

DON'T BE A NO—LET'S BE A COPYCAT!!!

There are phrases that are time sensitive! Last night I heard a boy yell at his teammate “Cream one, Jayton!” And he did—he hit a grand slam that helped the team win the game!! I couldn't help but chuckle because I hadn't heard that phrase for some time!

When I was young, we were told, “don't be a copycat.” I am sure as the youngest sister I was told that quite often as I watched and tried to “copy” my sisters. Probably many times just to hear them yell at me and chase me away from their “grown up” activities.

The Community Foundation world is full of copycats and in fact, being a copycat is encouraged! The one thing I have learned to do is look at what other towns are doing and see if it's something that we need to do here.

We have relatives in Pender, Nebraska, a town of 1000 people. Three years ago, they decided to build a new community center – with donated funds. The price tag of \$6 million didn't faze them and the town is now building the center which will include a multipurpose room, basketball courts and a 24-hour fitness center. The committee is also planning on raising \$1 million for an endowment for future support.

This is not the town's first donation funded project. They have funded a golf course, a new library, a beautiful new hospital and held a 125^{-year} celebration that boasted hundreds of barn quilts throughout the town.

The Stuart Nebraska Foundation has recently completed the Murphy Theater and Media Center, the state-of-the-art facility is owned by the city of Stuart, a progressive town of 590 people. The Center has more than 120 volunteers, which enables the Center to succeed financially. The Center is managed by Darby Paxton, a stay-at-home dad who returned to his hometown with his wife Sara, after working as a computer programmer says, “If you want a great place to live, you've got to be willing to make it that way!”

The Greater Sabetha Community Foundation was founded in November of 2015 and there are several projects underway with many others yet to come. It's easy to say what NEEDS to be done or SHOULD be done, but I think Darby Paxton is right, we all must be willing to help make things better.

GSCF is looking for more people who care to become involved. Our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 12 noon at Buzz Café. Many who have come, return, saying they want to learn more about what we do. Yes, we are a young foundation, still in the learning stage and still needing to copy what other foundations are doing. So far, the copycat formula is working! In 21 months, GSCF funds have received contributions of more than \$2.5 million and over \$450,000 has been given back in grants. The fund holders within the foundation are in control of the donations they receive. GSCF exists to make good things happen for our communities and the people who live and work here. Please consider becoming involved in your local Community Foundation—it really is fun!!