencies in Palisade and Stratton before moving to Holdrege in 1932 and founding Anderson Chevrolet Co. After her husband died in 1941, she continued to own and manage the business. In 1945, Roy Kizzier became a partner, and the company operated as Kizzier-Anderson until Irene's retirement in 1956.

Irene was a member of All Saints Catholic Church and served as treasurer of the Altar Society. She was active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Auxiliaries and Business and Professional Women. She was described as a quiet, efficient person who donated generously to many humanitarian projects.

Anderson died in May 1974 and left her estate in trust (valued at more than \$300,000) with instructions to create "a community foundation for religious, charitable and educational purposes to benefit Holdrege and Phelps County."

Using her gift, the foundation was officially incorporated in 1976 by Carl R. Hendrickson, William E. Richards and L.J. Titus. Six additional people were designated to serve on the first board of directors: Mrs. Carl D. Hanson, Bertrand; Warren McClymont, Loomis; Willard F. Anderson, Mrs. Clarence S. Nelson, Roy W. Pearson and M.C. Strong, all of Holdrege.



Irene Anderson



Carl R.
Hendrickson



William R.
Richards



Liscomb J. Titus

The first meeting of the Phelps County Community Foundation took place at 11:30 a.m., January 30, 1976, at 415 East Ave.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers and adopt by-laws. Carl R. Hendrickson was elected president, William E. Richards was vice president and Liscomb J. Titus was secretary/treasurer.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Phelps County Community Foundation is to encourage and provide opportunities for charitable giving, to manage and distribute funds in a responsible manner and to enhance the quality of life for people in Phelps County.

Phelps County Community Foundation

424 Garfield, Holdrege, NE 68949
www.phelpsfoundation.org
308-995-6847



PCCF MILESTONES



**PROMISE OF
THE PRAIRIE**

1983 — PCCF spearheads first bronze sculpture, Promise of the Prairie



**THE TASSEL PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER**

1988 — First Scholarships Awarded

1999 — The Tassel Performing Arts Center Opens

2001

1976 — PCCF founded with gift from Irene Anderson

1994 — Acorn Society Launches

2012 — Assets re million & first year

**PCCF IS THE
THIRD OLDEST
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION IN
NEBRASKA**



WOMEN'S GIVING GROUP



**CURRENT PCCF
424 G**



2009 — PCCF moves to 504 4th Ave.

2014 — Women's Giving Group starts

2018 — Assets reach \$20 million

each \$10 of give2Grow

2016 — PCCF moves to 424 Garfield

2021 — Imagination Library Starts



PCCF ASSETS 1976:
\$300,000

PCCF ASSETS 2026:
\$33,593,996
(UNAUDITED)



PCCF's Leading Role in Building The Tassel

For more than 25 years, The Tassel Center for the Performing Arts has been bringing world-class entertainment to Phelps County.

But long before the first curtain rose, the dream for this community treasure began more than 50 years ago. The project became a reality thanks to the Phelps County Community Foundation and its dedicated staff and volunteers.

Local resident Bill Perry served on PCCF's building committee that oversaw the project at the time (in the late 1990s). In a 1995 newspaper article, Perry said the idea for a performing arts center was first proposed in the early 1970s.

Architects at the time said their goal was to "build an architecturally and spiritually uplifting theater."

The Tassel, which seats 818 people, was designed to be "world-class" and provide an "uptown" experience, which it has accomplished with the incredible acts it has brought to Holdrege.

The fundraising effort spanned more than 20 years (from 1976 to 1999) as local volunteers worked alongside PCCF to raise \$4.1 million to build the Tassel. Approximately 600 households (1,200 individual donors) contributed funds to the project over 23 years.

The foundation played a critical role through its financial support and stewardship of the campaign, helping transform an idea into a lasting community asset.

When the Tassel opened its doors in October 1999, it was more than a new building. It stands as proof of what happens when a community refuses to give up on a dream.



Photo Courtesy Visit37

Since then, the Tassel has hosted orchestras, ballets, pianists, acrobats, Branson shows, magicians and musicals.

