

February 23rd, 2009
Press Release

Emergency Assistance Grant Awarded To Help Holt County Families

The O'Neill Community Foundation has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation to help families in Holt County meet the challenges of the current economic crisis.

The O'Neill Community Foundation was selected as one of a limited number of local community foundations and community action agencies eligible to apply for the grant. The Foundation was selected upon location, organization reputation and administrative capacity to provide good stewardship of Mr. Kiewit's charitable dollars.

Central Nebraska Community Services (CNCS), Bright Horizons, and the O'Neill Ministerial Association will be the sub-recipients of the funds. These three organizations have a reputation and a long history of assisting individuals and families in need during difficult times. Funds will be used to meet emergency food and energy assistance needs to residents in Holt County.



Pictured from left to right, Nicole Sedlacek, Foundation Representative, Michelle Jarman (CNCS), Mike Durre (Ministerial Association), Linda Olson (Bright Horizons) and Dr. Mark Ptacek, Foundation President

All three organizations have been experiencing an increase in the number of individuals seeking assistance in recent months.

"I can see how we can help so many people with this grant," said Sister Norma Norton with the O'Neill Ministerial Association.

"We had a very short timeframe to put together this grant, it was so great to have four organizations come together so quickly and put together a grant that would help those in need," said Nicole Sedlacek, who put together the grant proposal.

Thankfully, O'Neill and Holt County has an organization like the O'Neill Community Foundation in place, which has the capacity to receive and distribute opportunity funding from foundations such as the Peter Kiewit Foundation and other public and private sources.

The O'Neill Community Foundation was formed in 1998. Its purpose is to provide financial support to causes and organizations that meet the emerging needs in the O'Neill and Holt County area. The O'Neill Community Foundation has reinvested over \$17,000 back into the area since 2005.

The O'Neill Community Foundation is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, providing financial management, training and education to 199 affiliated funds located across the state.

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