



Nebraska Community Improvement Program



07 Nebraska Project Networking Guide

Developed in Partnership by
Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Nebraska Community Improvement Program
USDA-Rural Community Development Initiative

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2007 Nebraska Project Networking Guide. This annual guide is designed as a tool for community leaders to use in transforming their ideas into reality. Community leaders wanting to network with one another to learn about other successes and challenges also will find this a useful resource.

Each year Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) participants accomplish more than 400 community improvement projects. These projects are submitted to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development via NCIP for judging by a team of experts from various communities and professions. Nebraska investor-owned utilities assist in funding judges' expenses and provide cash awards and plaques at the annual NCIP Banquet, which is held in November.

Each year the projects are divided into three categories:

- 1) Volunteer and Leadership Development
- 2) Community Development
- 3) Economic Development

Within each category, topic areas have been identified by the NCIP Advisory Committee and reflect the NCIP judging categories.

Each project features a title, brief description, and contact information. The community contact will be able to provide more information on each project. Communities planning to start projects are encouraged to contact communities that were involved in similar completed projects to share information and ideas. This year's guide also includes the population of each community submitting the project. We hope this will better assist you in seeing what communities of similar populations are doing, and encourage communities to realize the project possibilities. You also will find stars that indicate the project was selected as an award winner in its respective category.

The Project Networking Guide is created annually representing current NCIP community projects.

NCIP thanks the communities that contributed projects; Funding from USDA-Rural Community Development Initiative Grant; and Elizabeth Christensen, NCIP Assistant, who compiled the guide.

We hope you will find the 2007 Nebraska Project Networking Guide very useful.

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Leadership Development

Volunteer & Leadership Development

Honoring Our Military Personnel, Bassett (743 pop.) – To promote patriotism and honor all who currently serve or have served in the U.S. military, Bassett officials hosted a community event where retired servicemen and women talked about their tours of duty. Community officials presented certificates to those who have served, and residents adopted active duty military as pen pals. Contact Evelyn Armstrong at (402) 684-3855.



Blue Hill Community Club, Blue Hill (867 pop.) – The Blue Hill Community Club has been active in the community for a long time. Its membership has shifted from business owners to residents. The club participates in volunteer projects as a way to give back to the community. Projects emphasize downtown renovation, public education, business and community (through seminars), and other fun activities. Contact Lee Ostdiek at (402) 756-2077, or e-mail bhleader@gtmc.net.

Coping With Difficult People, Brady (379 pop.) – Brady Public School administrators identified a need for training in dealing with difficult people. The Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation and John Russell Applegate Fund for Teachers Support Grant provided funding for the one-day workshop led by Dr. Bill Podraza. The event attracted staff from Brady public schools and surrounding school districts, as well as Brady residents. Contact Dr. Pat Cullen at (308) 584-3317 or e-mail pcullen@esu16.org.

Custer School Playground, Broken Bow (3,491 pop.) – The Custer School playground provided few play opportunities for handicapped students and no longer met federal safety guidelines. Members of the Custer Parent-Teacher Association planned and raised funds for and helped build a new play structure. Students now enjoy a safer playground with modern equipment featuring more activities. Contact Maureen Hunsberger at (308) 870-1406 or e-mail mandm@kdsi.net.

Bands, Brews, and BBQs, Cozad (4,163 pop.) – Bands, Brews, and BBQs is held annually the second weekend in July. This event includes sidewalk sales, a craft show, free kid's activities, a talent show, a car show, food vendors, brew masters, and bands. Approximately 4,000 people attended in 2006. Contact Heidi Bazata at (308) 784-6648.



Davenport Achievement Day, Davenport (339 pop.) – Davenport Achievement Day helps raise funds for upkeep of the community center. This fun-filled day features a pancake breakfast, ball games, a tractor pull, a car show, bingo, and a parade, among other things. Contact Arlene Vorce at (402) 364-2292 or e-mail davenportvillage@hotmail.com.

Mark Schultz Concert at the Thayer County Fair, Deshler (800 pop.) – After watching a worship video by Christian music singer and songwriter Mark Schultz, youth group members asked the Thayer County fair board to invite him to perform during the fair. With the fair board's go-ahead, event chairs were selected and more than 100 people volunteered. The free concert brought together five church denominations. Contact Kris Miesner at 402-365-4206 or e-mail miesner@gpcom.net.

Working Together to Save Lives, Eustis (464 pop.) – Eustis Rescue Squad and Fire Department received two grants to help buy much needed equipment and to construct a 300-foot emergency communications tower. Eustis also provided EMT-B training that produced 12 new EMTs, six who will be on the Eustis squad. Contact Susan Strong at 308-486-3661 or e-mail fstrong@nebnet.net.

Area Three Special Olympics Track Meet, Franklin (990 pop.) – Franklin volunteered to host the Area Three Special Olympics track meet at its new track facility. The event drew more than 200 Special Olympic athletes before the state games took place in Omaha. This project started with seven core leaders and grew to more than 100 volunteers. Contact Mike Lucas at (308) 425-6283 or e-mail mjlucas@esu11.org.



Nebraska's Junk Jaunt, Loup Basin RC&D Council (Multi-Community) – Nebraska's Junk Jaunt is a 200-mile-long yard sale that stretches across nine counties, and features 40 community coordinators, 40 community assistants, and other key leadership positions. This activity draws more than 20,000 people from 20 different states with estimated gross sales exceeding \$1.5 million during a slow time of year. Contact Lareda Hoback at (308) 728-3393 or e-mail Vicki.bauer@ne.usda.gov.



Neligh Citizens' Coalition, Neligh (1,651 pop.) – Neligh Citizens' Coalition provides a forum for citizens to voice concerns and work toward community improvement. Community members were worried about signs of decline in the community. The coalition came up with a plan to provide citizens with a forum to voice concerns, which was approved by the Neligh City Council and put into action. High school business students helped design posters for the downtown area to remind citizens of the forum. Contact Elaine Hamm at (402) 887-4066 or e-mail neligh@frontiernet.net.

Latter Day Saints Group, Pawnee County (Multi-community) – Pawnee City received a phone call from a representative with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Omaha area asking if there was volunteer work available for a group of 100 people to perform. Pawnee City found two projects for the group. The volunteers cleaned a country cemetery, and the creek along a new trail. The group had fun visiting Pawnee County and the community enjoyed their visit. Contact Carol Glather at (402) 852-2781.

Seward County Courthouse Chimes Restoration, Seward County (Multi-community) – Seward County wanted to celebrate the centennial of its courthouse in grand style. Seward County officials bid out restoration of the courthouse chimes, which quit working

in the 1980s. The final \$110,000 cost was more than covered by the county and through private donations. The chimes were restored and excess money was put into a future repair fund. Contact Clark Kolterman at (402) 643-2988.

Prairie Days, Tilden (1,200 pop.) – Events featured Whiplash the Cowboy Monkey, a dunk tank, cash scramble in a stack of hay, artists on the streets, and a drag your nag competition, among others. Prairie Days attracted 550 volunteers who spent 5,550 hours of planning and labor to make it a success. The event continues to grow year after year. Contact Leo and Myrna Botsford at (308) 368-5910 or e-mail botsford@cablone.net.

New Public Library, Wahoo (4,063 pop.) – An overcrowded city hall building housed city offices public library. Wahoo officials and residents agreed it was time for a new library, and began planning for its construction. Six years later, the new 15,200-square-foot library features a community meeting room, 16 computers for public use, private study rooms, and convenient parking. Contact Lorraine Urban at (402) 443-3447 or e-mail rlu656@charter.net.

Thunder by the River Beef State Extreme National Tractor Pull, Wisner (1,270 pop.) – Wisner held its first-ever nationally ranked tractor pull, drawing more than 10,000 people. Community members worked closely to prepare for the large event and ensure its success. Local eateries and quick shops saw a 35-50% increase in business during the tractor pull weekend. Contact Lee Myers at (402) 529-3338 or e-mail wisecdev@gpcom.net.

Leadership Seminars



Leadership Nebraska City, Nebraska City (7,228 pop.) – In May 2005, Nebraska City residents ranked leadership development as one of the city's top five immediate needs. Leadership Nebraska City was formed to increase the number and quality of leaders throughout the city. Sessions focus on skill development, and introduce different types of boards on which participants may serve. Contact Shawna Silvius at (402) 209-0559 or e-mail leadershipnc@alltel.net.

Leadership Today, Saint Paul (2,157 pop.) – Leadership Today is a nine-session program that helps youth and adults become effective leaders in local government, agencies, and organizations. Sessions were led by guest speakers, and included tours and activities related to learning about the community. Contact MaryAnn Fredrick at (308) 754-5558 or e-mail stpaulcham@cornhusker.net.

LeadershipPLENTY, Seward (6,425 pop.) – LeadershipPLENTY featured nine sessions during nine months. Topics covered many issues from individual growth to communicating action. Members of the successful program stated that they plan on becoming leaders in various organizations because of what they learned in the class. Contact Pat Coldiron at (402) 643-4189 or e-mail pat.coldiron@connectseward.org.



Leadership Dakota County, South Sioux City (pop. 11,925) – The goal of the yearly Leadership Dakota County program is to develop leadership skills in emerging leaders, including two high school students, and inspire them to serve their community and organizations. The program has proven extremely successful in creating new leaders in the community. Contact Pam Miller at (402) 241-6405 or e-mail pamm@northeastcollege.com.

Youth Involvement and Leadership

A Dialogue Across Nebraska (DAN), Ainsworth (1,870 pop.) – DAN is a service-learning project, led by college students and their professor, to bring together five different generations. High school students facilitate small group discussions that include someone from each of five different generations. Discussions focused on what is most important to each generation. For example, older generations realized how important a movie theater is to younger people. Ainsworth is now planning how to turn some of the needs discussed into successful projects. Contact Pam Bauer at 402-387-2213.

Energizing Our Youth, Alexandria (197 pop.) – Energizing Our Youth makes sure that there are organizations in place that can help the area's girls and boys learn skills, such as leadership. For example, a Girls Scouts troop was started up, and a Boy Scout group exists as well. Through these groups, youth help with activities, such as picking up trash, decorating Christmas trees, planting flowers beautifying the town, and participating in the Fun Daze parade. Contact Kathy Houser at 402-445-7407.



Native American Youth Council Veteran's Celebration, Alliance (8,351 pop.) - Native American residents in Alliance were concerned about unmet needs among its youth population. Native children needed to learn more about their culture and history. The Native American Youth Council was formed. Membership is opened to children and youth, age's preschool to 21. The council works with the Native American community and non-native community alike. This marked the third year that youth honored local Native Warriors (veterans) with a meal celebration, and attendance has more than doubled since the first meal was served. Contact Lonnie and Jennifer Littlehoop at 308-762-1382 or e-mail jlittlehoop@yahoo.com.

Downtown Murals, Aurora (4,300 pop.) – The director of the Aurora Youth Center delegated the project of painting murals on two buildings to one very gifted senior high student. In turn, that student recruited others to help him accomplish the project. The outcome: ordinary buildings were turned into extraordinary works of art that the community will enjoy for years to come. Contact Merwyn Davidson at 402-694-3329.

Learn and Serve – Community Revitalization, Bancroft (490 pop.) – A group of teachers from Bancroft-Rosalie Community School submitted and received a grant to fund several projects in the community. As a result, fourth graders became involved in recycling, junior high, and high school students worked on an outdoor classroom, students in the

industrial technology class refurbished the park's band shell, and art students repainted donated Christmas decorations. Contact Dr. Jon Cerny at 402-685-3336 or e-mail jcerny@esu2.org.



Soup with Santa and Special People, Coleridge (541 pop.) – Soup with Santa and Special People is held Thanksgiving weekend to celebrate those families who return to Coleridge for the holiday, but who may not be able to come back in December. Community organizations take turns hosting the meal for their own specific fundraisers. For example, more than 250 people attended this year's meal, sponsored by the high school band to raise money to go to Washington D.C. Contact Jacie Burbach at 402-283-4282 or e-mail theburbs@nntc.net.

Junior City Council, Columbus (20,909 pop.) – Three students—one sophomore, junior and senior from each of the high schools is elected to serve on the Junior City Council. Students must be elected yearly or reelected to serve more than one term. The youth council members handle the same issues as the city council. Junior City Council has representation on the City Council and Chamber of Commerce to represent the youth's view on decisions made. This past year's biggest project was planning the Pawnee Plunge. Contact Mike Fleming at 402-563-2400 or e-mail mofinc@megavision.com.

Mechatronics, Columbus (20,909 pop.) – Columbus received a grant to build a Mechatronics Education Center that provides state-of-the-art Mechatronics training to help regional industries remain competitive in the global market. Contact Doug Pauley at 402-563-4520 or e-mail dpauley@cccneb.edu.

Multi-Generational Project, Eustis (464 pop.) – The Rolling Meadows 4-H Club received a grant from the Nebraska 4-H foundation to partnership with senior residents in enjoying various activities. The first event, held at the senior center, attracted more than 50 people. After a meal, there were games for all. Other activities included: kite flying, taffy pulling, noodle making, pretzel making, and a geography bee. Contact Anita Hueftle at 308-529-0747.

YCIP Activities, Farnam (227 pop.) – Farnam YCIP developed leadership skills, community service experience, and personal growth through many activities this year, including planting flowers in downtown Farnam, sponsoring a float in the Founder's Day parade and holding a light contest to provide awareness of YCIP. The students organized this and made it all happen. Contact Theresa Messersmith at 308-537-3651.