After it was constructed, the Tassel was gifted to the Holdrege Public Schools, which now maintains the facility and uses it for school events, concerts and performances.

Bruce Hendrickson, now deceased, was one of the main proponents of the project. He once said perhaps the biggest benefit of the Tassel has been to inspire our youth.

"First and foremost in my mind are the advantages that the school children have - of all ages - to either perform on the stage or to be in an audience and be the recipients of observing and seeing talented people perform," Bruce said. "It develops a broader appreciation of things in their lives."



Give2GROW Strengthens Culture of Giving in County

What began as a simple idea borrowed from a neighboring community has grown into one of Phelps County's most impactful traditions.

In the fall of 2012, Phelps County Community Foundation leaders began exploring the concept of a "Match Day" to inspire charitable giving across the county. Then—Executive Director Vickie Klein, Program Associate Lacy Chapman and several board members traveled to Lexington to learn about the Lexington Community Foundation's giving day.

On Nov. 29, 2012, PCCF launched the first give2GROW, a countywide day of giving designed to support local nonprofit organizations. That first year, PCCF committed \$75,000 to match contributions, giving donors an immediate way to increase the impact of their generosity.

**15TH ANNUAL
GIVE2GROW:
THURSDAY,
NOV. 12, 2026**

The response set the tone for what give2GROW would become.

Over the past 14 years, the annual giving day has evolved into a cornerstone of local philanthropy, raising \$12,284,954 for nonprofit organizations

across Phelps County. Each year, donors, businesses and community champions rally behind causes ranging from education and health care to the arts, youth programs and community development.

Beyond the dollars raised, give2GROW has strengthened a culture of giving, encouraging residents to invest in the organizations that shape daily life in their communities. It has also provided nonprofits with increased visibility, new donor connections and a reliable source of annual support.



GIVING HISTORY

YEAR	TOTAL WITH MATCH	NUMBER OF NONPROFITS
2012	\$452,445	41
2013	\$671,341	46
2014	\$737,447	51
2015	\$686,742	59
2016	\$672,372	62
2017	\$610,455	68
2018	\$625,400	74
2019	\$892,319	75
2020	\$878,055	79
2021	\$1,122,940	79
2022	\$1,069,863	86
2023	\$1,192,957	85
2024	\$1,181,469	81
2025	\$1,491,147	80

**TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED:
\$12,284,954**





Full Circle: The Lasting Impact of PCCF Scholarships

In 1988, John Williams of Holdrege and Michelle Samuelson of Loomis were like many high school seniors balancing graduation, big decisions, and plans for the future. The two had been dating for two years, and both were encouraged to apply for scholarships as they prepared for college.

Michelle, who describes herself as competitive, remembers completing the application for what would become the first scholarships awarded by the Phelps County Community Foundation. John remembers his parents urging him to apply for as many scholarships as possible, so he did.

John and Michelle, along with three other Phelps County students, were selected as the very first PCCF scholarship recipients in 1988.

"When I found out I received it, I was thrilled," Michelle said. "It was really exciting."

Those early scholarships helped set the course for their futures. Michelle went on to earn a degree in elementary education with endorsements in preschool/special education from Nebraska Wesleyan University, while John pursued agribusiness and agronomy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

After college, the couple married and made a decision that would shape not only their lives, but the community around them.

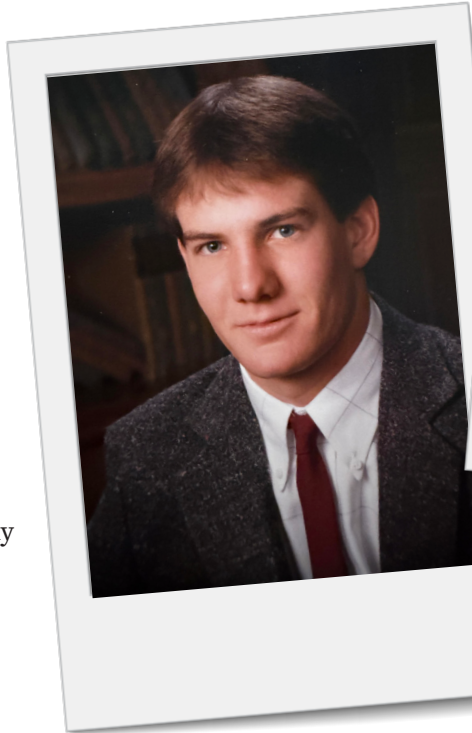
They came home.

