

# RAISING THE BAR

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
**PETER KIEWIT**  
FOUNDATION



## MISSION

*To create opportunities for people to live in and help build strong, vibrant communities, achieve economic success, and enjoy a high quality of life.*

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## Boomtown Omaha!



Over the past 50 years, the Omahametro has under-gone a **huge** transformation. Stockyards and fruit warehouses became the Old Market. We grew from three hundred thousand to nearly five hundred thousand people. We

built Woodmen Tower, FirstNational Tower, TD Ameritrade, and the Century Link Center.

And we are at it again. Look across the region. We are BOOMING with major projects. [The Capital District](#), [Lot B](#), [10th Street Market](#), [Downtown Council Bluffs](#), [Maker's District in NoDo](#), [Boys Town](#) and [Blackstone](#). And the list goes on. Between these and additional projects on the horizon, there is simply no city in the country that has as much opportunity in its urban core as does Omaha. These projects, and the decisions we make now, will shape what our region looks like for decades to come. And if we want to make the most of this time of enormous opportunity, there are four big things we have got to get done and we have got to get right.

Click [here](#) to read more about the four big goals we need to be pursuing.

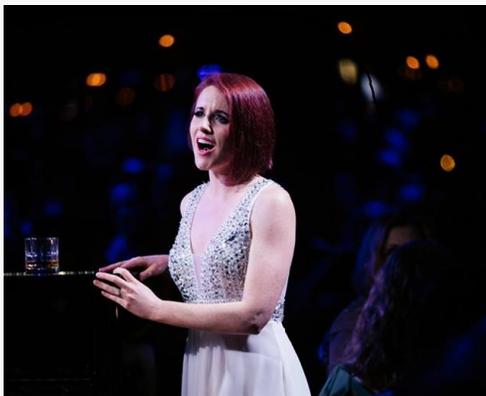


*Executive Director,  
Jeff Kutash*





**Above:** Completely KIDS strives to ensure that families have access to the knowledge and skills necessary to break the cycle of poverty. Their mission is to educate and empower youth and families to create a safe, healthy, successful, and connected community. Pictured above, youth enjoy a Family Fun Night Carnival. Click on the photo above to learn more about Completely KIDS.



## Grants Awarded: First Quarter 2017

Peter Kiewit Foundation approved 47 grants at our March 2017 board meeting for a total of more than \$5,000,000.

Organizations that received funding include **Completely KIDS** to support renovations and expansion of their facility, **Women's Center for Advancement** to support building upgrades and **Opera Omaha** to support the ONE Festival.

Additionally, the foundation awarded 8 grants to **Neighborhood Associations** for community projects as part of our 2017 Neighborhoods Grants Program and 19 grants to **Douglas County arts organizations** for capacity building through our ArtStock 2017 Program.

For a complete list of the grants awarded, their amounts, and the projects we are supporting please click the button below.

[APPROVED GRANTS](#)

**Left:** Opera Omaha is the only professional opera company in Nebraska. Their mission is to provide quality opera entertainment and an operatic showcase for the vocal talent in the region. Click on the photo to the left for more about Opera Omaha.

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHTS

### YOUTH PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS



## GOALS Center Addresses and Improves Attendance Issues for Area Students

Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services or "GOALS",strives to address absenteeism and at-risk behavior through encouragement ofcoordinated efforts to improve student attendance and learning in both Douglasand Sarpy counties.

GOALS uses a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency team model to address absenteeism and help students succeed. Main services include:

- Conducting comprehensive needs assessment with the student and their family.

GOALS began serving students in 2011, currently collaborates with11 public school districts across the Omaha metro, and has served nearly 1,000 students. The organization provides valuable services tochronically absent students and their families, connecting them to servicesthey need to improve school attendance and avoid referral to the Douglas orSarpy County attorney. GOALS has found that by increasing attendance, students are

- Developing an individual service plan with the student and their family to increase school attendance.
- Connecting the student and their family with wrap-around community services to support success at school, home, and within the community.

[Visit the GOALS Center Website](#)

less likely to engage in risky behaviors in the short-term and more likely to graduate and enter into meaningful employment in their communities.

GOALS most recent evaluation in 2014-15 showed a dramatic increase in attendance by students who completed the GOALS program. Said students were initially only attending an average of 60% of school days in the month of referral, compared to 92% of school days after receiving GOALS' support. 100% of students who completed the program were passing all or most of their classes.

