

## Key Society Included in Community Art Project

Members of the Hastings Community Foundation's Key Society will discover their name on display at the Hastings Museum. The "We're In This Together" community art project features numerous 18" x 24" puzzle pieces from individuals, businesses and organizations and are on display throughout public areas of the museum. The project is intended to reflect who we are as a community at a time when we are still distanced.

The Hastings Community Foundation's contribution includes information about the impact we bring to the community. The members of the Hastings Key Society are also listed.

"Anytime we talk about the positive things happening in our community, I immediately think of the Key Society," explains Dan Peters, Executive Director of the Hastings Community Foundation. "Our Key Society members are dedicated to bettering the quality of life in Hastings. It only seemed natural that we included them in a project like this."

Photos of the project are shown below. Additional puzzle pieces are available for purchase. The Cost is \$5 each or three for \$10.



More information is available at [www.hastingsmuseum.org/were-in-this-together](http://www.hastingsmuseum.org/were-in-this-together) or by contacting the Hastings Museum.

By combining resources, Key Society Members create or grow projects that improve the quality of life in Hastings. An annual membership is only \$250 (less for young professionals). More information can be found at [www.hastingscommunityfoundation.org/keysociety](http://www.hastingscommunityfoundation.org/keysociety).



# The Fountain

The Hastings Community Foundation Newsletter  
Spring 2021

## Giving Now Open for Give Hastings Day

The 8th annual Give Hastings Day is set for Thursday, May 6, but donors do not need to wait to make their gift. Donations can be made now.

"A year ago, there were limitations on where people could gather, so we made a push for early giving," said Stephanie Bliss, Program Officer of the Hastings Community Foundation. "We heard from so many in the community about how much they liked this early giving opportunity, so we decided to keep that element in place for this year. It makes it easier for donors to participate in the Give Hastings Day experience and takes away the pressure of ensuring their gift arrives in time."

More than \$580,000 was raised in 2021, a record amount for Give Hastings Day. So how much can we expect to see this year? "We like to say that the most important number for Give Hastings Day is the number one," explained Bliss. "If each of our Give Hastings donors were to find just one new organization to support, in addition to their traditional giving, the impact would be absolutely incredible."

## Community Foundation Sponsors Hastings Pickleball

It was about four years ago when Brenda Catlett started playing pickleball with three other friends. It was a modest start. Back then, the group was small and made frequent trips to facilities in Grand Island.

"We were all paying to have access to courts in Grand Island," said Catlett. "We thought we should create a club in Hastings." They did exactly that. Now the organization is forty members strong.

Pickleball is a hybrid of tennis, ping-pong, and badminton. "The court is smaller than a tennis court and you use a wiffle ball, which is easier to hit than a tennis ball," explained Dusty Haase, co-chair



Pickleball game at Carter Park.



With a single gift, donors can support any combination of the 93 nonprofit organizations who are participating in the 2021 Give Hastings Day. Gifts can be made now through April 6th at [givehastings.org](http://givehastings.org) or by mailing a check payable to the Hastings Community Foundation.

of the Club Development Committee. "It's so popular because it can be played by any age or skill level. Not even your level of athletic ability can prevent you from playing."

Noting the appeal that pickleball has to a wide spectrum of ages and abilities, the Hastings Pickleball Club turned to the Hastings Community Foundation to help them grow. A fund was established earlier this year and donations will help with expenses including equipment and hosting tournaments.

"Part of our mission as a community foundation is to improve the quality of life," said Dan Peters, Executive Director of the Hastings Community Foundation. "With this fund, we can promote all the benefits associated with pickleball, including camaraderie, wellness and just pure fun."

Gifts to the Hastings Pickleball Club can be made during Give Hastings Day, or anytime through the Hastings Community Foundation. Additional information about the organization, and how you can participate (or schedule free lessons), can be found at the Hastings Pickleball Club page on Facebook.



800 W. 3rd St., Suite 232, Hastings, NE 68901



(402) 462-5152



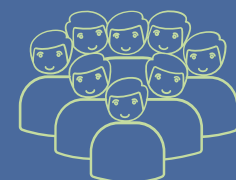
[www.hastingscommunityfoundation.org](http://www.hastingscommunityfoundation.org)



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**Chris Junker** - Engagement Coordinator  
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Can't decide which organizations to support during Give Hastings Day? No worries! New this year is the "Support Them All" option. Your gift to this fund will be evenly distributed among all the participating organizations. Complete the enclosed giving form or visit [givehastings.org](http://givehastings.org) to make your gift today.