"I think when we talked about where we would live, we always thought we should come back here," Michelle said.

That sense of connection to Phelps County, strengthened by the support they received as students, carried into their careers. Michelle spent 27 years as a teacher, impacting generations of local students. John built a career in agronomy and now owns Ag Service Associates Crop Insurance, working closely with area farmers.

"The community has supported us as well," John said.

Their story reflects a full circle of giving and receiving. The scholarships that they once benefited from became part of a broader commitment to invest in their hometown. The Williamses have supported PCCF as donors and Future Fund members, along with volunteering and donating



**TODAY, PCCF
MANAGES
AND AWARDS
MORE THAN 90
SCHOLARSHIPS
EACH YEAR**

**\$4,354,459
AMOUNT OF
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED
1988-2026**

to numerous

One of their in 2008, when purchase and Theater. What transformed i they owned a

Today, their family. Their scholarship a in his father's investment in generations.

As PCCF ce and Michelle's scholarships inspire a life

Investing in Young Minds Through Imagination Library

Since May 2021, PCCF has been participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. Each month, all Phelps County children birth to age 5 receive a free age-appropriate book in the mail courtesy of PCCF. When the child reaches age 5, the last book they receive is geared toward helping them get ready to start kindergarten. Children graduating from the program when they turn 5, receive a t-shirt and card from the Foundation.

PCCF is proud to make this national program available to local children.

As of May 15, 2026, PCCF has donated 1,408 books, and 272 Phelps County children have graduated from the free book program.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library started in 1995 and is considered the world's preeminent early childhood book-giving program.



**JOHN & MICHELLE
WILLIAMS**

community and church efforts.

For most notable contributions came when they joined three other families to restore the historic Holdrege Sun. What began as a dilapidated building was turned into a vibrant community space, which operated until 2021.

For legacy continues through their son, Brennen, also received a PCCF scholarship and has returned to Holdrege to follow in their footsteps, another example of how the young people can ripple across

celebrates 50 years, stories like John and Michelle's illustrate the enduring power of community not just to support education, but to sustain a long commitment to community.



**1,408 BOOKS DONATED
272 YOUNG MINDS ENRICHED**



PCCF Helps Turn Cornfield into Community Centerpiece

In the early 1990s, the Phelps County Community Foundation made a purchase that would eventually transform the health of the community.

PCCF purchased 50 acres of farm ground in northwest Holdrege in 1992 from Evelyn T. Hammond for \$148,890. It was the seller's desire that this ground be passed from the foundation for nonprofit or charitable use. It became known as the PCCF "land bank" and was preserved until the right opportunities emerged to serve the greatest community needs.

Over the past 34 years, that empty field between 14th and 18th avenues in northwest Holdrege has become a center of community life. It is now home to the Don Sjogren Community YMCA, Educational Service Unit No. 11, Family Medical Specialties, the Holdrege Elementary School and the new City of Holdrege baseball/softball complex. These facilities serve thousands of children, families and residents each year, providing opportunities for learning, wellness and recreation.

Throughout the past 30 years, PCCF has also awarded grants to help construct and fund initiatives at the YMCA and donated \$250,000 to help build the city's new baseball/softball complex, which was completed in 2026.

Thanks to the Hammond family and PCCF's long-term vision, this land continues to fulfill its purpose of serving the people of Phelps County.

