



Story County
Community Foundation

Grow the Future

Volunteers' vision inspires foundation



Since its establishment in 2005, the SCCF has remained committed to working with United Way of Story County and other local organizations to improve the vitality of Story County communities. Sunni Swarbrick and Jean Kresse, leaders of SCCF and United Way, continue this partnership today.

*Legacy of philanthropy
leads to a stronger, more
vibrant future*

MISSION: Story County Community Foundation facilitates and promotes private giving through the establishment of endowments, acts as a resource for nonprofit endowment building, and awards grants for the betterment of Story County.

The vision of a handful of community leaders led to the creation of the Story County Community Foundation (SCCF) in 2005.

"I got together a group of strong community people, someone from every community in the county, and asked if this was something they wanted to do," founder Suzy Shierholz said. "The overwhelming response was, 'yes.'"

Dave Erickson with Story County Extension helped research the economic development a community foundation could bring to Story County.

The initial purpose of the foundation was to make Story County eligible to receive an annual award from the state's county endowment program. Gaming revenues are shared with any Iowa county without a casino or racing venue. With the first \$63,300 awarded in 2005, SCCF offered 13 grants for charitable projects within Story County. To date, more than \$1 million in grants have been awarded to over 300 projects.

An Endow Iowa Tax Credit program created by the Iowa legislature offers a 25 percent tax credit for donations to permanent endowments at community foundations. This incentive was offered to create opportunities and to make lasting changes in communities.

The first permanent endowments or agency funds in Story County were created in 2006. Today the foundation assists over 60 nonprofit organizations with starting and growing their own agency fund.

Frankee Oleson, another foundation founder and director of United Way of Story County in 2005 made a commitment with Shierholz that United Way and the foundation would work alongside each other to improve the quality of life in our community. Today, tomorrow, and forever the Story County Community Foundation is committed to this community partnership.