Youth Community Improvement Program (YCIP) Youth Leadership in Action, Gothenburg (3,600 pop.) – YCIP is self-governed and self-supported organization, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The group typically undertakes a project a month throughout the school year. They help collect and wrap gifts for needy children, sell poppies for the American Legion Auxiliary, make holiday wreaths from cut down trees, and answer letters for Santa among other things. Contact Andrea Collins at agrinc@charter.net.

Community Service West Star 4-H Club, Hartington (1,640 pop.) – The West Star 4-H Club participates in community service projects every year. This past year, the club helped paint the city auditorium, painted the senior center kitchen, delivered roses to nursing home residents in Hartington and Coleridge, painted trash dumpsters at Cedar County Fair Grounds, volunteered at the food pantry, delivered food baskets to those who live alone or who deserved to be thanked for their community service. Contact Sally Kneifl at 402-254-2193 or e-mail Kneifl@hartel.net.

Kimball Veteran’s Day Program, Kimball (2,559 pop.) – Students in Kimball High School’s Civics class present and organize the yearly Veteran’s Day program. Students match their talents with what needs to be done. The feedback from speakers, veterans, and other community members is very positive. Personal invitations are sent to veterans and the program recognizes each of them. Contact Mrs. Jeri Ferguson at 308-235-7426 or e-mail kjferg@megavision.com.



Lexington Skate Park Challenge, Lexington (10,011 pop.) – The Skate Park Committee raised more than \$30,000 in six months to make the park a success. The logo “SkateLex” was designed by a sixth grade student and used on everything from t-shirts to presentations. The skate park is free and open year-round during daylight hours. Contact Jacqueline Berke at 308-324-6704 or e-mail lexfoundation@alltel.net.

North Platte Police Explorers, North Platte (23,878 pop.) – The Police Explorers provide youth ages 14-18 with the opportunity to explore a career in Criminal Justice. The program is led by two off-duty police officers. Students ride along with officers, assist with traffic control at major events, listen to guest speakers, and participate in field trips and competitions. Five students participated this past year. Contact Jason Gale at 308-535-6789 or e-mail jgale@hotmail.com.

Tomorrow’s Leaders and Entrepreneurs Today, O’Neill (3,733 pop.) – This group connects youth with available leadership and entrepreneurship opportunities in the community. During the year, the group gave speeches and demonstrations, assisted with distributing surveys, discouraged underage drinking, organized a dodge ball tournament, helped at a volunteer fair, and a career fair for high school students, and handed out ice cream treats among other activities. Contact Nicole Sedlacek at 402-336-1732 or e-mail Nicole@morcomm.net.

Youth Projects-To Renovate and Beautify, Petersburg (372 pop.) – Boy and Girl Scouts are very popular in Petersburg. The overall projects done by each youth group included renovation of the band stand on Main Street, and picnic shelter and grounds area at Petersburg Community Park Golf Course, removal of old bushes and planting new shrubbery on Main Street, and renovation of the Boone County Fairgrounds bathrooms. Contact Patty Faust at 402-386-5228.



We've Got Your Back, Ravenna (1,341 pop.) – We've Got Your Back is a program organized by freshman in the Computer Applications class to help victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The class organized people to drop off book bags and provide supplies to fill them. These were then sent to Houston for eventual delivery. Eaton Corporation donated the freight costs. Contact Denise Bolling at 308-452-3067 or e-mail ande@cornhusker.net.

Farm and Home Show, Wisner (1,270 pop.) – The Annual Farm and Home Show showcases Wisner businesses. There were 32 booths displaying products from gardening and health care to veterinary products and fertilizer. Attendees included people who had never been to Wisner. Contact Lee Myers at 402-529-3338 or e-mail wisecdev@gpcom.net.

Community Development

Public Works, Facilities, Services, and Planning

BLT'S: Ainsworth's Recipe of Fundraising Success, Ainsworth (1,870 pop.) - Ainsworth's fundraising campaign encompassed four sub-projects. The "B" in the recipe represented the handicapped mini "bus" purchased through the efforts of the Senior Center, which had raised 40% of its cost. The "L" stood for the local Ainsworth Public Library whose entire \$15,000 budget was eliminated by the county. Money raised for the letter "T" went toward purchase of the local "theater." The "S" stood for a sign project at the school. A total \$76,570 from all fundraisers was divided equally among the four projects. Contact Renee Adkisson or Gail Irwin at 402-387-2032 or e-mail aplibrary@threeriver.net.



Brown County Hospital Special Bond Election, Ainsworth (1,870 pop.) – The goal of Brown County Hospital administrators wanted to construct a surgical/operating suite, physical therapy room, emergency room, and lab. The issue was approved for a May 9, 2006 primary election ballot. Volunteers split up into different groups to encourage voters to pass the bond. Their effort was successful when the special bond passed 1,011 to 481. Contact Ann Fiala at 402-387-1000.

Downtown Street Improvement Project, Aurora (4,300 pop.) – Volunteers initiated a street improvement project that included updating and improving streets, alleys, utilities and lighting along Aurora's business square. Once a professional engineering firm worked out the details, the project was successfully completed. Contact Mike Bair at 402-694-6992.

Water System Improvements and Modernization, Bancroft (490 pop.) – Bancroft needed to repair and upgrade the municipal water system, which included installing new water well. The village took out a loan and received grant funding to pay for a safe, new water system for its residents. Contact Jon Bailey at 402-687-2100 or e-mail at jonb@cfra.org.

Columbus Family Resource Center, Columbus (20,909 pop.) – Columbus officials had the idea for a family resource center but never the means or location for building it until the hospital announced it was building a new facility. The Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska that provides resources for youth and adults is now set to take over the former hospital. The building also houses the United Way, Catholic Charities (which helps people with substance abuse), Platte County Food Pantry, Workforce Development of Nebraska, and a domestic violence agency. Contact Patricia Heimes at 402-564-5661 or e-mail at unitway@megavision.com.



Diller Community Building Renovations, Diller (285 pop.) – The Diller Community Building hosts many organizational meetings as well as Senior Meals. The

building recently experienced water damage and the community decided to simultaneously fix the problem and update the building. Mold was removed, walls were repaired, and woodwork was cleaned and updated. All work was completed in time to host an annual event. Contact Beth Roelfs at 402-793-5570 or e-mail broelfs@esu6.org.

Kimball Airport Runway Expansion, Kimball (2,259 pop.) – Because Kimball’s Arraj Field is a regional Mid-Level Airport. The Federal Aviation Agency stated that updating the taxiway was of high importance (based on the airport’s future growth, altitude, and status). A new paved runway and LED lighting system was installed. Contact Kim Baliman at 308-235-3782 or e-mail kbccc@megavision.com.

Sprucing up Kimball, Kimball (2,259 pop.) – Three signs were put up at the entrance of Kimball. A high school landscaping class was charged with applying what they learned by landscaping around the signs. The students got to pick what part of the project was their own which gave them initiative to excel. Contact Sandy Lukassen at 308-235-3272 or e-mail kimfood@megavision.com.

Training Tower Trainings, O’Neill (3,733 pop.) – O’Neill Fire Department wanted to have a place to train its volunteer fire department, which is required to undertake so many training hours every year. To accomplish this, the fire department built a new training tower, which has proven successful. More than 20 trainings were offered last year to the O’Neill Fire Department and other area fire departments. Contact Rod Ludemann at 402-336-3034 or e-mail oneillfire@morcomm.net.

Need for Fire Station and Remodel, Petersburg (372 pop.) – Petersburg needed to renovate its fire station. A need that became more apparent when an ice storm knocked out power throughout the village for three days. The firehouse was powered by a generator and fire personnel picked up people who needed help. The community has an especially large elderly population. To aid the renovations, the community raised \$206,000, which was matched by Community Development Block Grant funding. The money went toward construction of an emergency shelter and fire hall additions, and remodeling. Contact Clint Baumgartner at 402-386-5637.



Volunteer Fire Department Training, Stuart (625 pop.) – Two houses in Stuart were becoming eyesores and health hazards. The Stuart Development Corporation purchased the two vacant homes and razed them via a carefully controlled burn, which provided great experience for the volunteer fire department. Contact Lyle Shearer at 402-340-3105 or e-mail lsheare2@bigred.unl.edu.

Environmental Projects and Awareness

Sand Hills Discovery Experience, Ainsworth (1,870 pop.) – The Sand Hills Discovery and Visitors Center Foundation wanted to develop a permanent Sand Hills Interpretive Center, but in the short term, hold a yearly educational conference to inform others about the unique Sand Hills region. Conference attendance has held steady around 100 people

during each of the last five years. Contact Marilyn Williams at (402) 722-4380 or e-mail ncdc@ainsworthlinks.com.

Great American Cleanup, Alexandria (197 pop.) – Alexandria applied for and received a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to help with trash pick up along main roads surrounding the community, and in three area parks. Several community groups and families regularly volunteer to upkeep the areas. Contact Betty Bulin at (402) 749-3390.



KAB International Coastal Clean Up Garage Sale, Alliance (8,351 pop.) – Alliance wanted to help those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A garage and bake sale raised \$2,343.95, and was split between the Keep Louisiana Beautiful and Keep Mississippi Beautiful organizations. The garage sale was held in conjunction with an annual International Coastal Clean Up event sponsored by The Ocean Conservancy. Contact Debra J. Dopheide at (308) 762-1729 or e-mail kab@cityofalliance.net.

Hazardous Waste Clean Up, Culbertson (594 pop.) – Hazardous waste clean up events are held twice a year for Culbertson residents. A truck is reserved for three hours, and located in a central location for residents wishing to drop off any hazardous materials. The service is provided at no charge to the town. A recent clean-up netted 500-600 pounds of oil, pesticides, paints, and other household wastes. Contact Jeannette Miller at (308) 278-2521.

Community Wide Clean Up, Culbertson (594 pop.) – Community wide clean up day allows residents to discard large items that otherwise do not fit in conventional garbage trucks making weekly pickups. Volunteers also help move items that are too heavy for Culbertson residents to manage. More than 12,000 pounds of garbage was hauled away in industrial-sized dumpsters. Contact Jeannette Miller at (308) 278-2521.

Franklin Community Clean Up Project, Franklin (990 pop.) – For several months, the city worked on cleaning up the community before hosting a citywide cleanup for all residents. The project allowed Franklin citizens to dispose of chemicals, yard waste, tree limbs, appliances, metal, tires, untreated lumber, hazardous waste, and batteries at no cost. City employees and members of The National FFA Organization (FFA) volunteered to collect any excess waste. The response was so overwhelming that city employees worked four days on the project with help from the FFA for one day. Contact George Kleen at (308) 425-9919.

Please Don't Litter Your Butts, Gering (7,751 pop.) – Gering officials wanted to combat cigarette litter as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. They implemented the program Please Don't Litter Your Butts, which has four basic strategies: enforcing anti-litter laws, installing ash receptacles, encourage the use of pocket ash trays, and providing public education. As a result, there have been fewer butts counted in the Gering community. Contact Rosie Russell at (308) 426-5096 or e-mail russell@gering.org.



Cedar River Stabilization Erosion Site Completion, Loup Basin RC&D Council, (Multi-community) – The Cedar River Stabilization Project provided 12 landowners with cost share assistance to implement erosion control structures and practices to prevent further erosion along the river. Education on water quality, quantity, and management practices also was offered, with more than 200 landowners joining in the efforts. Contact Vicki Bauer at (308) 728-3393 or e-mail at Vicki.bauer@ne.usda.gov.

Keep Loup Basin Beautiful, Loup Basin RC&D Council, (Multi-community) – The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality grant supported the hiring of an environmental technician who coordinated studies, litter indexes, educational presentations and recycling/cleanup opportunities all in an effort to reduce litter and educate residents throughout the area. More than 70,000 tons of tires were collected in 2005 for recycling children’s activity book about recycling was distributed at no cost. One community was even nominated for a Keep Nebraska Beautiful Community. Contact Linda Studnicka at (308) 728-3393 or e-mail vicki.bauer@ne.usda.gov.



Scrap Tire Collection, Pilger (378 pop.) –A committee was formed to oversee a Scrap Tire Collection event for residents of Stanton County. The collection was a huge success netting more than 100 tons of used car, truck, and tractor tires. Contact Kimberly Neiman at (402) 396-3563 or e-mail pilger@cablone.net.

Compost Utilizing Animal Waste, Wisner (1,270 pop.) – A Wisner group is making and marketing compost using animal waste from feedlots. The economically sound alternative to waste disposal offers bagged compost that can be marketed outside the local area, providing a solution to animal waste concerns and additional employment for Wisner. Contact Lee Myers at (402) 529-3338 or e-mail wisecdev@gpcom.net.

Community Services

Beautification of Community Center, Alexandria (197 pop.) –The community center’s lunchroom/meeting room was redecorated. Light fixtures were updated, walls were painted, and new window curtains, storm windows, and a window air conditioner were installed. In addition, new gutters were added to the roof. Contact Jean Pletcher at 402-749-3255.

Arcadia Public School Playground Project, Arcadia (340 pop.) – The campaign for a new playground started when elementary students’ mothers talked about the unsafe conditions of the playground. Three dedicated mothers initiated a fundraising drive and it grew from there. The playground now features safe equipment allowing more students to play at once, and providing activities for handicapped children. Contact Vicki Bauer at 308-728-3393 or e-mail Vicki.bauer@ne.usda.gov.