**TOTAL
COMMUNITY
IMPACT FUND
GRANTS
AWARDED
SINCE 1976:
\$6,574,327**



YMCA & HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY



NEW BASEBALL/SOFTBALL COMPLEX



AERIAL VIEW OF

**FIRST PCCF
GRANT AWARDED:
VILLAGE OF
BERTRAND
RESCUE UNIT
DECEMBER
1976 — \$4,000**



YMCA INDOOR POOL



Photo Courtesy PCDC

FAMILY MEDICAL SPECIALTIES



Photo Courtesy PCDC

OF YMCA & HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY

GRANTS are the visible result of neighbors investing in neighbors. Every award, whether a few hundred dollars or a million, represents a belief in the future of Phelps County.

For more than 50 years, PCCF has demonstrated that when local people give with purpose, communities flourish. Our grants have strengthened schools, improved healthcare, enriched the arts, supported families, and created opportunities that will continue to benefit Phelps County for generations to come.



A Legacy of Leadership & Giving: PCCF Board Service

The Phelps County Community Foundation has been shaped by dedicated board members committed to strengthening their community over the past 50 years. Among them is Kyle Anderson, who served on the board from 2006 to 2013, including two years as president from 2008-2010.

Anderson and his wife, Christi, grew up in Phelps County and returned to their hometown in 1994. They quickly became active in the community while they raised their two children.

“We’ve always had a desire to give back to the community that gave us so much as we grew up in Holdrege,” Anderson said.

His time on the board coincided with important growth for the foundation under the direction of former Executive Director Vickie Klein.

One of the most memorable milestones was the launch of give2GROW in 2012, now a cornerstone of PCCF’s work.

“It was much more than we thought it would be,” Anderson said, crediting the leadership and vision of the staff.

During this period, PCCF also expanded its scholarship opportunities and relocated its office to Fourth Avenue,

increasing its visibility and accessibility in the community.

For Anderson, board service offered both fulfillment and perspective.

“The opportunity to serve on the PCCF Board of Directors was extremely satisfying,” he said. “It brought great joy to see people in our community benefit from grants and programs that may not have been possible without PCCF.”

Serving also deepened his understanding of the foundation’s reach.

“Until I was on the board, I didn’t fully realize the impact PCCF has,” he said. “It’s a ripple effect that touches all parts of the community. Nonprofits are truly the backbone of a strong community.”

That spirit of generosity, he believes, is what has sustained PCCF for five decades.

“From an original gift and early vision 50 years ago, the idea of giving back has proven to be



Kyle Anderson

incredibly impactful,” Anderson said. “The number of projects and organizations PCCF has been able to assist over the years is simply incredible.”

As he reflects on PCCF’s history, Anderson points to the people behind its success.

“The generosity and giving spirits of Phelps County residents, along with strong leadership from board members and staff over the years, stands out the most,” he said.

Looking ahead, he sees continued opportunity grounded in that same strength.

“The consistency and quality of both the board and staff have always been key,” Anderson said. “That will continue to ensure PCCF remains a vital part of this community for generations.”



FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP



ORIGINAL BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Carl R. Hendrickson

Vice President:

William E. Richards

Secretary-Treasurer:

Liscomb J. Titus

First board photo (late 1970s): Left to right: Mildred Nelson, Tim Anderson, L.J. Titus, Lansing Anderson, Roy Pearson, Carl Hendrickson, Bill Richards, Warren McClymont, M.C. Strong, Juliet Hanson

PCCF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

NAME	YEARS SERVED
Janice Layton	1986-1990
Marge Lauer	1990-1995
Julene Schoen	1996-2003
Bruce Hendrickson (Interim)	Aug.-Oct. 2003
Vickie Klein	2003-2018
Kara Faber	2018-2024
Lacy Chapman	2024-Present



CURRENT STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

From left front: Andi Sweeney, Jessica Kraus, Grace Grove, Brenda Johnson, Heather McQuillan (staff). Back from left: Patty Freburg (staff), Ted Titus, Lacy Chapman (staff), Mike Leffler, Rick Bergman, Eddie Anderson, Shannon Kruback (staff). Not pictured: Jim Engler, Kris Olson, Aaron Long, Lori Vinzant and Taylor L'Heureux (staff).



