



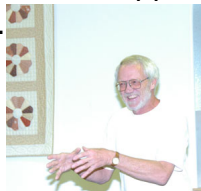
By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Residents of the county gathered Saturday night to attend the annual banquet of the Perkins County Community Foundation (PCCF).

The foundation's event included a meal, check presentation and speaker at the Grant United Methodist Church.

Following a steak dinner catered by Little Country Kitchen of Madrid, PCCF President Michele Ross, and Ashley Colglazier, treasurer, recapped the accomplishments for the year and introduced speaker Robert Richter.



Three recipients representing entities around the county who received funds from the organization, addressed the attendees to explain how the money will be used toward each

individual project.

Check Presentations

Brenda Styskal, president of the Perkins County Historical Society, was presented a \$1,000 check for the restoration project currently underway at the Perkins County Museum.

Although still in renovation mode after a water leak made it necessary to redo the basement and update or repair much of the structure, the historical society has hopes of having all of the exhibits reset in the spring so the museum can reopen by the first part of summer.

The money will go toward the new heating and air system, allowing the museum to be open during the winter months in the future.

On behalf of the Village of Elsie, Jane Potts accepted a \$550 check for the community's economic development projects.

Funding helps with the annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Christmas open house when the town's businesses come together to bring Santa to town, pass out snacks or treats, and bring the community together in spirit of the holidays.

"The town is full!" said Potts, expressing appreciation to PCCF for funding that helps with a pancake feed and door prizes which takes the burden off the small businesses.

Scott King, Perkins County High School science instructor expressed gratefulness for \$1,500 that will be put toward new microscopes in the science department.

"The microscopes are older than I am!" said King, explaining they are barely usable because of

the inability to focus on specimens due to scratched and dingy lenses.

New state-of-the-art microscopes for the science department will make a big difference in classroom instruction for the students they will serve.

Speaker

Perkins County resident Robert Richter, author of *Plainscape: A Portrait of Perkins County* along with other writings, recapped how the county came into being and spoke about the process of what it takes to bring a community together to establish a town such as Grant.

He identified the similarities of the way things were back then and how they are now.

“Grant was not founded by the railroad, but by young men who saw an opportunity,” said Richter.

To create a community, it takes basic people in basic positions, he explained, most of which are still in existence today, naming a few such as farmers, bankers, promoters, newspaper people, well diggers, teachers and doctors.

“The creation of the community foundation is made up of the same kinds of people,” he said, “a commitment to doing things for the betterment of the community.”

About the Foundation

The Perkins County Community Foundation was begun in 2003 with an advisory board consisting of Becky Uehling, Janet Lagler, Don Softley, Bill Potts and Jeff Wallin, all of Grant; Deb Osler and Cori Sis of Elsie; Michelle Ross and Nicole Long of Madrid; and Jan Schilling

and Alice Tines of Venango.

With persistence and goal setting, the foundation has grown to over \$220,000 in endowment funds for Perkins County.

Since its inception, the foundation has seen steady financial growth each year.

As a 501c3 organization, the Perkins County Community Foundation is affiliated with the Nebraska Community Foundation which handles the accounting and investing reports for PCCF on a quarterly and annual basis.

Current members of the foundation include President Michelle Ross of Madrid; Treasurer Ashley Colglazier, Brian Hightower, Janet Lagler, Becky Uehling and Jeff Wallin of Grant; Jane Culver and Patti Lee of Elsie; and Val Foster of Venango. Two positions remain open to represent the communities of Elsie and Madrid.

Fund Application Deadline

The Perkins County Community Foundation will be accepting its second round of grant applications beginning Dec. 1.

Twice a year, the foundation accepts applications for projects around the county.

Those who have ideas for community betterment projects are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for grant applications is Jan. 1.

To request an application, contact Michelle Ross at 352-4131 or Ashley Colglazier at 352-6563.