Peter Kiewit Foundation has awarded GOALS two operating support grants. The first was in 2015 for the 2015-2016 school year and the second in 2016, for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

# Celebrating Nebraska's 150th Birthday; Honoring the Past and Planning for the Future

The Celebrating Nebraska Statehood Foundation has planned a year long celebration to connect Nebraskans across different communities, perspectives and cultures; promote a spirit of pride, and raise awareness of Nebraska's unique strengths and history. Activities include:

- Mobile Children's Museum (*see below*)
- Now You Know Nebraska Videos (*right*)
- Nebraska Experience Project
- Nebraska Atlas and Standing Bear of the Ponca Books

Peter Kiewit Foundation awarded Celebrating Nebraska Statehood Foundation with a \$150,000 grant to support the Educating Nebraska's Future Initiative as part of a year-long Sesquicentennial celebration.



Click on the photo above for a virtual tour of the mobile children's museum.



**Above:** The Now You Know Nebraska Project is a series of 179 short, fun, engaging videos on state history facts. The videos are gradually released so that teachers can use them in the classroom as they please.

Truckin' Through Nebraska is an interactive children's museum experience created for the kids of Nebraska in honor of the 150th anniversary. It provides a unique, entertaining and unforgettable learning experience to thousands of children living in areas of the state without their own children's museum.

During their visit, kids and families have the opportunity to learn about the state's history and discover some of the diverse stories that make Nebraska great. Through play, interactivity and the latest technology, children explore their heritage and envision their futures and career possibilities in Nebraska.

## Multicultural Coalition Connects Refugees and Immigrants in Grand Island to Needed Services

Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island (MCGI) strives to empower individuals, embrace cultures, and strengthen community. MCGI was a recipient of a \$70,000 Peter Kiewit Foundation grant in 2016 to partially support two years of operations and capacity building. These funds have been put to use to hire a new executive director, recruit new board members, and re-focus strategy to better serve the community. With a refined mission and purpose, MCGI is focused on elevating the quality and availability of services in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Lual and his family are an example of the lives being changed through the work and dedication of MCGI. Following ten years living in an Ethiopian refugee camp, Lual and his family finally received placement in Maine and ultimately Grand Island. The family arrived without a place to call home, a means of transportation or employment. Lual walked through MCGI's doors feeling lost and alone. MCGI turned despair into hope. Through collaboration of services with multiple agencies, MCGI helped Lual and his family find access to medical care, food and shelter, means of transportation, and permanent legal status.



**Above:** With the support of the Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island, Lual and his family now have their needs met, have dreams for the future and a place to call home.



**Above:** Karla Matias-Lopez is an intern at MCGI through Grand Island Public Schools' Success Academy. The daughter of immigrants, Karla has overcome tremendous adversity and now serves as a beacon of hope for MCGI's clients. Shown here, Karla works with Abdulkarim Lazim to prepare for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization exam.

**Connect with Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island on Facebook**



**Left:** Following the completion of her internship MCGI plans to hire Karla as a Client Specialist. Karla graduated from Grand Island Public Schools on May 14th.

**Learn How to Get Involved**

## Get to Know Our Team: Jennifer Olds

Jennifer, or "Jen", Olds joined the foundation as a



Program Officer in May 2015. She oversees the foundation's Economic Growth and Opportunity impact area, which ties into her passion for making positive change in rural communities and urban neighborhoods.

When she's not visiting communities across the state or participating in economic development meetings, you can find Jen on the lake or watching the latest "Real Housewives" episode.



**Program Officer,  
Jennifer Olds**

To learn more about Jen, including what she would take if she were stranded on a desert island, click [here](#).



Please join us in welcoming Nick to the foundation and to Nebraska! He can be reached at [naw@pkfdn.org](mailto:naw@pkfdn.org).

## Meet Nick Wenham, Our New Grants Manager

Nicholas or "Nick" joined the Peter Kiewit Foundation team in March 2017 as our Grants Manager. Nick will oversee all aspects of our grants process, ensuring that applicants and grantees are supported as partners of the foundation.

Nick graduated from the Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts at Arizona State University with a degree in music. Prior to joining the foundation, Nick served as Grants Management Associate at Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust in Phoenix, Arizona.

Daniel will join Peter Kiewit Foundation in June 2017 to assist with administrative support and research.

Daniel will be a junior at Mount Michael Benedictine High School in the fall of 2017. While he is keeping his options open, he has career interests in mechanical engineering. Daniel is looking forward to joining the team and learning more about the nonprofit world.

"It's gratifying to know that I can use my skills and talents to contribute to an organization like Peter Kiewit. I am excited to see where the experience takes me in the future!"

## Meet Daniel Davies, Our Summer Intern



**Interested in Applying**

## for a Grant?

**UPCOMING DEADLINES:** If you would like more information about our application process, please click [here](#).

July  
**15<sup>TH</sup>**

Deadline for  
Grant Applications

October  
**13<sup>TH</sup>**

Notification to  
Grant Applicants