Cooling Off the Coleridge Community Center, Coleridge (541 pop.) – The only large gathering place in Coleridge was not air-conditioned. Many events are held at the

community center and it was thought that more would be interested if this improvement were made. Funds were raised and an air conditioning unit was installed. Since then, the center has experienced a 15% increase in use. Contact Bev Felber at 402-283-4464 or e-mail ghefner@nmtc.net.

Jimmy Collins Softball Tournament, Coleridge (541 pop.) – Former Coleridge resident Jimmy Collins, 28, was tragically killed in a one-vehicle accident. His parents started a softball tournament as a memorial tribute to him. The annual coed team tournament raises money to assist families in need, award students with school scholarships, and for other community projects. More than \$1,000 was raised this year for a scholarship for local students attending Northeast Community College. Contact Myrna Collins at 402-283-4742 or e-mail saschroe@nmtc.net.

Dawson County Relay for Life 2006, Cozad (4,163 pop.) – This countywide project helps raise awareness about cancer research and prevention. The event, which goes from 7 p.m.-8 a.m., kicks off with survivors walking the first lap. After dark, luminaries are lit to honor those who have lost their battle with cancer. A team member walks through the night. In 2006, more than \$111,000 was raised to find a cure for cancer. Contact Pam Ackerman at 308-324-5501.



Dawson County Housing Solutions, Dawson County (Multi-community) – Due to the dual needs of increased available jobs and the issue of housing availability, communities in Dawson County came together to address the needs. Currently there are 53 new available lots, 15 new rent-to-own homes and a homebuyer course that is offered in both English and Spanish. Contact Deb Jensen at 308-784-3902 or e-mail djdad@cozadtel.net.

Holiday Spirit, Eustis, Farnam, and Cozad (Multi-Community) – Holiday Spirit is a coat, hat, boots, and mittens collection drive. The items are made available to anyone regardless of incomes. There were more than 400 coats and accessories donated during the drive. Of these, 372 coats were given to children and youth. The project purchased an additional 20 coats for adults who could not find their child's size. Contact Kathryn Keller at 308-486-4111.

Community Clean Up, Farnam (227 pop.) - This project focuses on cleaning up overgrown vacant lots, tearing down dilapidated buildings, and recycling old vehicles. This year, several places were cleaned up or are in the process of being cleaned up. The former Baptist Church was purchased by the Farnam Economic Development Corporation, burned down, and the basement filled in. The community has come together to beautify the town. Contact Dan Widick at 308-569-2333 or e-mail dwidick@atcjet.net.

Trail of Treasures, Farnam (227 pop.) - Six communities came together to host 46 miles of garage sales. A five-dollar sellers fee helped defray costs of holding the sales. There

were 12 different sellers in Farnam alone, and all were pleased with their sales. Contact Doris Bellamy at 308-569-2320.



CHIP (Child Identification Program), Franklin (990 pop.) – The CHIP program provides free videotapes, fingerprints, teeth bite impressions, DNA cheek swabs, and digital still photographs of children that parents can file away in case of emergencies (most often related to child kidnappings or abductions). The videotape focuses on children’s unique facial and body characteristics, such as birthmarks. Franklin has no record of any child kidnappings or abductions and provides the program in an effort to prevent it from ever happening. Contact Jerrell Gerdes at 308-425-6221 ext. 304.

KidVision, Franklin (990 pop.) – KidVision is a free, Omaha-based eye-screening program that travels to Nebraska communities to check for near and far sightedness, myopia, and lazy eye. This service is offered for children ages 18 months to five-years-old. This service was especially beneficial for Franklin, which does not have its own eye care provider. These abnormalities can be easily treated if detected early. Contact Beverly McNiff at 308-425-3726 or e-mail bmcniff@mnca.net.

Hartington Volunteer Fire Department Safety Equipment Project, Hartington (1,640 pop.) – During training exercises Hartington volunteer firemen began experiencing regulator malfunction, which could only be remedied with new equipment. Because the safety of its volunteer firefighters were jeopardized, the department applied for and received a \$57,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and \$3,000 in local funds to buy 12 new air packs with integrated pass and heat alarms. The air packs have already proven valuable as half of all 911 calls this past year required their use. Contact Gerry Thoene at 402-254-3820.

Senior Citizen Center Renovation, Hartington (1,640 pop.) – Hartington’s senior center is like a second home for many citizens. And like any homes, regular upkeep is required to keep them functioning and looking nice. The community came together to remodel the center exterior, and entrance/foyer. They also painted interior walls, and purchased and installed a new couch and chairs, a television, tables, freezers and, icemaker, pictures and ceiling fans. Since the renovations, the traffic in and out of the senior center has increased 25%-30%. Contact Dan Kathol or Patsy Thoene at 402-254-6698.



The Movin’ On Gang: A Community Health Support and Education Group, Kimball (2,559 pop.) – The Movin’ On Gang is a support group for older community members with various health problems who live independently. Bimonthly meetings offer support, encouragement, and ongoing education. Attendance has doubled since the first meeting. Contact Shirley Wharman at 308-235-4573 or e-mail Shirley@megavision.com.

Antique and Craft Extravaganza, Lexington (10,011 pop.) – This three-day event is hosted by the Lexington Chamber of Commerce over the long Labor Day weekend. The

first event in 1986 attracted 25 dealers. This past year 175 dealers from 13 states participated with more than 14,000 visitors attended the show. Awards are given for the best antique, craft, and flea market represented. Dealers receive coupons for area restaurants to encourage their patronization. Contact Vicki Gilpin at 308-324-5504.

Nebraska City/Otoe County Citizen's Police Academy, Nebraska City (7,228 pop.) – The Citizen's Police Academy is offered to Otoe County residents to promote a better understanding of police perspective. The class is broken into eight two-hour sessions. After completing all sessions, students participate in a ride along program. The average class size is 16. Contact Chief Lacy at 402-873-6666 or e-mail dlacy@alltel.net.

Nebraska Mission of Mercy, North Platte (24,878 pop.) – Nebraska Mission of Mercy provides free dental care to low-income individuals, couples, and families who otherwise may not be able to afford it. No questions are asked about economic status. Anyone who walks in can receive dental care. The outcome of the project was amazing. More than 900 patients were treated in two days, amounting to more than \$365,000 in donated dental work. This ongoing event will be held annually in different cities in Nebraska. Contact Dr. James K. States at 308-532-4142 or e-mail jmstates@charter.net.

Papio Vision, Papillion (17,000 pop.) – Papio Vision, the government access channel in Papillion, provides non-profit organizations the opportunity to air events, such as church functions, service group events, school proceedings, and several one-time airings for events such as high school graduation, free of charge. For example, the city's golf pro gives lessons on the station. Contact Tony Foster at 402-597-2031 or e-mail tfoster@papillion.org.

Educational Workshops, Pawnee County (Multi-Community) – The Pawnee Historical Society and educational interests in the community worked together to promote educational experiences for youth. These annual summer and fall workshops are designed for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Every student is required to keep a journal about the experience. Students look forward to the workshops. Contact Kathleen Jacobitz at 402-852-2951 or e-mail KJ13333@alltel.net.



Recycle your Cycles, Scottsbluff (14,732 pop.) – Scottsbluff wanted to clean up the community and help others at the same time. Recycle your Cycle refurbished used bicycles and contributed them to Panhandle Community Services for adult clients who couldn't afford cars, gas or insurance, and to families who couldn't afford to buy them for their children. This twofold project gave old and used bicycles new life and kept them from being discarded in area landfills. Contact Kathy Kropuenske at 308-632-4649 or e-mail ksgb@bbc.net.

Farmer's Market, Seward (6,426 pop.) – The farmer's market was started 10 years ago. Jeanne Prochnow is in charge of the event. Vendors sell their products from 5- 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 7 a.m.-Noon on Saturdays. Music is provided by local

talent. The market runs from June 1 until late October. Contact Jeanne Prochnow at 402-643-2505.

Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival at Concordia University, Seward (6,426 pop.) – This event started 10 years ago with one author and illustrator who met with 200 students, and adults from the Seward area. The festival has grown through the years. During the 2005 festival, more than 5,000 students and adults attended, and in 2006, six authors and illustrators were invited to participate. Contact Vikki Gremel at 402-643-2299.

Campaign to Fund the Planning and Renovation at Memorial Health Care Center's Nursing Homes, Seward County (Multi-community) – A 2003 groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction and renovation of the Memorial Health Care Center. The center now features new patient care services, which include a new emergency department, radiology suite, pharmacy, special procedures room, outpatient recovery suite, and patient wing to serve the community. Contact Clark Kolterman at 402-643-2988.

"It'sTime" Capital Campaign for a New Siouxland YMCA, South Sioux City (11,925 pop.) – The South Sioux City School district's pool did not meet standards so the high school swim team could not use it to host meets. The Siouxland YMCA opened in 1956 in Sioux City, Iowa. South Sioux City is the location of the new facility which is being built. The new facility will be three times larger, and can have up to 10,000 memberships from the tri-state area. The larger facility will allow for more teen and youth programs and will be the host site for South Sioux City swim meets. Contact Mark Proeschel at 712-252-3276 or e-mail mproeschel@siouxlandy.org.

Public Safety and Crime Prevention, South Sioux City (11,925 pop.) – The South Sioux City Police Department has teamed up with the City, and other community organizations to educate the community about public safety, crime, violence prevention, and gang awareness. The police department has located two officers in area high schools for the 2006-2007 school year, which has proven successful. Contact Officer Jeanette McFee at 402-494-7555 or e-mail jmcfee@southsiouxcity.com

Ninth Street Medical Clinic, Wisner (1,270 pop.) – The Ninth Street Medical Center needed updating for patient privacy records and handicap accessibility. Wisner Community Development had already started fundraising for medical services and agreed to take over the clinic from the all-volunteer Wisner Medical Board and fund the upgrade. The Ninth Street Medical Clinic is open three days a week to serve Wisner residents. Contact Lee Myers at 402-529-3338 or e-mail wisecdev@gpcom.net.

Parks and Recreation

Neihardt Trail, Bancroft (520 pop.) – A new 3,400-foot concrete surfaced Neihardt Trail is being constructed for pedestrians, exercisers and cyclists. It will run from the school

arboretum to the Neihardt Historical Site. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2007. Contact Kent Neumann at 402-685-5175 or e-mail kent.Neumann@ne.usda.gov.

Village Park Improvements, Bancroft (520 pop.) – Community volunteers gathered to landscape Bancroft Village Park. The project involved tilling land, planting 23 trees and five shrubs, and scattering nearly 300 bags of mulch. Volunteers watered the plants two to three times per week, sprayed them, and weeded three to four times per month. The park is more beautiful and provides an educational learning experience with its different tree species. Contact Kent Neumann at 402-685-5175 or e-mail kent.Neumann@ne.usda.gov.



Trotting on a New Track, Burwell (1,082 pop.) – Trotting on a New Track was a movement in Burwell to build new track and field accommodations, improve lighting, and install a new sound system for school athletes and residents. The new facilities allowed Burwell to host three track meets this past year, which generated revenue for the community and gave Burwell athletes a home team advantage. Contact Lynn Kratky at 308-346-5210 or e-mail burwellecondev@nctc.net.



Columbus Water Park Pawnee Plunge, Columbus (20,909 pop.) – The Columbus municipal pool was permanently closed in 2004. A committee was appointed to review options. The committee decided a water park would be best suited for the area. The water park that opened in May 2006 attracted many out of town visitors, improving the quality of life and significantly impacting the area's economy. Contact Christina Scow at 402-564-2769 or e-mail cscow@megavision.com.



Twin Rivers Walking Trail, Culbertson (594 pop.) – Culbertson needed a safe place for residents to walk and exercise away from the highway, which had previously been used. Local farmers driving large tractors, combines and other equipment had several near accidents with people who did not move over far enough. The new half-mile Twin Rivers Walking Trail follows the Frenchman River and already has 100 regular users. Contact Ken Carfield at 308-278-2660.

New Gym Facility, Franklin (990 pop.) – In late 2004, the Franklin Board of Education received a \$600,000 donation towards a new gym. The school administration and board members conducted a feasibility study to determine if a new gym could be solely built with the donation. The study came back positive and ultimately no taxes were raised to build the gym. Now students enjoy better playing facilities and residents are invited to use the walking track around the gyms out perimeter. Contact Mike Lucas at 308-425-6283 or e-mail mjlucas@esu11.org.

Felber Park Enhancement Project, Hartington (1,640 pop.) – Hartington has been sprucing up Felber Park. A spring 2006 fundraising campaign led to installation of a new flagpole and welcome sign at the park's front entrance, renovation of the baseball field,

and construction of two new little league baseball/softball complex activity areas. In 2007, a new water fountain, benches, and pillar archways at the park's entrance will be installed, and two city tennis courts will be resurfaced. Contact Dan Kathol at 402-254-6874 or e-mail kathold@hartel.net.

Optimist Hitting Facility, Lexington (10,011 pop.) –The City of Lexington maintains year-round, free of charge facilities that include one pitching machine each for softball and baseball, dressing rooms, bathrooms, and three driving ranges. The batting cages have encouraged many youth to play baseball. As a result, Lexington has been very successful this past year with developing teams that are more competitive and earning trips to state. Contact Jacqueline Berke at 308-324-6704 or e-mail lexfoundation@alltel.net.

