



Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation
Helping Sustain and Enhance Our Community for Today and Tomorrow

March 15, 2005

Dear Meadow Grove High School Alum,

The 2005 Meadow Grove High School Alumni Banquet is fast approaching, and we wish to make all alumni aware of an exciting recent development for your hometown.

In mid-2003, local leaders from Meadow Grove and Tilden formed a community development foundation named the "Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation." This non-profit organization was formed to be a pro-active, community improvement force for the towns of Meadow Grove and Tilden. The two towns were folded into one foundation because of their natural ties based on proximity and cooperation as part of the Elkhorn Valley Schools district.

The Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation is affiliated with a statewide non-profit foundation, the Nebraska Community Foundation. Affiliation with the statewide foundation (based in Lincoln) provides low cost services from professional staff that enhances the local foundation's efforts to organize, raise funds, and plan local improvement projects. The state foundation also provides professional investment services and estate planning for large donors and donations.

However, all funds raised for the Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation are completely controlled by the elected local Board of Directors. The by-laws of the foundation require that this local board be all volunteer, and be unpaid, though the board can hire paid staff if the need arises due to large activities.

Our goal is to raise funds through donations and grants that will be used for worthy community improvement needs such as publicly owned capital improvements, parks/recreation areas, community centers, health care facilities, and/or economic development initiatives. Projects are limited only by the imagination of the board of directors and our donors. We are not in competition with other worthy local and specific foundations, such as the Meadow Grove Library Foundation, Tilden Hospital Foundation, etc. Our purpose is to be a general foundation that works with and enhances the efforts of all who wish to improve our towns.

The Nebraska Community Foundation concept particularly targets estate donations as a fund raising vehicle. For interested donors, professional staff can provide advice on options that provide great donor tax advantages, and possibly steady income streams from donations while living, all the while helping you support your hometown.

The photos above are an example of what can be done with donations from community supporters. A few years ago (prior to our foundation's formation) funds from alumni donations were used to build the "School House Walk" in Meadow Grove. This area, where the Meadow Grove High School formerly stood, became part of the very attractive Meadow Grove City Park at the base of the new water tower.

The Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation is methodically progressing in visibility and effectiveness. Our short-term goals are modest. In 2005, we will target the construction of a new football field press box, a sorely needed improvement in the Tilden City Park, which is used by the two towns through the Elkhorn Valley Schools district. In the long-term, we hope to build a substantial donor/donation base that we can use for larger projects.

Please consider the following opportunities for your donation.

Donors of gifts of \$24 or less are known as Foundation Contributors. A donation of \$25 to \$199 will designate the donor as a Foundation Friend and include a one-year membership. Donations of \$200 to \$499 will designate the donor as a Foundation Gold Member, and include a 5-year membership. Donations of \$500 or more are recognized as Foundation Lifetime Patrons, and receive a lifetime membership to the Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation. Memberships entitle you to vote for the Board of Directors at our annual meeting. All donations are, of course, tax deductible.

Meadow Grove alumni contributors will be recognized at the 2005 Alumni Banquet and in the *Tilden Citizen-Meadow Grove News*, unless otherwise requested.

If you seek additional information about making a donation or estate gift in any manner to the Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation, please contact any member of our Board of Directors. They are Don Mozer - Chair (402) 634-2964, Joy Griffith - Vice Chair (402) 634-2658, Larry Schulze - Secretary (402) 423-1470, Susan Smidt - Treasurer (402) 368-2262, Diana Crabb (402) 368-5304, Pat Decker (402) 368-2133, John Dittrich (402) 634-2474, Janell Oelsligle (402) 368-2149, and Tom Zwingman (402) 640-1194. Our address and the website of the Nebraska Community Foundation are below. The website of the Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation is under construction, and will be on-line soon.

We encourage you to consider how you may contribute to our communities. As our letterhead explains above, your donation helps sustain and enhance our communities for today and tomorrow. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Board of Directors
Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation

Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation

I have enclosed a gift of _____ to support the Tilden-Meadow Grove Community Foundation.

____ My (our) gift may be used at the discretion of the Foundation.

____ I designate my (our) donation be for _____.

____ Please have someone contact me (us).

May we publicly recognize your contribution? Yes _____ No _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

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Nebraska Community Foundation
www.nebcommfound.org