

# DIRECTORS AND FUTURE READERS OF THE WOOD RIVER COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL FOUNDATION OF WOOD RIVER, NEBRASKA

## Dear Board Members and Readers:

Thank you for developing this introduction of the donors to the Foundation for their financial and moral support of the success of this organization's ideals and endeavors.



Charles "Chick" & Donna Moyer | Charles C. & Oney Moyer | Dr. Edward E. Bilon | Christine Jensen Bilon

We are Charles "Chick" and Donna Lee Moyer of Wood River. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Moyer of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, the multi-cultural community whose lives revolved around the production of steel in early and mid-century years of the twentieth century. Born in 1925, Chick received a public education and had scarcely become a college student when called into the U. S. Army to fight as a foot soldier in World War II "Battle of the Bulge" against Germany.

Following his discharge, he entered the University of Nebraska, graduated from its business schools then worked for one year in New York State for the General Electric Company. His return to Nebraska for further studies introduced him to the world of banking and to Donna Lee Bilon, a native of Grand Island, Nebraska. He became a state bank examiner and, following her graduation from the same university in 1951, they married. Within a year he learned of the available purchase of the Bank of Wood River. Together they gathered their limited assets established credit through the assistance of her trusting father, made the purchase, and thus entered into a new life as a small town banker.

This was the first step into their future with new friendships, business relationships, and of becoming part of a community they could call theirs. The decade of the 1950s was a turning point for the agricultural industry. From the economic downturns, drought, depression and failures which preceded these years and left its damaging effect, came new hopes for a future through new seed hybrids, fertilizers, equipment, irrigation: and government programs. This new success brought new life into the community--farms, businesses, home, churches, schools and recreational facilities.

Working together we have all enjoyed the benefits of a stronger community, but realized that new needs had presented themselves. When community celebration members planned their 100th anniversary celebration of the town's incorporation (1982), we joined with them to develop the funding mechanism for the ideals of today and tomorrow--the Wood River Community Centennial Foundation, Inc.

We believe that philanthropy is an investment in the future of others; that donors offer services otherwise not available; that new passions can be developed through exposure; and that through this means there can be a change in individuals and their community.

Several of our first contributions honored our parents, the Moyers (listed previously) and Dr. and Mrs. Edward E. Bilon of Grand Island, Nebraska. Both families originated from the northern European countries as immigrants willing to work to become Americans. Christine Jensen Bilon was the beautiful daughter of Danish subjects and Edward Bilon was of Czechoslovakian stock who followed his father as an optometrist practicing in Grand Island.

Our additional gifts have been made in full support of the decisions made by contemporary board members, and to honor the individual work and commitments made by local citizens to improve the lives of others.

The Foundation has become a vehicle for us to express our gratitude for the loyal business support and friendships that made our gifting possible and desirable.

This letter also expresses the attitude and policies of the Bank of Wood Rivers since renamed Heritage Bank.

Most sincerely,  
Chick and Donna Moyer  
November 2011  
Wood River, Nebraska