Wildwood Victorian Gardens, Nebraska City (7,228 pop.) – Visitors to the Wildwood Center experience the quiet unhurried lifestyle of the Victorian era. A garden project was divided into four phases. The first phase involved marking the field and garden area, preparing the soil, and building a fence. Phase 2 included building four brick patios. During phase 3, a tree was planted, the arbor was installed, patio furniture was purchased, more than 600 bulbs were planted, and a pathway was formed. Phase 4 included more plantings, finishing walkways, and adding finishing touches. This beautiful area has been booked for many weddings. Contact Cheryl Walgren at 402-873-5342 or e-mail vj13056@alltel.net.

Original Town Park, North Platte (24,878 pop.) – The Original Town Association was re-established in 2003 to improve conditions for residential and business areas on the north side of North Platte. The goal was to improve the outside storefronts along the old Lincoln Highway. One project involved removing an abandoned gas station and converting it into a green space that welcomes people to the area. Contact Angela King at 308-534-8100 or e-mail at kingar@ci.north-platte.ne.us.



Prairie Hills Connector Trail, Pawnee County (Multi Community) – Concerned parents and residents expressed the need for sidewalk accessibility from the downtown area to the sports complex. Since the area is undergoing revitalization with the new home construction, more families with young children are moving into the area, and parents want to ensure their safety when walking to the sports complex. Contact Tamela Stephens at 402-852-2781 or e-mail at pcityhall@neb.rr.com.

Ball Field Playground Equipment, Ravenna (1,341 pop.) –Ravenna hosts many baseball and softball games during summer months. Two fields adjoin one another while a third field is located across the street. Ravenna residents opted to build a playground to ensure that younger children not old enough to play organized sports would stay in one safe place while their family members practiced and played baseball and softball. Contact Terry Hervert at 308-390-9217 or e-mail thervert@esu10.org.

Caboose Park, Ravenna (1,341 pop.) – The Burlington Northern caboose had to be moved to a new location, but first, the new location needed some sprucing up. With community support, a rundown park was first revitalized and now features the caboose. A Horticulture Board watches over the park’s landscaping while the Parks Board cares for the overall park needs. Contact Lois Johnsten at 308-452-3710 or e-mail cityofravenna@nctc.net.

Crystal Cove Revitalization Project, South Sioux City (11,925 pop.) – This marks the first of its kind revitalization project under the United States Corp of Engineers Section 514 Habitat Enhancement Program. Channeling and degradation of the Missouri River led to its silted condition resulting in a water drop of 12-15 feet during the past 10 years. Community volunteers helped open up a natural fed spring, which makes for a thriving ecosystem. The project created places for wildlife and native grasses, as well as a sledding hill and a handicap accessible dock. Contact Brent Brown at 402-494-7536 or e-mail bbrown@southsiouxcity.org.



Community Restrooms and Camper Pads at Recreation Area, Springview (292 pop.) – People participating in summer activities at Springview’s recreation area did not have access to public bathroom facilities because none were available. Springview officials and residents decided to remedy the situation by building a facility complete with handicapped accessible restroom stalls and separate. An adjoining area is reserved for camper pads. Contact Delores Mullin at 402-497-2468.

County Fair Carnival, Wahoo/Saunders County (4,063 pop.) – Saunders County Fair has owned and operated fair rides for the past 20 years. The association board trains new volunteers to safely operate the rides, which are open 10 nights a year. More than 2,000 volunteer hours are invested each year in set up, takedown, and operation of the fair. Contact Steve Vrana at 402-443-4069.



New Aquatic Center, Wahoo (4,063 pop.) – In May 2006, a new Wahoo Aquatic Center replaced the outdoor pool, providing a safe, fun water facility for the community to enjoy. City officials also closed a street to ensure the safety of children walking from the park to the water facility. Contact Kevin Stuhr at 402-443-4174 or e-mail ks22132@alltel.net.

Arts and Humanities

Chautauqua, Alliance (8,351 pop.) – Alliance hosted the Great Plains Chautauqua program “From Sea to Shining Sea: America’s Westward Expansion 1790-1840,” which emphasized America’s continent-wide expansion. The event featured games, crafts, storytelling, singing, Native American dancers, a cowboy poet, and a picnic. More than 4,000 volunteer hours were contributed to the event estimated at \$60,000. Contact Earl and Patricia Jones at 308-762-3359 or e-mail patjones@aps.k12.ne.us.



Bassett Arts Council 30th Anniversary Celebration, Bassett (743 pop.) – A special event was held to honor volunteers and patrons for their continuous service to the Arts Council from 1976-2006. The active arts council significantly influenced the younger generation in the form of more youth pursuing careers in the arts. Area youth also actively campaign to bring productions to Bassett, and participate in school productions. Contact Korla Keller at 402-684-2356 or e-mail cityclerk@huntel.net.



Tootin Our Horns Down Constitution Avenue, Coleridge (541 pop.) – Coleridge High School Marching Band represented Nebraska at the 2006 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington D.C. To get there, they first needed to raise \$35,000.] A total of three-dozen fundraisers, in addition to free will donations and in kind, gifts actually resulted in \$45,000—\$10,000 over their goal. The support was so great that two extra charter buses were rented so an additional 87 fans could attend. The school custodian, who served in Vietnam, carried the Nebraska state flag in the parade. Students also placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Two band members whose dad is serving in Iraq laid the wreath. Contact Sally Ann Schroeder at 402-283-4913 or e-mail saschroe@nmtc.net.

Robert Henri Museum and Historical Walkway Restoration, Cozad (4,163 pop.) – Two walls of the Robert Henri Museum were considered structurally unsound. Because of the building's rich history and tourism draw, the project was considered a priority for Cozad. A general contractor did the work and volunteers moved the artifacts from inside the house to their temporary homes during remodeling and cleaned up from all the work that has been done. The building is now structurally sound and compliant with the National Historic Registry. Contact Marlene Geiger at 308-784-2041.

Community History Awareness, Culbertson (594 pop.) – A committee decided to erect signs welcoming motorists to Culbertson. To commemorate Culbertson's history, the signs featured a silhouette of a longhorn steer, an old wagon wheel, a boulder, rocks, and the date that the town was established. Contact Rosemary Corey at 308-278-2743.



Lighting Up the Sun, Gothenburg (3,600 pop.) – In 1981, the Sun Theatre closed, which ended the showing of local movies and community playhouse performances. Fundraising got underway immediately to reopen the theatre. The theatre is now open for movies and community and school productions. Regular fundraising supports maintenance and repair expenses because theater revenue is unable to cover these costs. Contact Bev Titkenmeier at 308-537-3651 or e-mail bjt_southranch@yahoo.com.

School Memorial Monument, Guide Rock (245 pop.) – Guide Rock wanted to build a memorial to the school after it was torn down. Three hundred bricks saved from the old school were sold and engraved to build the memorial. The statue featured all graduates of the school. A volunteer who lived in Texas made five trips to Nebraska to work on the project. Contact Ken Bailey at 402-257-2720.



River Country Nature Center, Nebraska City (7,228 pop.) – The original building housing the River Country Nature Center was deteriorating, and the museum needed to be moved. The museum’s 12-member governing board voted unanimously to buy an old building in town and remodel it. A lot of the work was done by volunteers, which saved money for other things. The exhibits now are displayed in a more aesthetically pleasing and accurate setting. The museum expects more than 3,000 visitors this year. Contact Larry Falk at 402-873-9360 or e-mail lcfalk@alltel.net.

Jammin’ in the Park, Neligh (1,651 pop.) – Jammin’ in the Park is a musical session for country/western and gospel musicians and singers. The session’s average 20 musicians and 225 attendees to play in Neligh which are held every other week throughout the summer. Businesses have realized increased sales before and after the jam sessions. Contact Kathy Steinkamp at 402-929-0543 or e-mail ksteinka@npsne.org.

Autumn Arts Festival, North Platte (24,878 pop.) – The Autumn Arts Festival was a month-long community celebration featuring North Platte area artists. The artists led workshops in watercolors, framing, performing arts, matting, computer art, sculpture, stained glass, printmaking, mono prints, and woodcarving. The arts council hoped to draw 830 people but netted nearly nine times that when 7,326 people attended throughout the month. Contact Wava Best or Patsy Smith at 308-532-8690 or e-mail best@kdsi.net.

Cattleman’s Ball of Nebraska 2006 “The Red, White, and Blue River Ball,” Seward and Seward County (Multi-Community) – This western-themed fund-raising festival included an art show, games, live and silent auctions, music, prime rib, and more with all proceeds going for cancer research. The event sold out with more than 4,000 tickets, and featured a concert by Phil Vassar and a dance featuring Blackwater. The \$350,000 goal was nearly far surpassed by \$627,000. Contact Clark Kolterman at 402-643-2988 or Doug Brand at 402-643-3602.

A Portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln, Syracuse (1,600 pop.) – This fundraiser featured historical reenactor Ann Bede who portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln. More than 50 people attended. Bede spoke free of charge so all funds raised were presented to the library foundation. Several people checked out books about Lincoln at the library after hearing Bede’s presentation. Contact Carole Lashley at 402-269-3429 or e-mail wl05626@alltel.net.

WSO Show, Wayne (5,583 pop.) – Nebraska National Guard Transportation Company 189th left for Iraq in July 2005 for an 18-month tour. The city of Wayne and surrounding communities raised funds to send packages, and entertain the troops and their families. The town performed a USO style show "featuring Bob Hope and friends" (the Wayne city administrator played the role of Bob Hope). A tremendous success, the show attracted an overflowing crowd, and was taped for the troops. DVDs were sold to make more money. Contact Della Pries at 402-375-5266 or e-mail wchdc@conpoint.com.

Libraries

Rejuvenate Library/City Hall Building, Alexandria (197 pop.) – The Alexandria Library had scheduled a book signing by Nebraska author Charlotte Endorf. First, however, the library board wanted to spruce up the building. The bathroom was an eyesore. To make it presentable in time for the book signing, volunteers painted the walls and woodwork installed new carpeting, a new sink, and wall hangings among other things. Contact Marge Durflinger at 402-749-4435 or e-mail durf@windstream.net.

Atkinson Public Library, Atkinson (1,163 pop.) – Atkinson’s old library was overcrowded and outdated. The community came together to plan for a new location and new facility. More than 1,500 volunteers contributed 20,413 hours to make the project a success. The new library features a drive up window for patrons who wish to call ahead and pick up books. Contact Laurie Hansen at 402-925-5313 or e-mail laurie@elkhorn.net.

Brady Library, Brady (379 pop.) – Because the Brady Library was running out of room/space, library official wanted to purchase and expand into a historical building in downtown Brady. Many fundraisers were held, including the “Brady Beauties” calendar, which featured artistic photographs of women, ages 60-87. The calendar sold out very quickly. The expanded library is now open as installation of the catalog system is in progress. Contact DeAnn Birkel at 308-584-3448.



Revitalize the Library, Farnam (227 pop.) – The library in Farnam was facing a decline in attendance, safety issues, and lack of space. To solve the problems, residents came up with a project that would be implemented during three years. In 2005, an old vacant jail and adjoining hallway were cleaned to make way for the library. Then shelving was added. Since the renovation and move, the library has nearly doubled the number of books checked out. Contact Shirley Mingus at 308-569-2382 or e-mail blanche@atcjet.net.



Lexington Public Library, Lexington (10,011 pop.) – Lexington needed a new, larger library. With the help of 2,700 volunteers who contributed more than 14,000 hours, the library is a reality. The old library was 4,950 square feet. The new library is nearly four times that space, measuring 18,528 square feet, and featuring 36 public use computers, three technology centers, four public meeting rooms, private study rooms, youth activity centers, and children’s risers for story time. Contact Jacqueline Berke at 308-324-6704 or by e-mail at lexfoundation@alltel.net.

Economic Development

Business Assistance and Development

WNCC Powerline Construction and Maintenance Technology Program, Alliance (8,351 pop.) – This program provides training apprentice level powerline workers. Following a yearlong program of academic and physical training, the Alliance Center will graduate its first powerline workers in May 2007. Some students will stay in school another three to four months to earn associate's degrees. Contact Royce Ammon at 308-762-2384 or e-mail ammonr@wncc.net.

Health Fair and Day Care Center, Bassett (743 pop.) – The Bassett Economic Development Committee's primary goals were to host a health fair that coincided with the Rock County Fair, and open a day care. A lady moving back to Bassett opened a childcare center in the basement of a church. The other goal was to hold a health fair that was affordable for everyone, including Bassett's low-income residents. Contact Cheri Arrowsmith at 402-684-2259 or arrows2858@aol.com.

New Businesses 2006, Bassett (743 pop.) – Bassett Economic Development Committee is committed to attracting new and retaining existing businesses. Five new businesses have opened or moved to Bassett. An interesting aspect of this growth is that many of these businesses are moving to new, roomier locations vacated by other businesses needing more space. Contact Mike Skulavik at 402-684-3376 or e-mail rfgoeke@hotmail.com.



Fashion Wear Extravaganza and Silent Auction, Blue Hill (867 pop.) – The Blue Hill Fitness Center hosted a first ever style show and silent auction fundraiser. Main Street Salon organized the show that featured clothing from specialty shops in Hastings and Red Cloud. Models ranged in age from preschool to senior citizen. The project netted more than \$4,000. Two homemade pies sold for \$50 during the silent auction. The event drew a standing room only crowd of more than 300 people, surpassing the committee's prediction of 100. Contact Tricia Allen at 402-746-2717 or e-mail tmawebco@hotmail.com.

