



Toward a bold future

Unrestricted Endowment Campaign for Columbus Area Future Fund

What is an endowment?

An endowment fund is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding based on invested assets. The money made on those investments provides a foundation with dollars to be used in its community. Organizations and projects can apply for these funds through a grant application process, as set forth by the local fund advisory committee (FAC). The Columbus Area Future Fund (CAFF) is a charity organization with an endowment fund.

As an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation, all donations are tax-deductible. Donations to the CAFF can be made through lifetime gifts or planned giving. The unrestricted nature of CAFF's endowment fund gives its the flexibility to address the changing needs of Columbus.

Our grant making practices are guided by four key pillars:

- Building local leadership
- Expanding community philanthropy
- Energizing entrepreneurship
- Engaging youth and young people

Providing Opportunities For The Columbus Area

Youth Leadership Columbus

CAFF Priority Met: Engaging Youth and Young People

The purpose of this program is to give students a voice in Columbus and develop future leaders in our community. This is the only city sponsored program where students can participate and learn about Columbus. The goal of this program is to make students feel like they are part of the Columbus community and the city care about them.



The hope is that this connection will help to draw them back to Columbus at some point in the future. Several other communities in Nebraska (Lincoln, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney) have had a similar program for many years. The program is also designed to give the students an opportunity to collaborate with other students from the three different high schools.



K.C. Belitz

Have You Met Fund Advisory Committee Member..

Meet K.C. Belitz, President of the Columbus Area Chamber and member of the FAC! K.C. became a member of the FAC because he sees the important role for a fund like this and wants everyone to have the opportunity to make an impact with their time and financial resources. The Fund

also means a lot to K.C. He believes the Fund is a vehicle to provide a margin of excellence to our community 30 years from now and beyond.

K.C.'s favorite grant was to Youth Leadership Columbus. A group from the Leadership Columbus program used their class project to create a youth version of the program, and the Future Fund was able to support that. The grant has covered the first few year's of the program's start. To K.C., this program is very important for our community to teach our youth leadership skills while also helping them see, down the road, that they can make a difference in Columbus.



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