Building a Legacy: Major Gifts That Shaped PCCF

For 50 years, the Phelps County Community Foundation has helped donors turn their values into lasting community impact. While thousands of individuals have contributed to PCCF's success, several extraordinary estate and planned gifts have transformed the Foundation's ability to serve Phelps County for generations to come.

Through their generosity, donors such as Ivan and LeonaBelle Kipp, Roy W. and Mary L. Pearson, and Bruce and Carol Hendrickson have created permanent resources that continue to support education, health care, nonprofit organizations, community projects and future grantmaking.

Their stories demonstrate how a lifetime of work, community involvement, and charitable vision can leave a legacy that endures long after a donor's lifetime.

Ivan and Leona Belle Kipp

In January 2012, PCCF announced the largest gift to that date when Mrs. Ivan (LeonaBelle) Kipp bequeathed through her estate more than \$2.5 million to the Foundation.

LeonaBelle graduated from Bertrand High School and taught in rural schools for three years. She married Ivan Kipp in 1936, and they spent their married life farming.

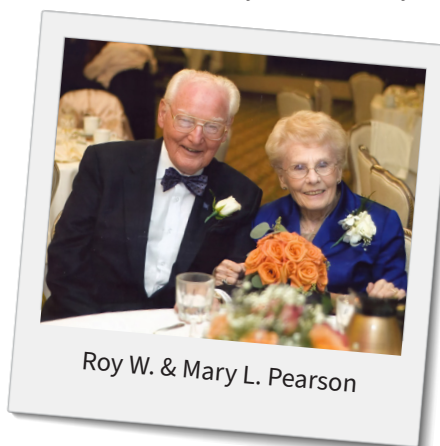
In 1946, Ivan and LeonaBelle moved to a farm west of Loomis. They resided there until 1976, when they retired and moved into Holdrege. Ivan died in 1999. LeonaBelle died in 2011.

As an expression of the value LeonaBelle placed in education, she opened a scholarship fund at the Phelps County Community Foundation in 2004. This scholarship has been given annually to graduating seniors of Bertrand High School for more than 20 years now.

Roy W. & Mary L. Pearson

In October 2013, the foundation received a \$2.38 million gift through Roy W. Pearson's estate.

Roy died in 2010. Mary died in 2013, one day after the Roy W. and Mary L. Pearson Designated Charitable Fund was announced at PCCF.



Roy W. & Mary L. Pearson

Mary grew up on a farm in Phelps County and graduated from Wilcox High School. In 1947, she married Cecil L. Stephenson, who died in 1975. Roy was born in California and then moved to Funk as a

child. He graduated from Holdrege High School in 1937. He married Mary Ekberg in 1942. They were married for 62 years until she died.

Roy and Mary L. Stephenson married in 2005.

Roy operated the K-K Appliance Co. gas business for 45 years with seven locations. Mary L. had worked at the business as office manager, corporate secretary and comptroller since 1975. Roy also had an interest in agriculture and operated farms in Phelps County and a ranch in Cherry County.

Both Roy and Mary served terms as directors at PCCF.

The Roy & Mary Pearson Charitable Fund has been granting awards to Holdrege nonprofits for more than 13 years now.

Grants are awarded twice a year in the following areas: education, cultural, human service, health and recreation, community and religion (for nondenominational projects and programs enhancing high ethical and moral standards). The grants fund up to 50 percent of a project, and applications are due Jan. 1 and July 1 each year.

Bruce &

During the 1970s, Bruce and Carol were active in the community, supporting several nonprofit organizations and supporting hearts in Phelps County. The Bruce and Carol Hendrickson Charitable Fund was established in 1975 with the Phelps County Community Foundation, a fund that took effect in 2013 (died in 2022 (2016)).

In 2022, PCCF received a \$2.1 million gift from the Bruce and Carol Hendrickson Charitable Fund, which has totaled \$6.5 million in gifts to PCCF, which support PCCF's mission and future growth.