Building Burwell's Main Street One Building at a Time, Burwell (1,082 pop.) – This multi-step project identified community needs and goals, established the Burwell Investment Club, performed a market analysis, constructed a new office building, and recruited and relocated businesses. Six new full-time positions were created in the community as a result. Contact Lynn Kratky at 308-346-5210 or e-mail burwellecondev@nctc.net.



Grocery Store Exchanges Hands, Builds New, Coleridge (541 pop.) – The owner of Coleridge's grocery store was facing retirement age. A young entrepreneur stepped up,

made the grocery store a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) under the old owner's name, and invited community members to invest in business shares. A new store was built as a result of 43 families' investments. The new store has experienced a 35% increase in business. Contact Jeff Hall at 402-283-4865 or e-mail superpig@nmtc.net.

Meadowlark Pointe – The Magnificence of Community Pride, Cozad (4,163 pop.) – Many Cozad residents were moving to other cities that provided more comprehensive retirement or independent living housing and benefits. Cozad conducted two research projects to better understand its demographics, especially the city's "Silver Society." The projects led the city to build and open 24 housing units for residents. Land has been purchased for construction of an additional 24 units that the city predicts will be needed by 2010. Contact Lyle Davis at 308-784-2261.

Small Town Christmas, Farnam (227 pop.) – Small Town Christmas, organized by North Aid, featured children's holiday movies, business open houses with prize drawings and snacks, an evening meal, photos with Santa, fire truck rides, caroling, and wagon rides to see light displays. Contact Doris Bellamy at 308-569-2334.

Stone Hearth Estates – Ready for Residents, Gothenburg (3,600 pop.) – Gothenburg needed and built an independent and assisted living facility. Residents no longer have to mow their own lawns, landscape property, or care for larger living quarters. The facility's services include a guest apartment for visiting family and friends, chapel, recreation room, hairdresser, barber, library, and ice cream parlor. A registered nurse also works onsite. Contact Anne Anderson at 308-537-3505 or email Gothenburg@cozadtel.net.

Cedar Catholic Jr.-Sr. High School Msgr. Cyril J. Werner Activity Center, Hartington (Multi-Community) – This 29,500 square feet addition includes two sport court-sized multipurpose rooms, 1,500 people capacity bleacher, two classrooms, a weight and exercise room, expanded cafeteria kitchen, two locker rooms, five offices, a training room, storage rooms, restrooms, lobby, and hallways. Money was raised during five-year period from 30 fundraising events. Contact Joani Potts at 402-254-3912.



High Point Business Quest, Kimball (2,559 pop.) – High Point Business Quest organized a business fair to showcase what Kimball has to offer. The day started with a meet and greet, followed by a tour of Kimball, lunch, free golfing and beverages at Four Winds Golf Course, and an adult social. Kimball is currently working with the top two company leads. They expect to attract one, if not more new industries during the next three years. Contact Kim Baliman at 308-235-3782 or e-mail kbccc@megavision.com.

Lexington Economic Development Program/ Industrial Park Addition, Lexington (10,011 pop.) – Lexington created a new industrial park with funding from a local option sales tax approved by voters, and is currently building an ethanol plant. The city's available industrial area features paved access, water supply, electric service capacity, wastewater

treatment capacity, and rail access. In addition, the new ethanol plant will provide new jobs. Contact Dennis Burnside at 308-324-2341 or e-mail dburnside@cityoflex.com.

Alternative Fuel Forum, Loup Basin RC&D Council, and (Multi-community) – A two-day Alternative Fuel Forum explored the variety and flexibility of alternative energy and the role it plays in businesses and homes. The forum included a tour of the Ainsworth Wind Farm; visit booths ran buy alternative energy businesses, and a Q and A session with a panel of experts. Research continues on ways to implement and generate ideas for alternative fuel. Contact Vicki Bauer at 308-728-3393 or e-mail vicki.bauer@ne.usda.gov.

Wild Fruit & Nut Jam/Kimmel Education and Research Center, Nebraska City (7,228 pop.) – The UNL/Kimmel Education and Research Center opened at Kimmel Orchard to promote value-added, sustainable agriculture and production techniques for area landowners. The Wild Fruit and Nut Jam event offered wine tasting from Nebraska vineyards, educational demonstrations, information on growing fruit and nut species in Nebraska, live cooking demonstrations, tasty recipes using Nebraska-grown fruits and nuts, a tour of Kimmel orchard on hayrack, buy Nebraska products available for purchase, and vendors creating unique wood products. Contact Connie Reimers at 402-873-3166 or e-mail creimers2@unlnotes.unl.edu.



Hidden Treasures Home Business Expo, North Platte (24,878 pop.) – The Leadership Lincoln County came up with the idea for a home business expo to raise awareness of area businesses and to help them generate sales. This project had a zero dollar budget so sponsors were enlisted to help fund it. The event paired entrepreneurs interested in starting and learning firsthand about home businesses with vendors, who also benefited from marketing their products to new people. Contact Kathy Swain at 308-532-4966 or e-mail kswain@northplattechamber.com.

O'Neill Community Foundation Grant Night, O'Neill (3,733 pop.) – The first-ever grant night was held. The Community Foundation established an endowment fund in 2004 to fund economic development projects. This year they awarded \$5,000 in scholarships to students to encourage their eventual return to O'Neill. Contact Nicole Sedlacek at 402-336-1732 or e-mail nicole@morcomm.net.

Business Promotion in Petersburg, Petersburg (372 pop.) – Ten communities along Nebraska Highway 10 are involved in the weekend event that promotes Nebraska-based businesses. Business people whose products are made, grown, or produced in Nebraska are encouraged to host a booth. Vendors were pleased with the successful sales. Giveaways were used to entice people to come out to the event. Contact Al Thorberg at 402-386-5571.

Let it Snow, Seward (6,914 pop.) – The idea behind Let it Snow was that if it snowed five inches on a certain date, people would receive discounts or 100% back on whatever they spent during a certain time period in a participating store. Twenty-six businesses

participated, and the stores that advertised the promotion realized sales increases. Contact Dan Greiner at 402-643-2266.



Seward County Economic Development Office Created and New Officer Hired, Seward County (Multi-Community) – Seward County realized the need to continue creating jobs and adding to the industrial tax base. While some major industries exist in the county, a full-time economic developer was hired to further promote Seward, Milford, Utica, and Seward County. Contact Clark Kolterman at 402-643-2988.

Thanks A Bunch, South Sioux City (11,925 pop.) – Thanks-A-Bunch recognizes existing businesses and industries in South Sioux City. The city administrator and economic development director personally fruit baskets containing large bunches of bananas and grapes. There is too much fruit for one person so many employees get to enjoy the “fruits” of their labor. Contact Dan McNamara at 402-494-9407 or e-mail dmcnamara@southsiouxcity.org.



Creation of Wayne Area Economic Development, Inc, Wayne (5,583 pop.) – In 2004, the executive director of the Wayne Area Chamber of Commerce left, creating a vacancy. The idea of hiring a new director to serve the chamber and two other economic development organizations was discussed. A special committee was formed to review the option. The option was adopted, and the new position eliminated duplicated efforts, consolidated activities and operations, and resulted in the hiring and retention of a more experienced professional staff. Contact Dennis Linster at 402-375-7080.

Feller East First Subdivision, Wisner (1,270 pop.) – Wisner needed an industrial area where existing businesses could expand into larger facilities . . . The city selected and annexed an area near its city limits that offered high traffic. In turn, several businesses bought land from the city and started building. Three new employees have jobs because of the business expansions. Contact Lee Myers at 402-529-3338 or e-mail wisecdev@gpcom.ne.

Tourism and Promotion

Alexandria Fun Daze, Alexandria (197 pop.) – Alexandria Fun Daze is held around the July 4th holiday each year. Events include an old timer’s game, the crowning of Miss Alexandria, featured food (snow cones, popcorn, and hotdogs) and fireworks. Contact Kurt or Kathy Stewart at (402) 749-3080.



Sallows Military Museum, Alliance (8,351 pop.) – Alliance has overcome challenges to dedicate a museum to U.S. military men and women. First opened in September 2004, the museum was severely damaged by arson-related fires in May 2005. The museum has since been rebuilt, reopened, and is serving the public. Contact Becci Thomas at (308) 762-2384 or e-mail museum@cityofalliance.net.



National Day of the Cowboy, Ainsworth (1,870 pop.) – To celebrate National Day of the Cowboy, established by President Bush, Ainsworth began the day with a parade and ended with a stagecoach robbery on Main Street. Afternoon activities included equine displays, a horse whisperer, vendors, a songfest around the campfire, a western fire, quilt show, and great food. Contact Rodney Palmer at (402) 387-2740.

Tourism Assessment and Planning Project, Bancroft (490 pop.) – To improve its marketing and promotion of existing tourist opportunities, Bancroft hosted the Tourism Assessment Resource Growth Evaluation Team (TARGET) and shared six different areas with them. The team compiled a report for Bancroft officials featuring potential improvements. That was presented to residents during a town meeting. Contact Jon Cerny at (402) 648-3336 or e-mail jcerny@esu2.org.

Blue Hill Fourth of July Celebration, Blue Hill (867 pop.) – This celebration included a community church service, sports tournaments, children’s games, a car show, dunking booth, bingo, and horse and buggy rides. There was also a parade through the downtown and fireworks at the golf course. The event was a huge success. The number of teams participating in the sport tournaments had to be limited so that all could be completed by nightfall so everyone could participate in evening activities. Contact Lee Ostdiek at (402) 756-2077 or e-mail bhleader@gtmc.net.

Brady Area Web Marketing and Tourist Rack Card Project, Brady (379 pop.) – Cards advertising Brady’s area tourist attractions and annual events will be placed in racks at rest areas along Interstate 80 state tourist attractions and visitor’s bureaus, as well as visitor’s bureaus in surrounding states. Brady also is promoting its website by advertising in an online newspaper and through its work with an area marketing firm. Contact Deanna Anderson at (308) 532-4729 or e-mail danderson@visitnorthplatte.com.

Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial, Columbus (20,909 pop.) – With 55,000 volunteer hours, Columbus has made a memorial for Andrew Jackson Higgins. Community members visited the National D-day Museum in New Orleans, which brought them together to honor Higgins as well as other World War II veterans. Contact Patricia Breuer at (402) 563-2089.

Cozad Parking Lot, Cozad (4,163 pop.) - There were not enough parking spaces for downtown Cozad. To resolve the problem, Cozad officials purchased a vacant building, tore it down, and constructed a parking lot with 34 parking stalls. The project also resulted in 13 additional parking spots along the street. The new lot has provided additional safety measures for more than 200 children who attend weekly dance and gymnastic classes, and charter bus tour groups visiting the museum. The space also has provided more room for the farmer’s market. Contact Robyn Geiser at (308) 784-3930 or Judy Andres at (308) 784-3930.

Culbertson's Annual Events, Culbertson (594 pop.) – The community hosts annual events, such as Christmas in Culbertson, the Fourth of July Celebration, and a town beautification process. The Christmas celebration features a home tour, craft vendors, treats from Santa, and a soup supper served by youth. The Fourth of July celebration features all day activities, including a basketball tournament, fun run, duck race, parade, and others. Contact Karen Morthole at (308) 278-2659.



BRAN stays in Eustis, Eustis (461 pop.) – Bike Riders Across Nebraska stayed in Eustis during last year's trip. Eustis provided a camping area free of charge, and made meals available to bikers. Planned activities included a blue grass band, and swimming and showers at the school. Eustis tied for best host city by BRAN riders. Contact Judith Brockmeier at (308) 486-5600 or e-mail jkbrockmeier@yahoo.com.

Wurst Tag – A German Heritage Celebration, Eustis (464 pop.) – The annual Wurst Tag festival, held the second Saturday in June, features ethnic food, musical entertainment, food demonstrations, an art/quilt show, and a street dance. The event started out as a small celebration of German heritage and now attracts more than 2,000 people from throughout Nebraska and surrounding states. Contact Mari Banzhaf at (308) 486-5615.

Gering's Rolling Billboards, Gering (7,751 pop.) – Gering displays its community pride with the entire United States via three new semi-tractor trailers. Pictures of local monuments, the golf course, and civic center are prominently displayed on each trailer. The Keno Committee funded the entire project's substantial costs. Many people also donated their time, but the rest of the costs were covered. Contact Karla Niedan at (308) 436-6886 or e-mail karlan@geringciviccenter.com.

Greater Nebraska Tour & Recreation Expo (Multi-Community) – The two-day event featured 50 booths, and outdoor demonstrations on horse training, raptor recovery, working dogs, and hunting dogs. Expo coordinators got sponsors to cover the costs of advertising and promotion. Coordinators expect next year's event to be even bigger and better. Contact Vicki Bauer at (308) 728-3393 or e-mail Vicki.bauer@ne.usda.gov.



Rock County Fair and Parade, Rock County (Multi-community) – During the past few years, the Rock County Fair and Parade has experienced a decline in attendance. Leaders and volunteers from all communities in Rock County banded together to brainstorm solutions to the problem. One goal was to improve the parade and rodeo. Another goal was to better display 4-H exhibits. Their goals have been successful. The parade has seen a three- to fourfold increase in the number of entries compared with the past two years. 4-H exhibits were more prominently displayed. Many people from surrounding communities also attended the rodeo. Contact Bobbie Coleman at (402) 684-3711 or e-mail pthompson@huntel.net.

