

# ANNUAL REPORT

**PLATINUM**  
 Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, O'Neill  
 Pinnacle Bank, O'Neill  
 Tri-County Bank, Atkinson, Stuart & O'Neill

**GOLD**  
 Christensen Farms  
 Brian & Nicole Sedlacek, O'Neill

**SILVER**  
 Lorraine & the late Donovan Becker, O'Neill  
 McIntosh Jewelry, O'Neill  
 North Central Automation, Inc., O'Neill

**MUNICIPAL PARTNERS**

CITY OF ATKINSON	CITY OF O'NEILL
HOLT COUNTY	VILLAGE OF CHAMBERS
VILLAGE OF EMMET	VILLAGE OF EWING
VILLAGE OF INMAN	VILLAGE OF PAGE
VILLAGE OF STUART	

**BE A PART OF THE SUCCESS**

**BRONZE**  
 Agricultural Services, Inc., Emmet  
 Anson Electric, Inc., Ewing  
 Black Hills Energy  
 Jim Brennan, Atkinson  
 Matt & Tracy Dennis, O'Neill  
 Diversified Electrical Contractors, Page  
 Green Acres, Chambers  
 Dave & Karri Hickey, O'Neill  
 J & L Collision Center, O'Neill  
 Nebraska Public Power District  
 O'Neill Car Wash, O'Neill  
 West Holt Medical Services, Atkinson

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**SUPPORTER**  
 Atkinson Graphic, Atkinson  
 Brauns Food Center & Locker, Atkinson  
 Briar Park R.V., Atkinson  
 The Clothing Company, O'Neill  
 Doolittle Insurance, Amelia  
 Ewing Family Foods, Ewing  
 Holz Lumber & Hardware, Inc., O'Neill  
 Photo One, O'Neill  
 James & Renee Ramold, Ewing  
 Shamrock Nursery, O'Neill  
 Studio B Photography, Chambers

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
 7/1/2015 - 6/30/2016

<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Community Contributions	\$63,327
Grant Income	\$56,643
Programming	\$ 917
Tuition	\$1,965
Sponsorship & Donations	\$11,355
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$134,207</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
Building Expense	\$3,145
Capital Expenditures	\$5,610
Employee Insurance	\$697
Employee Retirement & Benefits	\$4,120
Miscellaneous & Contingent	\$63
Payroll Tax	\$6,053
Professional Fees	\$6,957
Programming	\$13,244
Salary & Wages	\$79,124
Supplies & Publishing	\$4,509
Training, Outreach - All Staff	\$4,601
Utilities	\$5,106
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$133,229</b>
<b>Excess of Disbursements Over Receipts</b>	<b>\$(978)</b>
<b>Fund Balance, July 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$25,640</b>
<b>Fund Balance, June 30, 2016</b>	<b>\$33,118</b>

**ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

Annual Taxable Sales	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Holt County	111,082,118	126,924,841	127,535,633	120,966,484	111,489,431
Atkinson	18,754,813	24,351,591	26,051,257	24,912,653	21,988,645
O'Neill	78,833,695	85,557,964	84,767,494	81,071,107	75,850,270

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue - Motor Vehicle Sales excluded

Annual Lodging Tax	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Holt County	107,958	100,398	92,499	96,621	82,330

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

Unemployment Rate	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Holt County	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.1
Nebraska	3.0	3.3	4.0	3.9	4.4

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor



**HCED BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>ATKINSON</b><br>Jim Brennan<br>Lou Ann Tooker | <b>O'NEILL</b><br>Bill Price<br>Nikki Schwanz    |
| <b>CHAMBERS</b><br>Wayne Green                   | <b>PAGE</b><br>Cora Calkins                      |
| <b>EWING</b><br>James Ramold<br>Sharon Swails    | <b>STUART</b><br>Amanda Paxton<br>Jon Schmaderer |
| <b>INMAN</b><br>Dorine Campbell                  | <b>HOLT COUNTY</b><br>Dave Hickey<br>Bill Tielke |

**A YEAR IN REVIEW:**

When we look back on the past year, it is hard to remember all the great things that happened in Holt County – we forget so quickly! However, if you break that year down, it is exciting to see our progress. For example, the Holt County Economic Development office documented 24 new business start-ups. Wow! And the staff noted 99 new families that moved to the county! Those are really impressive numbers – give yourself a pat on the back, Holt County.

Thankfully, others believe in our efforts as well. HCED's work is made possible by each community within Holt County, our partners and a grant from the Rudolph R. Elis Donor Advised Fund.

**HCED HAS MANY PARTNERS IN THE COUNTY, AND BEYOND, THAT ASSIST WITH THESE EFFORTS; TOGETHER, WE CAN CONTINUE TO GROW HOLT COUNTY.**

The Rudolph Elis five-year grant was awarded to HCED again in 2015. It addresses business development and entrepreneurship needs, building leadership capacity and helps us further our new resident recruitment and retention efforts. HCED has many partners in the county, and beyond, that assist with these efforts; together, we can continue to grow Holt County.

Those numbers aren't due to HCED; they are due to the efforts of an entire county and the communities within it. The people and organizations in those communities are the reasons new businesses and new people are popping up all over the place. Holt County is a great place to call home, and HCED is excited to be part of the efforts lending assistance to businesses and offering help to newcomers.