# Junker Brings Passion for Nonprofits to Hastings Community Foundation

It was a natural fit. With the retirement of Susan Poppe, the Hastings Community Foundation was looking to add someone to their staff. As a Hastings native and having spent 30 years working in the nonprofit community, Chris Junker knew this was a special opportunity to continue her passion.

"The nonprofit community is made up of people that devote their lives to serving others," said Junker. "I am always inspired by the vital work that the non-profits get accomplished with limited staff and funds. They sustain our community by recognizing the wide range of life improving services that are needed and rolling up their sleeves to find a way to address those needs."

In her role as Engagement Coordinator, Junker will serve as the primary point of contact for fund holders and area nonprofit organizations. Her responsibilities including making fund holder communication more modern and efficient. She will also be developing

regular communication with nonprofit leaders to identify ways the HCF can support their work and mission.

"I have a passion for enhancing the lives of those that live in the Hastings community. This has always been a community of individuals who are willing to extend a helping hand in a time of need," she said. "The more the Hastings Community Foundation knows about needs of our nonprofits, the more we can work to address those needs."

On the job since February, Chris has



Chris Junker at her post at the Hastings Community Foundation office.

quickly recognized the impact the foundation makes in the community.

"It's a mighty team that includes the staff, board members, donors, and community partners," Junker said. "The HCF is another example of the how excellent things can be accomplished when a group of dedicated individuals with great vision and desire join to make a difference."

Chris can be reached at [chris@hastings.foundation](mailto:chris@hastings.foundation) or by calling the HCF at (402) 462-5152.

## New Give Day Participants for 2021



**Brooks's Bookshelf** - Bookshelves are located across the community with the goal to share the joy of reading and also spread awareness of Down Syndrome and other uniqueness's. Each bookshelf includes books of all interest with specific books focused on kindness, compassion, and understanding individuals with unique differences.

**Hastings Pickleball Club** - Promotes fun, fitness, friendship and family time in the community of Hastings, Nebraska by growing the sport of Pickleball.



**HEARTLAND WORKERS CENTER**

**Heartland Workers Center** - Develops and organizes leaders, promotes workers' rights, and fosters a culture of civic engagement in order to build power and create change with immigrant and underrepresented communities.

**Kenesaw United Child Care Coalition** - Will be Kenesaw's first child care center and will serve children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. Renovations of the former Kenesaw Methodist Church are needed to comply with child care licensing regulations and to create a space that is nurturing, educational, and safe.

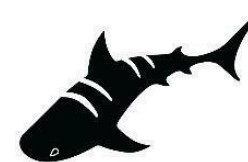


**laundrylove**

**Laundry Love** - Provides regular opportunities to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry. Laundry Love

partners with groups and local laundromats in laundering clothes and linens for low-income families and individuals, so the worth of every human being is acknowledged and celebrated.

**Our Little Angels** - Our mission is to help families who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss by assisting with bills and fundraisers, donating customized items and hand-selected gift baskets, and providing bereavement services through our knowledgeable support volunteers.



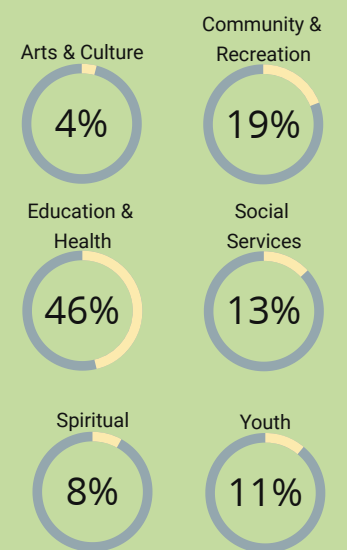
**SOS Swim Hastings** - Our objective is to maintain a quality competitive program by: Educating youth about competitive sports activities, encouraging good sportsmanship through healthy competition, securing quality facilities and equipment, providing competent coaching and establishing an organizational structure capable of solving problems related to the swimming program.

**Threads of Grace** - Provides brand new outfits and other necessities such as socks, shoes, underwear, outerwear, and other items that children may need when moving to a new foster home or going into a shelter.



## By The Numbers: HCF Impact in 2020

The HCF distributed \$2,293,539 in 2020, representing a record amount in a single year. Here's how the numbers shake out:



Six hundred+ checks issued to nonprofits

61% of total distributions were made in May or December

Give Hastings Day and end-of-year giving are our peak distribution times.

2,273%

Percentage increase from the combined distributions from our first seven years (1987-1993) compared to 2020.

## Thank you to our Give Hastings Day sponsors!



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Livingston Butler Volland  
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Hastings Federal Credit Union  
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Heritage Bank  
IdeaBank Marketing  
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