Model A Tour, Pawnee County (Multi-Community) – On April 29, 11 antique cars and trucks embarked on the Model A Tour. The busy day included touring the birthplace of

Harold Lloyd, Schilling Bridge Winery, the Pedal Clinic, the first Governor's house, a salt and pepper collection, and men working on steam engines among other things. This tour provided participants with the opportunity to learn about the past as well as the communities visited. The trip looks to be even more popular next year. Contact Don Borchert at 402-859-4444 or e-mail db92140@alltel.net.

Seward County Tourism Promotion/July 4, Seward County (Multi-Community) – Seward maintains four signs that promote Seward, Milford, and the county, and distributes promotional pamphlets. Seward County's popular Fourth of July celebration in the city of Seward attracted people from 93 Nebraska communities and 19 countries according to the 2006 guest book. Contact Clark Kolterman at 402-643-2988.



Brochures for Pawnee County and Pawnee City, Pawnee County (Multi-Community) - One brochure promoting Pawnee County and the other promoting Pawnee City are placed in high profile locations in St. Joseph and Kansas City, Mo. Brochures also are placed at I-80 rest stops and other tourist locations. Contact Yvonne Dalluge at 402-852-3131 or e-mail my.blue.heaven@alltel.net.

Annual Sweet Corn and Hamburger Feed, Pilger (378 pop.) – This marked the fourth year of the feed. The free will offering collected during the feed goes into a fund to renovate the Pilger pool. The feed was a large success even with very little advertising. All of the meat and corn was completely locally grown and donated. Contact Kimberly Neiman at 402-396-3563 or e-mail pilger@cableone.net.

Plainview Antique Farm & Tractor Show, Plainview (1,348 pop.) – Between 500-600 people endured sweltering heat to participate in museum tours and horse and buggy rides, and attend yarn spinning demonstrations, a craft show, and a Nebraska State Historical Society presentation. One gentleman who owns more than 50 pieces of antique equipment was so impressed that he offered to lend his entire collection for next year's event. The first-time event was such a success that Plainview residents decided to host it annually. Contact Michael Holton at 402-582-4915 or e-mail holtonmike@hotmail.com.

Fourth of July Extravaganza, Ravenna (1,341 pop.) – The Fourth of July Extravaganza features a BBQ, kiddy games, entertainment, and fireworks for all generations. About 300 people enjoyed the BBQ and 600 enjoyed other activities. Contact Terry Hervert at 308-390-9217 or e-mail thervert@esu10.org.

Location Signage, Ravenna (1,341 pop.) – Due to a lack of signage, visitors were often unaware of the city's attractions and services. The Ravenna city administrator contacted the high school industrial arts teacher to see if students would be willing to take on the project. The class accepted and made signs that direct visitors to seven locations. Contact Virg Gruhn at 308-452-4892.

Remember When Heritage Celebration, Stuart (625 pop.) – This historical celebration featured museum displays, hourly school sessions in a one-room school house, a local

story teller sharing memories about life in Stuart in the early 1900s, tours, buggy rides and musical entertainment. A traditional meal of buffalo stew and fry bread was cooked in cast iron kettles over an open fire and served to hungry attendees. Contact Patty Batenhorst at 402-924-3286.

Christmas on the Prairie, Wahoo (4,063 pop.) – Christmas on the Prairie is an annual event that started in 1990 to promote the Saunders County Historical Society Museum in Wahoo. More than 200 volunteers contribute more than 4,600 volunteer hours to make it a success. While this year's attendance was a bit lower because of a snowstorm the previous day, more than 1,000 people still came, including visitors from seven states and four visitors from Turkey. Contact Erin Hausere at 402-443-3900 or e-mail saundercomuseum@hotmail.com.

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Appendix

The following is a compilation of *2004-2007 Project Networking Guides*.

For more information on a project, contact Lindsay Papenhausen at:

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Community and Rural Development Division
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666
(402) 471-6587 or (800) 426-6505
Fax: (402) 471-3778
lindsay.papenhausen@ded.ne.gov

Leadership Development

Volunteer and Leadership Development

Events

Annual Meal-Melodrama -----	Alexandria (2006)
Honoring Our Military Personnel-----	Bassett (2007)
Relay for Life in Cedar County -----	Cedar County (2006)
Volunteer BBQ Picnic-----	Coleridge (2005)
Bands, Brew, and BBQs -----	Cozad (2007)
Firemen/EMT Appreciation Picnic-----	Curtis (2005)
Davenport Achievement Day-----	Davenport (2007)
Mark Shultz Concert at the Thayer County Fair-----	Deshler (2007)
Edgarfest 2004 -----	Edgar (2005)
Area Three Special Olympics Track Meet-----	Franklin (2007)
4 th of July Celebration-----	Hebron (2004)
Nebraska's Junk Jaunt-----	Loup Basin Region (2006-2007)
Community Pride Pep Rally-----	O'Neill (2006)
Harry Potter Book Release Party -----	Seward (2006)
Seward County Courthouse Centennial Celebration -----	Seward County (2006)
Prairie Days-----	Tilden (2007)
Livestock Show & Rodeo-----	Wisner (2005)
Cattleman's Ball -----	Wisner (2006)
Thunder by the River Beef State Extreme National Tractor Pull-----	Wisner (2006-2007)

Leadership Programs

LeadershipPLENTY -----	Butler County (2006)
Leaders of Yesterday and Tomorrow-----	Eustis (2004)
ODEGEO Leadership Project -----	Fillmore County (2004)
Leadership Nebraska City -----	Nebraska City (2007)
Leadership Today -----	Saint Paul (2007)
LeadershipPLENTY -----	Seward (2007)
Siouxland Immigrant Leadership Training -----	South Sioux City (2005)
Leadership Dakota County -----	South Sioux City (2007)
Hometown Leadership Institute-----	Stuart (2006)

Miscellaneous

2003 Volunteer Fair -----	Alliance (2004)
Box Butte County R&SVP Retired & Senior Volunteer Prog. --	Alliance (2005)
Operation Eyesore -----	Atkinson (2005)
Playground Equipment at Bassett Grade School-----	Bassett (2006)
Volunteers Senior Ranger Corps-----	Beatrice (2004)
Blue Hill Community Club -----	Blue Hill (2007)
Coping With Difficult People -----	Brady (2007)
Custer School Playground -----	Broken Bow (2007)
Cedar Rapids Booster Club-----	Cedar Rapids (2006)
Roaring Lions in Eustis -----	Eustis (2005)

Working Together to Save Lives -----	Eustis (2007)
Tapping Into Our Greatest Resource – Our People-----	Goehner (2005)
Youth in Civic Governance – Hartington LEAP-----	Hartington (2005)
Community Volunteerism -----	Hayes County (2005)
Town Hall Meetings -----	Hebron (2005)
Loup Basin RC&D Grant Writers 101 Workshop-----	Loup Basin Region (2005)
Loup Basin Ag-Diversity Workshop -----	Loup Basin Region (2004)
Neligh Citizens’ Coalition -----	Neligh (2007)
New Fire and Rescue Equipment -----	Nelson (2005)
TeamMates Mentoring Program -----	North Platte (2004)
Latter Day Saints Group -----	Pawnee County (2007)
Seward County Courthouse Chimes Restoration -----	Seward County (2007)
Capacity Building in Southwest Nebraska-----	Southwest NE RC&D (2004)
Empowerment: A Journey in Community Growth -----	Springfield (2004)
Stromsburg Woman’s Civic Improvement Club-----	Stromsburg (2004)
New Public Library-----	Wahoo (2007)

Youth Involvement and Leadership Development

Long Pine Hiking Trail-----	Ainsworth (2004, 2005, 2006)
Dialogue Across Nebraska (DAN) -----	Ainsworth (2007)
Energizing Our Youth-----	Alexandria (2007)
Health Professions Club-----	Alliance (2006)
Native American Youth Council Veteran’s Celebration-----	Alliance (2007)
Aurora Welcome Sign-----	Aurora (2005)
Downtown Murals -----	Aurora (2007)
Service Learning Through Environmental Studies -----	Bancroft (2006)
Learn and Serve -----	Bancroft (2007)
Bassett Education Enrichment Program (B.E.E.P.) -----	Bassett (2005)
Veteran’s Day Program at Bassett Grade School-----	Bassett (2005)
Transition Fair-----	Beatrice (2005)
Youth Involvement and Leadership Development -----	Chappell (2004)
Entrance Art Work-----	Chappell (2005)
Student Art-----	Chappell (2006)
Cedar County FFA – Community Services-----	Cedar County (2005)
Soup with Santa and Special People-----	Coleridge (2007)
Junior City Council -----	Columbus (2007)
Mechatronics -----	Columbus (2007)
Chordless-----	Deshler (2006)
Easter Egg Hunt-----	Edgar (2004)
Children’s Story Hour-----	Elgin (2004)
EPS Entrepreneurship Store & Business Fair -----	Elgin (2004)
Kids Whom Care: Developing Volunteers Among Teens-----	Eustis (2004)
FFA: The Stars of Tomorrow -----	Eustis (2006)
Multi-Generational Project -----	Eustis (2007)
Youth Leadership -----	Farnam (2004, 2006)

YCIP Activities -----	Farnam (2005, 2007)
Youth Fireman Cadets-----	Franklin (2004)
The Youth Health Fair Project -----	Franklin (2006)
Youth Community Improvement Program (YCIP)-----	Gothenburg (2004 - 2007)
Youth Leadership Tomorrow-----	Grand Island (2005)
“TEAMS” Together Everyone Achieves More Success-----	Grant County (2005)
Grant County 4-H Speech Contest-----	Grant County (2004)
Fall Food Drive-----	Grant County (2006)
Hartington FFA Chapter Excels-----	Hartington (2004)
Hartington Public Schools Character Education Program -----	Hartington (2006)
Community Service West Star 4-H Club -----	Hartington (2007)
L.E.A.P. (Leaders Energizing Activities in Partnership) -----	Hayes County (2005)
Hayes Center Youth Initiative-----	Hayes County (2004)
Youth Making Our Community A Better Place-----	Howells (2004)
Pheasants Forever Youth Mentor Hunt -----	Kimball (2005)
Kimball Boy Scouts Program -----	Kimball (2004)
Kimball TeamMates Mentoring Program-----	Kimball (2006)
Kimball Veteran’s Day Program-----	Kimball (2007)
Lexington Skate Park Challenge-----	Lexington (2007)
Spice Up the County Fair -----	Loup City (2006)
Soaring to New Heights -----	Maywood (2004)
People United for Families -----	Nebraska City (2005)
TeamMates of Nebraska City Mentoring Program -----	Nebraska City (2004)
Nebraska City Skate Park-----	Nebraska City (2006)
Community Connections S.W.A.T. -----	North Platte (2005)
Roots Program-----	North Platte (2006)
North Platte Police Explorers-----	North Platte (2007)
Tomorrow’s Leaders and Entrepreneurs Today-----	O’Neill (2007)
Papillion Mayor’s Youth Council-----	Papillion (2006)
4-County Mentoring Program -----	Pawnee County (2005)
Fantastic Youth Involvement in Petersburg -----	Petersburg (2005)
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Youth Projects-To Renovate and Beautify -----	Petersburg (2007)
2002-2003 PDCI Class Beautification -----	Potter (2004)
Renovation of Duck Pin Bowling Alley -----	Potter (2006)
Youth Identification Project -----	Ravenna (2005)
SWAT Team-----	Ravenna (2004)
We’ve Got Your Back-----	Ravenna (2007)
Youth Involvement -----	Seward (2004, 2005)
FCCLA Community Service and “Operation Duct Tape” -----	Sidney (2005)
SIFE – Students in Free Enterprise -----	Sidney (2005)
Teen Court in Dakota City -----	South Sioux City (2004)
Youth Art Mural at Post Office -----	Stromsburg (2004)
Railroad Crossing Safety-----	St. Edward (2005)
Youth Leadership 4-H Grant and Resulting YCIP Project -----	Stromsburg (2005)
Operation Clean-UP -----	Stuart (2005)

Landscaping the White Horse Museum Grounds-----	Stuart (2004)
Superior FFA Chapter – “Leadership: It is Up to Me”-----	Superior (2005)
Trinity Lutheran Grade School Landscaping-----	Waco (2004)
Farm and Home Show-----	Wisner (2007)
Youth Leadership York -----	York (2006)

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Diller Community Building Renovations-----	Diller (2007)
Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together of a Center -----	Edgar (2004)
Auditorium Improvement-----	Ravenna (2004)

Community Development

BLT’s: Ainsworth’s Recipe of Fundraising Success -----	Ainsworth (2007)
I-80 Corridor Development-----	Aurora (2004)
Celebrate Burwell – Paving a Bright and Beautiful Future-----	Burwell (2005)
Dawson County Housing Solutions -----	Dawson County (2007)
Downtown Improvement-----	Farnam (2005)
Downtown Alleyway Project-----	Grand Island (2005)
Kimball Airport Runway Expansion -----	Kimball (2007)
Sprucing Up Kimball-----	Kimball (2007)
Public Works -----	Seward (2004)
19 th Addition to the City of Wisner-----	Wisner (2005)

Educational Facilities and Services

Ainsworth City/Public School Building Project -----	Ainsworth (2004)
Columbus Family Resource Center-----	Columbus (2007)
Built on a Foundation of Education -----	Gothenburg (2005)
Operation Cool Down -----	Hebron (2005)
Stuart Public School Lunchroom Improvement Project -----	Stuart (2006)
Wisner-Pilger Bond Issue and Building Addition -----	Wisner (2006)

Emergency Fire, Rescue, and Medical Facilities

Brown County Hospital Special Bond Election-----	Ainsworth (2007)
Alliance Volunteer Fire Dept. Thermal Imaging Camera -----	Alliance (2004)
Homeland Security Interoperable Communication Network-----	Cedar County (2006)
Fire Department Improvements -----	Farnam (2004)
New Fire Hall-----	Farnam (2006)
Franklin’s New Ambulance -----	Franklin (2004)
Expansion/Renovation: Healthcare-Ready for the Future -----	Gothenburg (2005)
Training Tower-----	O’Neill (2007)
Pawnee County Clinic Addition/Hospital Remodeled -----	Pawnee County (2004)
Need for Fire Station and Remodel-----	Petersburg (2007)

Operation Equipment and Training ----- Pilger (2005)
Volunteer Fire Department Training ----- Stuart (2007)

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Rejuvenate Library/City Hall Building ----- Alexandria (2007)
Atkinson Public Library----- Atkinson (2007)
Brady Library----- Brady (2007)
Revitalize the Library ----- Farnam (2007)
Lexington Public Library ----- Lexington (2007)

Planning

Grand Island/Hall County Comprehensive Plant ----- Grand Island (2005)
City of North Platte’s Planning Programs ----- North Platte (2004)
City Survey of December 2003 ----- Wisner (2005)

Recreational Activities

Alliance Municipal Swimming Pool ----- Alliance (2005)
New Swimming Pool ----- Seward (2005)
Rain or Shine, The Game is on Time in Hebron----- Hebron (2006)

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Downtown Street Improvement Project----- Aurora (2007)
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Street Widening/Curb and Gutter Installation----- Waco (2004)

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Alexandria’s New Water Well ----- Alexandria (2006)
Water System Improvements and Modernization ----- Bancroft (2007)
Bruno Water Line----- Butler County (2006)
Pawnee County RW #1 ----- Pawnee County (2005)
Sidney Water Project 2004 ----- Sidney (2005)

Environmental Projects

Sand Hills Discovery Experience----- Ainsworth (2007)
Great American Cleanup----- Alexandria (2007)
Keep Alliance Beautiful Recycling Program----- Alliance (2005)
KAB Intergenerational Service Program ----- Alliance (2006)
KAB International Coastal Clean Up Garage Sale ----- Alliance (2007)
Household Hazardous Waste Collection----- Atkinson (2005)
Tire Amnesty ----- Beatrice (2004)
Demolition of Porter Oil Building & Motel ----- Chappell (2005)
Environmental Projects and Awareness----- Chappell (2004)
Hazardous Waste Clean Up----- Culbertson (2007)
Community Wide Clean Up Project----- Culbertson (2007)
Scrap Tire Clean Up for Clay County----- Edgar (2005)

The Community Cleanup -----	Franklin (2004, 2007)
Spring Household Hazardous Waste Collection -----	Gage County (2005)
Community Education and Awareness of Environmental Programs at the Gering Landfill -----	Gering (2005)
Please Don't Litter Your Butts -----	Gering (2007)
Keep Kimball Beautiful, Beautification Projects -----	Kimball (2006)
Cedar River Monitoring and Cleanup Teams -----	Loup Basin Region (2005)
Loup Basin RC&D Education Efforts -----	Loup Basin Region (2004)
Loup Basin RC&D Waste Collections -----	Loup Basin Region (2004, 2006)
Keep Loup Basin Beautiful Loup Basin RC&D Council -----	Loup Basin Region (2006, 2007)
Scrap Tire Collection -----	Pilger (2007)
Great American Cleanup Event -----	Scottsbluff (2005)
Keep Sidney Beautiful -----	Sidney (2004)
Stuart Recycling Center -----	Stuart (2005)
Western Recycling Program -----	Western (2004)
Compost Utilizing Animal Waste -----	Wisner (2007)

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Housing Development -----	Aurora (2004)
Spec House and Lot Cleanup -----	Bassett (2005)
Senior Citizen Center Renovation -----	Hartington (2007)
The Newman House Assisted Living Facility -----	Newman Grove (2004)
Oak Ridge Apartments -----	Ogallala (2004)
Campaign to Fund the Planning and Renovation at Memorial Health Care Center's Nursing Homes -----	Seward County (2007)
Habitat for Humanity -----	St. Paul (2005)
The Plaza Addition to the Midwest Covenant Home -----	Stromsburg (2005)

After School Programs and Child Care Centers

Franklin After School Program -----	Franklin (2006)
Thayer Central After School Program -----	Hebron (2004)
Kimball Health Services Child Development Center -----	Kimball (2004)
Dawson County Family United Network after School -----	Lexington (2004)
K.I.D.S. Klub and the Junction Community Connections Learning Centers -----	North Platte (2005)
KIDS on the Move -----	North Platte (2006)
Building Blocks Child Care and Learning Center -----	Ravenna (2005)
Here Wee Grow Daycare -----	Sidney (2004)

Beautification

Improving Our Living Environment -----	Chappell (2004)
Lot Clean-Up -----	Farnam (2005)
Community Clean Up -----	Farnam (2007)
Community Beautification -----	Gothenburg (2004)

Events

Jimmy Collins Softball Tournament-----	Coleridge (2007)
Dawson County Relay for Life 2007-----	Dawson County (2007)
Trail of Treasures-----	Farnam (2007)
Antique and Craft Extravaganza-----	Lexington (2007)
Farmer's Market-----	Seward (2007)
Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival at Concordia-----	Seward (2007)

Health, Medical, and Safety

Physician's Assistant-----	Blue Hill (2006)
Child Identification Program (CHIP)-----	Franklin (2007)
KidVision-----	Franklin (2007)
Volunteer Fire Department Safety Equipment Project-----	Hartington (2007)
The Movin' on Gang: A Community Health Support and Education Group-----	Kimball (2007)
Healthy Community Initiative-----	Nebraska City (2006)
Bloodmobiles for Service in Petersburg-----	Petersburg (2006)
Hometown Hero Campaign-----	Seward County (2006)
Public Safety and Crime Prevention-----	South Sioux City (2007)
Ninth Street Medical Clinic-----	Wisner (2007)

Housing

Miscellaneous

Alliance Migrant Services-----	Alliance (2004)
2 nd Chance Thrift Shop-----	Bassett (2006)
Wireless Internet-----	Chappell (2006)
Eustis Area Community Foundation-----	Eustis (2005)
Comfort for the Needy-----	Eustis (2004)
Holiday Spirit-----	Eustis/Farnam/Cozad (2007)
Eustis-Farnam School Staff Play NTV Staff in Basketball-----	Farnam (2005)
Outdoor Education: Connecting Youth and Community-----	Gothenburg (2005)
Holy Trinity Fly-In Breakfast-----	Hartington (2004)
Andy Shaw Cancer Benefit-----	Kimball (2004)
First Annual North Platte Literary Festival-----	North Platte (2005)
Road Runner-----	North Platte (2005)
Borrow a Bike-----	North Platte (2004)
Papio Vision-----	Papillion (2007)
Patriotic Memorials-----	Pawnee County (2005)
Educational Workshops-----	Pawnee County (2007)
Bloodmobiles for Service-----	Petersburg (2004)
Life on the Farm-----	Plainview (2005)
Street Signs-----	Ravenna (2004)
Recycle Your Cycle-----	Scottsbluff (2007)
Community Services-----	Seward (2004)

Hometown Competitiveness----- Stuart (2005)
Welcome Wagon----- Stuart (2004)

Public Facilities

Beautification of the Community Center ----- Alexandria (2005, 2007)
Arcadia Public Schools Playground Project----- Arcadia (2007)
Frank M. Farr Senior Center----- Aurora (2005)
New Library Building Project----- Blue Hill (2004)
Cooling Off the Coleridge Community Center ----- Coleridge (2007)
Commemorating 20 Years at the Senior Center ----- Gothenburg (2004)
Kimball Senior Friendship Center Renovation Project ----- Kimball (2005)
Thanks a Million Chapter II/Lexington Public Library ----- Lexington (2005)
St. Mary's Hospital Emergency Room Renovation ----- Nebraska City (2004)
Citizen's Police Academy ----- Nebraska City (2007)
Library Made Modern----- Nelson (2005)
Table Rock Library----- Pawnee County (2006)
Capital Campaign for a New Siouxland YMCA----- South Sioux City (2007)
Auditorium Renovation Project ----- Wayne (2005)

Safety and Health

Dental Day VI----- Alliance (2005)
Operation: Buckle Up ----- Atkinson (2005)
Cedar County Fair Farm Safety Day ----- Cedar County (2004)
Neighborhood Watch Program----- Dannebrog (2004)
The Meth Man Cometh ----- Franklin (2004)
Cedar County Community Caretakers ----- Hartington (2005)
Bicycle Safety Rodeo----- Hartington (2004)
Hayes Center Volunteer Department ----- Hayes County (2004)
Nebraska Mission of Mercy ----- North Platte (2007)
Rescue Squad Training----- Pawnee County (2005)
Super Active Volunteer Fire Department in Petersburg ----- Petersburg (2005)
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus ----- Ravenna (2005)
Hospital Improvement – Phase I----- Seward
Women's Health Conference----- Sidney (2004)
National Night Out----- South Sioux City (2005)
National Night Out----- South Sioux City (2004)
Docu-Drama for Youth Safety Education ----- Stromsburg (2004)

Parks and Recreation

Beautification

Main Street Mini Park----- Bancroft (2006)
Veterans Memorial Park ----- Beatrice (2006)
Veterans Memorial Park and Main Street Renovations----- Diller (2006)

Oakland Veterans Park -----	Oakland (2004)
Reading Garden – Gazebo, Benches, and Lighting-----	Potter (2004)
Liberty Garden -----	Scottsbluff (2004)
Main Street Beautification -----	Stuart (2004)
Wildwood Victorian Gardens -----	Nebraska City (2007)
Caboose Park -----	Ravenna (2007)

Miscellaneous

Expanding Parks and Recreation-----	Chappell (2004)
Parks, Recreation, and Forestry -----	Seward (2004)
Original Town Park-----	North Platte (2007)
Crystal Cove Revitalization Project -----	South Sioux City (2007)

Park Improvements

Rescuing and Restoring -----	Atkinson (2004)
Enhance Appearance and Functionality of Municipal Park Sys. -----	Bancroft (2005)
Village Park Improvements-----	Bancroft (2007)
Cuming County Fairgrounds -----	Cuming County (2005)
Park Improvement Project -----	Elgin (2004)
Playground Improvement -----	Farnam (2005)
Hartington Beautification – Peter Kiewit Foundation-----	Hartington (2005)
Felber Park Enhancement Project-----	Hartington (2007)
Friends of Nuckolls Square Project-----	Nebraska City (2004)
Improvements at Petersburg Community Park-----	Petersburg (2005)
Programs and Improvements at Petersburg Community Park ---	Petersburg (2004)
Community Restrooms and Camper Pads at Recreation Area ---	Springview (2006-2007)
City Park Beautification-----	Stuart (2005)
Neligh Park Renovation-----	West Point (2004)

Playground Equipment

Lions Club Playground Equipment Project-----	Ainsworth (2004, 2005)
City Park Playground Equipment -----	Laurel (2005)
Kinder Park -----	Eustis (2004)
Kids Kingdom Playground -----	Grand Island (2004)
Playground Project 2003 -----	Hartington (2004)
Hayes Center Public School Playground-----	Hayes County (2004)
Railroad Park Playground-----	Potter (2004)
Playground Improvement Project-----	Sidney (2004)
Ball Field Playground Equipment -----	Ravenna (2007)

Sports and Recreation

YMCA Expansion -----	Alliance (2004)
Lincoln Creek Bridge-----	Aurora (2005)
Neihardt Trail-----	Bancroft (2007)
Boelus Ball Park Improvement-----	Boelus (2004)
Trotting on a New Track-----	Burwell (2007)

Columbus Water Park Pawnee Plunge -----	Columbus (2007)
Twin Rivers Walking Trail -----	Culbertson (2007)
Our Place to Play-----	Eustis (2006)
New Gym Facility -----	Franklin (2007)
The Field of Dreams -----	Gothenburg (2006)
Stolley Park Disc Golf Course -----	Grand Island (2005)
Pelican Beach Golf Club-----	Grant County (2004)
Hartington Community Recreation Complex -----	Hartington (2006)
Optimist Hitting Facility -----	Lexington (2007)
Peterson Ball Field Complex -----	Loup City (2006)
McCool School & Community Track & Fitness Program-----	McCool Junction (2004)
Prairie Hills Connector Trail -----	Pawnee County (2007)
Plum Creek Hiking and Biking Trail -----	Seward (2005)
Klasey Park Grandstand/Naming of Rick Voss Fields-----	South Sioux City (2005)
Community Roping Area -----	Springview (2005)
Ord Trail Project -----	Valley County (2005)
New Aquatic Center -----	Wahoo (2007)
County Fair Carnival -----	Wahoo/Saunders County (2007)
York Family Aquatic Center/Mincks Park -----	York (2006)

Trees and Forestry

Operation Tree Screening and Wind Break -----	Pilger (2004)
Community Forestry-----	Potter (2004)