**THE 12TH ANNUAL HOMETOWN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATES INCLUDE: JAY ADDISON, STUART; JEREMY BAUER, ATKINSON; AARON CHOON, ATKINSON; RODNEY KEIM, ATKINSON; KRISTI PETERSON, O'NEILL; WAYNE & JESSICA PRUSSA, ATKINSON; KRISTY SIGLER, O'NEILL; LYNN SOBOTKA, O'NEILL, AND JENNA WELBORN, STUART.**

Including the 10 participants this year, 166 individuals have completed the HomeTown Leadership Institute. That number alone is amazing, but what has been more amazing is witnessing the excitement and passion those individuals have for Holt County and their communities.

Many of the HLI alumni today hold positions of leadership all over the county, which is one of the main goals of the program. We hope the presenters and experiences open the eyes of participants to new opportunities and new ways they can serve their communities and county. Please continue to do BIG things for Holt County, HLI alumni! You make us proud.

Population	1950	2000	2010	2015
Holt County	14,859	11,551	10,435	10,313
Atkinson	1,372	1,244	1,245	1,241
Chambers	395	333	268	265
Emmet	62	77	48	47
Ewing	705	433	387	377
Inman	237	148	129	128
O'Neill	3,027	3,733	3,705	3,653
Page	275	157	166	164
Stuart	785	625	590	597
Total Rural Areas:	8,001	4,801	3,897	3,841

Source: U.S. Census Bureau / 2015 Population est. as of 7/1/15

### A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN, JIM BRENNAN:

This past year has been challenging as we had a fire at the Depot building in July, 2016, and we are still in search of a new director. Our staff has shown commitment working remotely until we are able to move back into the Depot.

We have had several good candidates that have applied for the director job and the position should be filled soon.

The interview process has spotlighted all that we have accomplished the past nine years. This not only inspired the candidates, but renewed the importance of our mission, which is working together to make our communities viable and sustainable.

### NEW BUSINESSES:

- Little Country Kids, Chambers
- Eric's Shine Shop, O'Neill
- Farm Bureau Financial Services, O'Neill
- Flat Iron Grill, Atkinson
- Dennis Commodities, Inc., O'Neill
- Boutique One29, O'Neill
- Nostalgia - Antiques & Much More, O'Neill
- Pro-West Seed & Insurance, Inman
- Garden Gate Floral, Atkinson
- Land Marketers Realty, O'Neill
- Golden Valley Auctions, Ewing
- Fury Chassis, Stuart
- Fahrenholz Heating & Air Conditioning, Chambers
- Lange Irrigation, Stuart
- Shamrock Diesel Repair, Stuart
- Thairapy, O'Neill
- Jenny's Cake Shop, Stuart
- Blush Boutique & Tan, O'Neill
- Will's Auto Repair & Custom Lighting, Ewing
- Eden Lane Boutique, Chambers
- BE-YOU-nique Salon & Spray Tanning, Chambers
- Massage on Main, Atkinson
- Cleary Building Corp., O'Neill
- Stracke Realty LLC, Stuart

### BUSINESS EXPANSIONS AND TRANSITIONS:

HCED noted (5) business expansions and assisted with (1) business transition from July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

### ENTREPRENEUR TARGETING, VISITATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Holt County Economic Development office received (51) inquiries from existing businesses and entrepreneurs asking for assistance with a project. HCED had (188) other direct interactions with Holt County businesses who requested information, referrals or technical assistance on a variety of topics.

The HCED team members conducted (48) on-site business visits with targeted businesses in Holt County.

Six requests for financial assistance / loan packaging were received from businesses and entrepreneurs that have operations in Holt County during July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016.

### HCED AWARDED \$295,000 GRANT FROM RUDOLPH R. ELIS FUND

HCED has made great strides over the last eight+ years in working on business attraction, retention, and expansion issues, people recruitment, and entrepreneurship. Early this year, HCED was notified that with the help of a grant for \$295,000 from the Rudolph R. Elis Donor-Advised Fund, that great work can continue.

The grant is intended to leverage, not replace, local funding. HCED is required to raise matching funds of at least two dollars for every one dollar provided by this grant for each fiscal year during the five year grant period.

The Rudolph R. Elis Donor-Advised Fund and Holt County Economic Development Fund are both affiliated funds of Nebraska Community Foundation.



### NEW RESIDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

HCED continues to track the new residents moving into Holt County. This year, we are excited to report that (99) new families began calling Holt County home.

Another great success: on HCED's website, (368) career opportunities were posed online at [www.growholt.com](http://www.growholt.com).

HCED team members also spent time compiling a list of available housing options for the Grande Prairie Wind Farm workers as they began work on the project. The staff managed a website, [www.windhousing.com](http://www.windhousing.com), to list those options as well as created documents listing businesses and services the workers may utilize during their stay in our area.

### OTHER NOTEWORTHY NEWS:

Compared to other Nebraska communities:

- Holt County ranked #1 among Nebraska places getting the most "Bang for their Buck" on property taxes (Source: SmartAsset)
- Holt County ranked #6 among other counties in Nebraska that gave the largest percentage of their money to charity in 2012, the most recent year analyzed by the Chronicle of Philanthropy (Source: [OnlyInYourState.com](http://OnlyInYourState.com))