A portion of the \$2.1 million gift was used to create the Bruce and Carol Hendrickson Charitable Fund, which held a fund annual awards program to support organizations in the community. The fund also supported the Memorial Hospital, Phelps County Library, Holdrege Lake, Holdrege Presbyterian Church, and the Holdrege Schools Foundation gifts.

Bruce and Carol (Scheff) married in 1968 for Principal Community Foundation. After moving to Holdrege for HPS and

The Anderson Family's Commitment to Community

For nearly three decades, Dr. Robert and Mary Anna Anderson used a donor-advised fund at the Phelps County Community Foundation to support causes that mattered deeply to them and strengthen the community they loved.

The Andersons established their donor-advised fund (DAF) with PCCF in 1996. Through their fund, they supported numerous charitable causes while creating a lasting legacy of generosity.

"The Andersons' ongoing generosity through their donor-advised fund supported causes important to them and to our community," said PCCF Executive Director Lacy Chapman. "Mary Anna made it a point to visit the PCCF office each month to make her donations, and we truly looked forward to seeing her every time. Her warmth, generosity and genuine kindness had a lasting, meaningful impact on all PCCF staff."

A donor-advised fund functions much like a charitable checking account. Donors make an initial tax-deductible contribution (at least \$5,000) to establish the fund and can then recommend grants to qualified nonprofit organizations whenever they choose. PCCF handles all administrative responsibilities and distributes grants in the name of the fund. Donors may also create succession plans to continue their charitable giving beyond their lifetimes.

Today, PCCF manages 42 donor-advised funds, continuing to provide donors a flexible way to support charitable organizations and causes they care about.

Dr. Anderson, a 1950 graduate of Holdrege High School, returned to his hometown after medical school and founded the Family Medical Clinic in Holdrege. Mary Anna, originally from McPherson, Kan., earned her nursing degree from the Immanuel School of Nursing in Omaha. Beyond her work as a registered nurse, she shared her love of music by teaching piano lessons for many years and serving as a church organist.

Dr. Anderson passed away in 2009. Following Mary Anna's death in late 2025, the Anderson donor-advised fund was closed. Though the fund has ended, the Andersons' legacy lives on through the organizations they supported, the lives they impacted and the example of generosity they set for future generations.



MaryAnna Anderson



Bruce Hendrickson



Carol Hendrickson

Carol Hendrickson

their lifetimes, Bruce and Carol Hendrickson in the community and supporters of nonprofit organizations. Wishing to continue organizations near to their

perpetuity, the Hendricksons created an estate plan that helps Phelps County Community Foundation benefit after Bruce's death (Carol died in 2009).

PCCF began receiving planned gifts from Bruce and Carol through an estate that valued more than \$1 million. PCCF received the funds in unrestricted form, which is used to support PCCF's endowment and grantmaking.

Of the \$6.5 million, \$1 million was added to the Bruce and Carol S. Hendrickson Endowment at PCCF. This fund disperses grants to support five local organizations: Phelps County Health Center,

Phelps County Historical Society, Chapel by the Holdrege Memorial Homes, and PCCF. The First United Methodist Church of Holdrege, Holdrege Area Public Library, Christian Homes, and the Holdrege Public Library also received a portion of the estate.

Bruce was born in Holdrege and graduated from HHS. Lacy Chapman was born in Tecumseh. Bruce and Lacy were married in June 1952. Bruce worked as an agent for the Life Insurance Co. and was active in the community, including serving as PCCF president. Carol joined the family while Bruce was serving in the U.S. Navy. After returning to Holdrege, she was a substitute teacher and volunteered in the community.



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIDWEST CONNECT

Phelps County Community Foundation

424 Garfield Street
Holdrege, NE 68949

Current Resident Or



YOU ARE INVITED!

**FREE COMMUNITY
CELEBRATION**



**Sunday, August 9
11 AM-3 PM (Lunch 11 AM-1 PM)**

Phelps County Ag Center
1308 2nd Street, Holdrege



CUPCAKES



COLD DRINK TRUCKS



INFLATABLES



COLORING CONTEST



BALLOON ANIMALS



FACE PAINTING