Bridging the Learning Gap

Shickley Community Foundation Fund is part of a nearly $1.2 million statewide effort to bridge the learning gap in the face of COVID-19. Through a two-round funding opportunity requiring a 1:1 local match, Shickley Community Foundation Fund applied and received grants in both rounds totaling a $39,884 investment in Shickley Public School.

In round one, Shickley Community Foundation Fund received and matched $8,200 to purchase Chromebooks. In round two, the SCFF received and matched another $11,742 to purchase iPads and sound amplification systems for the hearing impaired. As a result of this opportunity, all K-12 students are now equipped with a device allowing them to both learn remotely in the midst of a global pandemic and enhance learning through technology in more normal times.

The Bridging the Learning Gap funding opportunity was made available exclusively to affiliated funds of Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF). The initiative was capitalized by an anonymous NCF donor and the Alice DeVoe Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.

Grants were approved and allocated by a committee of six volunteer NCF affiliated fund leaders who have educational expertise, including teachers, administrators and school board members. All applications received funding. Importantly, learning gap needs were identified locally by school leadership, as were proposed solutions.

“We are deeply proud of the way the NCF network and affiliated funds like Shickley Community Foundation Fund came together to meet this need,” said Jeff Yost, president and CEO of Nebraska Community Foundation. “We are so grateful to the visionary donors who are supporting this important work and to the local leaders and educators who are rolling up their sleeves to ensure our kids receive the educational experiences they deserve, even in the midst of a global crisis.”
Shickley Community Foundation Fund by the Numbers

- $2,273,463 in total assets
- $2,030,790 in unrestricted endowment
- $624,202 reinvested in our community

Top Grant Recipients
- Shickley Public School
- Shickley Legion Post 164/SAL Squadron
- Shickley Rural Fire District

Average Grant Size
- 1994 to 1997: $750
- 2017 to 2020: $2,496

Community Impact Through Grantmaking

2020 GRANTS
- 17 grants
- $80,000 impact

Shickley Community Foundation Fund makes grants that advance our mission of keeping our community a vital, progressive, and healthy place where people can live, raise families, and retire. Our 2020 grantees include:

- American Legion Post #164 for underground sprinklers at the Shickley Ball Field
- Big Little Town Revitalization Club for a sign and improvements to Westside Park
- Fillmore County Hospital Auxiliary for scholarships
- Shickley Public School for band uniforms, MacBooks, Chromebooks, iPads, and an amplification system for the hearing impaired
- Village of Shickley for ballfield maintenance
- Virgil Biegert Public Library for a computer
- Shickley Fire District for a new ambulance
- Shickley Sons of American Legion for the 50 Flags Veterans Memorial
- Fillmore County Historical Society for capital improvements
Shickley Alumnus Bequeath

The Shickley Community Foundation received a $100,000 gift from the estate of John Wagers, through the John Wagers Trust. Wagers was born in the Shickley community in 1919 and graduated from Shickley High School in 1936. Community members may know his brother Lyle Wagers. This generous gift will benefit the Shickley Community Foundation Fund’s unrestricted endowment. Pictured L-R are: Dale Arp, Iris Wagers, Peggy Wagers Arp, Wade Walters representing Shickley Community Foundation Fund, Patricia Wagers and Dick Hawley.

Unrestricted Opportunity

Think of all the ways our community has evolved over the past 20 years. Change is happening at lightning speed in ways we never could have dreamed. Children born today will occupy jobs we can’t even imagine. There is no way to predict what the world will look like in another 20 years, so how can Nebraska communities like Shickley invest wisely for the future?

Shickley Community Foundation Fund’s answer to this question is simple: build an unrestricted endowment for our hometown. Flexible, locally controlled opportunity capital that can be used to foment positive change—the kind of change that may otherwise not occur. The kind of change that cannot be anticipated today.

Similar to a community savings account, unrestricted endowments are an important tool to keep Shickley growing, thriving, and improving for future generations. While a portion of the income earned by an unrestricted endowment is granted annually to fund projects and programs to benefit the community, the principal remains intact and grows every year. Forever.

Because endowments are permanent, and the investments are managed for growth, the annual amount available for granting continues to grow as well. The real value of an unrestricted endowment is that, in 20 years, community members in Shickley will be able to unleash its energy in a future far different from today, without restriction and without the burden of being able to predict what the future holds.

Having a locally controlled, unrestricted endowment will allow you, and the generation of leaders who come after you, to have the discretionary dollars to make the most of opportunities continuous change will bring. A gift to Shickley’s unrestricted endowment is an investment in the future and truly the gift that keeps on giving.
Join the Longhorn Club

☐ Yes, I/we would like to become members of the Longhorn Club. I/we agree to make a **monthly gift** of:
☐ $21  ☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ Other

*A member of our Fund Advisory Committee would be glad to provide an ACH form for automatic contributions.*

☐ Yes, I/we would like to become members of the Longhorn Club. I/we agree to make an **annual gift** of:
☐ $21  ☐ $50  ☐ $75  ☐ $100  ☐ Other

*Please enclose your gift and a reminder will be sent annually each November.*

☐ Yes, I would like to make a donation but I do not wish to join the Longhorn Club at this time.

Signature: ______________________________ Date: __________________

Name(s) as you want listed in our donor records:

____________________________

Address: ______________________________ City: __________________

State: __________________ Zip: ______________

Email address: ______________________________

*Does your company match charitable contributions? Many companies provide gift matching programs that multiply their employees’ community impact. If so, please notify your human resources manager about your contribution to the Shickley Community Foundation Fund.*

**Please complete and return this form to:**
Shickley Community Foundation Fund | PO Box 372 | Shickley, NE 68436

**Contact us:**
402.627.7885 | shickleycommunityfoundation@gmail.com | Shickley Community Foundation

**Contributions to the Shickley Community Foundation Fund support worthy causes and projects in our community like:**

| Shickley Fire District | Shickley Sons of American Legion for the 50 Flags Veterans Memorial | Shickley Ball Field |

Shickley Community Foundation is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation.