

Raising private funds and resources for your Nebraska State Fair.
A charitable 501(c)3 organization
statefair.org/1868



Summer 2015

1868 UPDATE

Fun IS in the Fair!

The 146th annual Nebraska State Fair is here! It seems like just yesterday that I was writing this piece for the 2014 Summer Edition of the 1868 Update. I guess they are right—time does fly by when you are having fun.

But serving as the Executive Director of the Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation certainly isn't all fun and games. Although, my four-year-old son might try to tell you otherwise!

As I cruise around the fairgrounds, giving tours and providing courtesy cart rides, I often hear from new friends that I meet along the way, "Well, this has to be a fun little summer job for you!" They are always surprised when I reply, "Why yes, this is a fun job; but actually I am the Executive Director for the Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation – and it is a lot of hard work and a year round responsibility."

It certainly is fun. It's fun to see the faces of children light up as they pass through the gates – eager to spend a day at the fair. It's fun to watch the Fonner Campus transform into one of the finest fairs in the nation. And you have to know just how fun and exciting it is to get the chance to spend time with so many of you who support our efforts.

But this position is also a very big responsibility – one that isn't taken lightly. There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not reminded of how our efforts are a direct reflection on all of Nebraska.

Helping to produce and fundraising for the largest annual statewide celebration in Nebraska is no easy task; we are constantly thinking about ways to improve, ways to be more innovative, ways to make sure each and every one who passes thru the gates are proud to be a part of the Nebraska State Fair.

It is our responsibility to make sure that each of you supporting our efforts continues to believe in our mission and our vision of providing a venue that offers our guests the very best fair experience possible.

At their May Meeting, the 1868 Foundation Board of Directors approved a request from the State Fair Board for \$500,000 to renovate the Open Air Equine Arena on the east end of the grounds. The arena is in desperate need of repair, making this project a top priority for the both the foundation and the state fair.

Our goal is to bring the Open Air Equine Arena up to the same great guest experience as our recently constructed fair buildings, and all in time for the 2016 Nebraska State Fair. But, we cannot do it without your help.

This half-million-dollar campaign will be beneficial to both the fair and the Fonner Park Campus. And building a high quality venue like

this meets a demand from local, regional, and national equine organizations as they look for sites with proper infrastructure to host events.

Renovation of the Open Air Equine Arena is the next step in creating an experience for fairgoers that will be beneficial for the state fair, Grand Island and all of Nebraska.

Please take the day off and join me at the fair. It would be both an honor and privilege to show you how your gifts have directly impacted our state fair and how we can make progress for the future!

I'll see you at the fair!

"There isn't a day that goes by that I'm not reminded of how our efforts are a direct reflection on all of Nebraska."



Lindsey Koepke
Executive Director

Because
Fair time is the
BEST time of the year!

GET INVOLVED:
STATEFAIR.ORG/1868

(Reason #37 why you should support the
Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation)



Fun IS in the Fair!
Comments from Lindsey
Koepke, Executive
Director of the 1868
Foundation



Annual Donor Listing
2015 Members of the 1868
Foundation
A great BIG thank you!



Annual Donor Listing
2015 Members of the 1868
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Annual Giving Form



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IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR AT THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

As you already know, the Nebraska State Fair is much more than just an eleven day event that happens at the end of August. It's a tradition that will carry on from generation to generation.

The individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations listed on these two pages are investing in the 1868 Foundation's mission to raise private funds and resources for improvements for your Nebraska State Fair.

Whether it's through corporate partners, individual contributions, or gifts given in kind, there is no way to fully express our gratitude for your loyalty.

"The 1868 Foundation is continually inspired by the dedication and generosity of donors like you."

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The Board of Directors for the 1868 Foundation would like to thank you for contributing to the success of our organization and for making a difference for the future of your Nebraska State Fair.

The 1868 Foundation has made every effort to ensure accuracy in our roll of donors report. In compiling a list of this size, however, mistakes are possible. We apologize for any misspellings or omissions, and ask that you bring any discrepancies to our attention at lkoepke@statefair.org.

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