Arts and Humanities

Events and Festivals

Sand Hills Discovery Experience -----	Ainsworth (2006)
Chautauqua -----	Alliance (2007)
FAMfest 2003 -----	Aurora (2005)
Yesterday's Tomorrows-----	Bassett (2004)
Bassett Arts Council 30 th Anniversary Celebration -----	Bassett (2007)
4 th of July Celebration -----	Blue Hill (2004)
Living Picture Easter Pageant -----	Curtis (2005)
Festival of Trees-----	Edgar (2005)
Sod House Day -----	Eustis/Farnam (2004)
4 th Annual Gering Arts Festival -----	Gering (2006)
Western Cultural Arts -----	Grant County (2005)
Kids Summer Art Camp -----	Grant County (2006)
Lewis and Clark Heritage Fair -----	Hartington (2005)
Grand Duke Alexis Rendezvous -----	Hayes County (2005)
Jazz Concert by the Rob Scheps/Zack Brock Quintet-----	Nebraska City (2005)
Chautauqua 2004, From Sea to Shining Sea -----	Neligh (2005)
Jammin' in the Park -----	Neligh (2007)
Nelson Community Club Variety Show -----	Nelson (2004, 2005)
NEBRASKAland Days Golden Games -----	North Platte (2004)

Autumn Arts Festival-----	North Platte (2007)
Melodrama Returns-----	Pilger (2006)
Youth Theater Camp -----	Ravenna (2006)
Capitol Christmas Tree Events-----	Scottsbluff/Gering (2004)
Nebraska Cattleman’s Ball of Nebraska 2006 -----	Seward County (2007)
“Gloria” – West Nebraska Masterworks Chorale-----	Sidney (2004)
Patriot Day – September 11 th Memorial -----	Sidney (2004)
WSO Show -----	Wayne (2007)
Jammin’ for the Troops -----	Wymore (2004)

Miscellaneous

The Vietnam Moving Wall -----	Ainsworth (2005)
Sand Hills Discovery and Visitors Center -----	Ainsworth (2004)
Mural -----	Bassett (2005)
Adopt a Flag Project-----	Chapman (2006)
Tootin Our Horns Down Constitution Avenue-----	Coleridge (2007)
Community History Awareness-----	Culbertson (2007)
Franklin County Veterans Memorial Wall Project -----	Franklin (2004)
Hartington Public Library Expands its Services -----	Hartington (2004)
Kimball Beautification through Art -----	Kimball (2005)
Walnut Creek Amphitheater Project-----	Papillion (2006)
Wildwood Period Home Barn Restoration -----	Petersburg (2004)
Active American Legion and Auxiliary Activities -----	Petersburg (2004)
Plainview Arts Council-----	Plainview (2004)
Marxhausen Mural Project-----	Seward (2006)
Bricks, Books, & Video—Oh My, Shelby-----	Shelby (2006)
Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration -----	South Sioux City (2005)
Lewis and Clark Activities to Commemorate 200 th Anniversary- -----	Stromsburg (2005)
Community Patriotism -----	Stromsburg (2004)
Yorkshire Playhouse-----	York County (2006)

Museum, Memorial, and Historic Activities

Celebrating Our Heritage -----	Burwell (2006)
Robert Henri Museum and Historical Walkway Restoration ----	Cozad (2007)
Lighting up the Sun-----	Gothenburg (2007)
School Memorial Monument-----	Guide Rock (2007)
Living History Rural One-Room School-----	Loup City (2006)
River City Nature Center-----	Nebraska City (2007)
Potter Historical Museum Renovation -----	Potter (2006)
Historic Midwest Theatre Revitalization -----	Scottsbluff (2006)
Portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln -----	Syracuse (2007)

Economic Development

Business Assistance and Development

New Business

Health Fair and Day Car -----	Bassett (2007)
New Businesses -----	Basset (2007)
Fashion Wear Extravaganza and Silent Auction-----	Blue Hill (2007)
Meadowlark Pointe -----	Cozad (2007)
Stone Hearth Estates – Ready for Residents-----	Gothenburg (2007)
High Pointe Business Quest -----	Kimball (2007)
Economic Development Program/Industrial Park Addition-----	Lexington (2007)

Business Retention and Expansion

The Leadership Center Expansion-----	Aurora (2004)
Love’s Travel Stops and County Stores-----	Aurora (2005)
Revolving Loan Fund -----	Bassett (2004)
Building Burwell’s Main Street One Building at a Time-----	Burwell (2007)
Platte Valley Fuel Ethanol Plant -----	Central City (2005)
Colorado Aspen Homes -----	Central City (2006)
Grocery Store Exchanges Hands, Builds New -----	Coleridge (2007)
Slice of Pie-----	Eustis (2005)
Great Nebraska Hunting -----	Eustis (2006)
New Business Development-----	Farnam (2004)
Let’s Keep the Sun Shining-----	Gothenburg (2004)
Cedar Catholic High School Activity Center-----	Hartington (2007)
Keeping Main Street Occupied-----	Hayes County (2005)
Keeping Our Town Alive -----	Howells (2004)
Missionaire International Wheat Growers Project-----	Kimball (2005)
Plains Business Center and BizInk/Business Incubator-----	Kimball (2004)
Wild Fruit and Nut Jam at Kimmel Orchard -----	Nebraska City (2007)
Soybean Processing Plant-----	Newman Grove (2004)
Hidden Treasures Home Business Expo -----	North Platte (2007)
Best Inn Burchard-----	Pawnee County (2004)
Economic Development for Petersburg -----	Petersburg (2005)
Historical Foundation/A Collective Gathering Flea Market-----	Potter (2006)
Husker Ag, LLC. Location of the Ethanol Plant-----	Plainview (2004)
Annexation-----	Ravenna (2004)
Farmer’s Market and Cruise Night -----	Seward (2006)
Let It Snow-----	Seward (2007)
Technology Speculative Building -----	South Sioux City (2005)
Town & Country and The Square Cup-----	Stromsburg (2005)

Retention of Locally Established Ag Business----- Stromsburg (2004)
 Feller East First Subdivision----- Wisner (2007)

Downtown Revitalization

Cedar Rapids Main Street Improvement----- Cedar Rapids (2006)
 Main Street Improvement Program----- Elgin (2004)
 Main Street: Preserving the Past, Building for the Future ----- Gothenburg (2004)
 “Sign-Up” for Nebraska City----- Nebraska City (2004)
 Economic Development and Downtown Improvement----- Petersburg (2004)
 Dakota Avenue Revitalization ----- South Sioux City (2006)

Miscellaneous

WNCC Powerline Construction and Maintenance
 Technology Program ----- Alliance (2007)
 Hometown Help----- Atkinson (2005)
 STJERNEN Newsletter ----- Dannebrog (2004)
 Information Technology Surveys as Part of Business Visitation Edgar (2005)
 Small Town Christmas ----- Farnam (2007)
 Labor Study----- Fullerton (2004)
 South Locust Renewal----- Grand Island (2005)
 Adult/Senior Citizen’s Art Workshop----- Grant County (2006)
 Hartington City, Chamber, & Economic Dev. Join----- Hartington (2004)
 Antique, Craft, and Flea Market Extravaganza ----- Lexington (2004)
 Alternative Fuels Forum ----- Loup Basin (2007)
 O’Neill Community Foundation Grant Night----- O’Neill (2007)
 Business Promotion in Petersburg ----- Petersburg (2007)
 1st Annual Sweet Corn and Hamburger Feed----- Pilger (2004)
 Tourism ----- Seward (2004)
 Seward County Economic Development ----- Seward County (2007)
 Thanks a Bunch ----- South Sioux City (2007)
 Wind Turbine Day – 2003 ----- Springview (2004)
 Community Supper/Workshop Resource ----- St. Edward (2005)
 Waco’s Q-125 + 1 Celebration----- Waco (2004)
 Creation of Wayne Area of Economic Development, Inc. ----- Wayne (2007)
 Van Dorn Building----- Wisner (2005)

Tourism Promotion and Development

Promotion and Marketing

Tourism Assessment and Planning Project ----- Bancroft (2007)
 NE Ranch Expo ----- Bassett (2004)
 Welcome Sign, Kiosk, and Banners ----- Bassett (2005)
 Brady Area Web Marketing and Tourist Rack Card Project ----- Brady (2007)
 Web Portal Project----- Butler County (2006)
 Cozad Parking Lot ----- Cozad (2007)
 “Diller Welcomes You” Sign----- Diller (2005)

Eustis Brochures -----	Eustis (2005)
Willkommen to Eustis-----	Eustis (2004)
Convention & Visitors Bureau – New Name & Logo -----	Gering (2004)
Gering’s Rolling Billboards -----	Gering (2007)
Birding Promotional Brochure -----	Loup Basin RC&D (2005)
Loup Basin Birding Promotional Brochure-----	Loup Basin RC&D (2004)
Arbor Trails Winery -----	Nebraska City (2005)
Brochures for Pawnee County and Pawnee City-----	Pawnee County (2007)
Location Signage-----	Ravenna (2007)
Seward County Economic Development Office -----	Seward County (2006)
Stuart’s Web Page -----	Stuart (2004)
HIYA & Tanks a Lot...30 Days of Gas on Us-----	York County (2006)

Landmarks, Memorials, and Museums

Alexandria Cemetery Directory -----	Alexandria (2006)
Sallows Military Museum -----	Alliance (2007)
Back in Time -----	Atkinson (2004)
Neihardt Historical Site Promotion Project-----	Bancroft (2006)
St. James Marketplace-----	Cedar County (2006)
Shannon Trail Promotion -----	Cedar and Knox County (2005)
Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial -----	Columbus (2007)
American Legion Post # 9 Life Time Tour of Duty -----	Hemingford (2004)
Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail and Visitor Center -----	Nebraska City (2006)
20 th Century Veterans Memorial-----	North Platte (2004)
The North Platte Canteen -----	North Platte (2006)
Harold Lloyd Birthplace Restoration-----	Pawnee County (2004)
The Pedal Clinic-----	Pawnee County (2004)

TARGET

(Tourism Assessment Resource Growth Evaluation Team)-----	Pawnee County (2005)
Schilling Bridge Winery & Microbrewery -----	Pawnee County (2006)
Pilger Park Camper Pads-----	Pilger (2006)
Ravenna Veterans Memorial Wall-----	Ravenna (2006)
Museum Improvement Project -----	Stuart (2005)
Museum Improvement Project- Dr. Reichard/Kramer House----	Stuart (2006)

Tourism Events

33 rd Annual Country Music Festival -----	Ainsworth (2004, 2005, 2006)
National Day of the Cowboy -----	Ainsworth (2007)
Sand Hills Discovery and Visitors Center -----	Ainsworth (2005)
Alexandria Fun Daze -----	Alexandria (2007)
Route 385 Cruisers “Thunder on the Prairie” Classic Car Show	Alliance (2005)
Dobby’s Fall Festival-----	Alliance (2004)
Chautauqua -----	Alliance (2006)
Alma’s 7 th Annual Country Music Festival-----	Alma (2004)
Blue Hill Fourth of July Celebration -----	Blue Hill (2007)

Cedar County Fair -----	Cedar County (2004)
Chappell Flag Days-----	Chappell (2005)
Economic Development Practices -----	Chappell (2004)
Rock' n Roll Car Show-----	Chappell (2006)
Culbertson's Annual Events -----	Culbertson (2007)
Deshler Daze 2005-----	Deshler (2006)
BRAN stays in Eustis -----	Eustis (2007)
Wurst Tag -----	Eustis (2004, 2005, 2007)
Founder's Day-----	Farnam (2006)
Celebrate 100 Years of Aviation at Historic Airfield -----	Fillmore County (2004)
Shining Light Celebration -----	Gothenburg (2005)
Festival of Memories -----	Gothenburg (2006)
Pelican Beach Golf Club-----	Grant County (2005)
Windmill Country Celebration -----	Grant County (2004)
Hartington Show-N-Shine -----	Hartington (2005)
Candlelight Christmas and Lighted Vehicle Parade-----	Hartington (2006)
Grand Duke Alexis Rendezvous -----	Hayes County (2004)
Kimball All School Reunion -----	Kimball (2005)
Bike Ride Across Nebraska-----	Kimball (2006)
Greater Nebraska Tour and Recreation Expo -----	Loup Basin (2007)
4 th of July Fun Day -----	Nelson (2005)
Shell Creek Valley Days-----	Newman Grove (2006)
The Omanisa Wacipi Pow Wow -----	North Platte (2005)
Model A Tour -----	Pawnee County (2007)
Revitalization of Carnival Days – Summer Celebration-----	Petersburg (2005)
Petersburg Punkin Chunkin Celebration-----	Petersburg (2006)
Annual Sweet Corn and Hamburger Feed -----	Pilger (2005, 2007)
Plainview Antique Farm and Tractor Show -----	Plainview (2007)
4 th of July Extravaganza-----	Ravenna (2007)
Ravenna Tractor Puller, Inc. -----	Ravenna (2005)
Rock County Fair and Parade -----	Rock County (2007)
Fourth of July City-----	Seward (2005)
Seward County Tourism Promotion/July 4-----	Seward County (2007)
Sidney Gold Rush Day 2004 -----	Sidney (2005)
Remember When Heritage Celebration -----	Stuart (2007)
Christmas on the Prairie-----	Wahoo (2007)
Blarney Stone St. Patrick's Celebration-----	Wisner (2005)

