



# Keeping Nebraska Beautiful

February Issue

## Our Mission

Inspire Nebraskans to take actions that improve and beautify our communities

## Our Vision

Nebraska, where every community is a clean, green, beautiful place to live.

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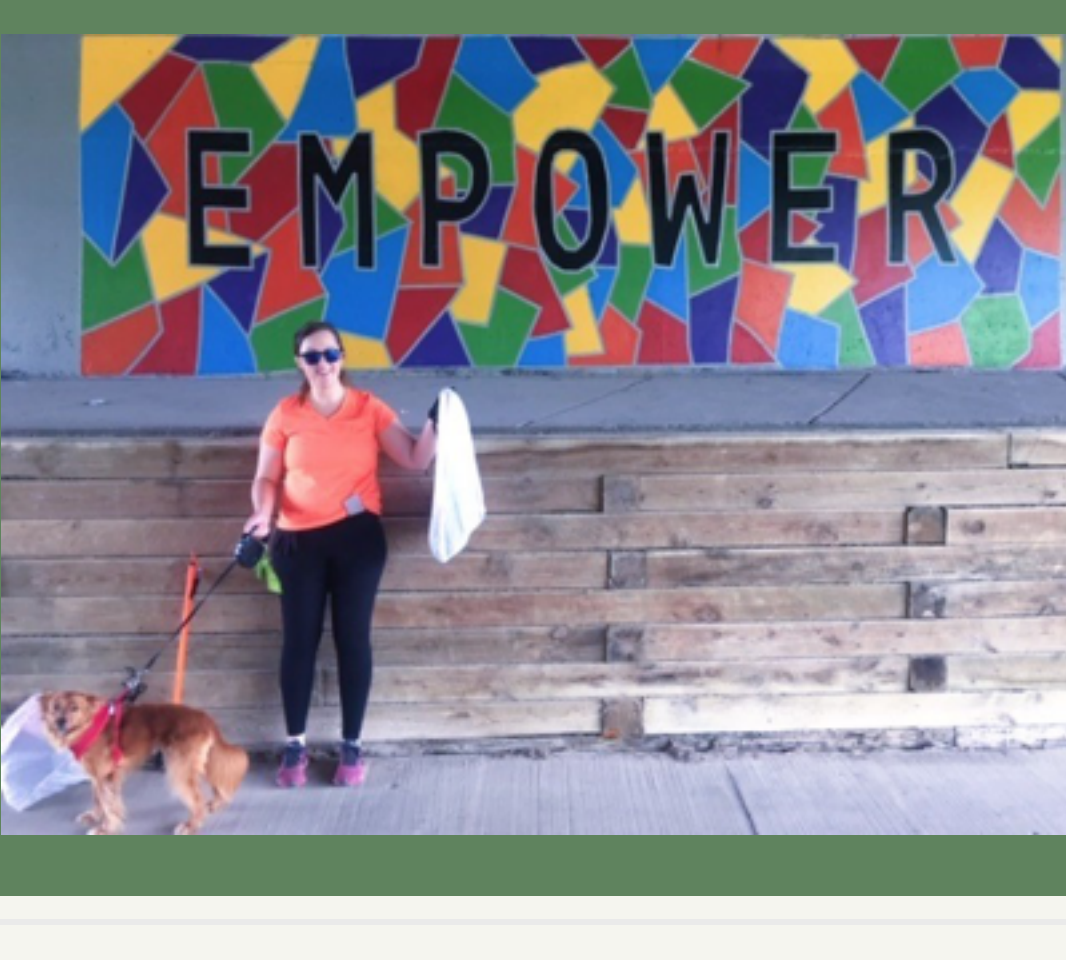
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## Thank You and Farewell, Meagan!

President and CEO, Meagan Deichert, is moving on to new ventures. Here are some comments about how much we appreciate her time here, both as a board member and as our CEO!

- "I will always appreciate Meagan's drive to freshen up the KNB brand both through programming and online with innovations like a new logo, website and social media presence. Her impact will be felt for years to come!" -Pete Stadig
- "Thank you Meagan for being a terrific leader of KNB. You have definitely improved this organization in the time you were here. I wish you much success in your future career!" -Terry Hawley
- "Meagan kept the organization's mission in the forefront and worked hard to help Keep Nebraska Beautiful grow and develop. She is resilient and hardworking and we wish her well in her new endeavors." -Kelley Jones
- "Meagan followed the footsteps of a retired executive, yet introduced change well to move KNB forward. Thanks for your contributions." -Dick Coffey
- "Meagan was an excellent showcase of female leadership during my internship. She is very ethical, creative, and intelligent. I see her making lots of good change for the environment!" -Anna Gilmore



FEBRUARY BOOK OF THE MONTH

(Adult)

"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer

(Child)

"Greta and the Giants" by Zoe Tucker



## Hopeful News from our Affiliates Amidst Winter with Covid-19

Keep America Beautiful local affiliates have been up to some cool and unique stuff!

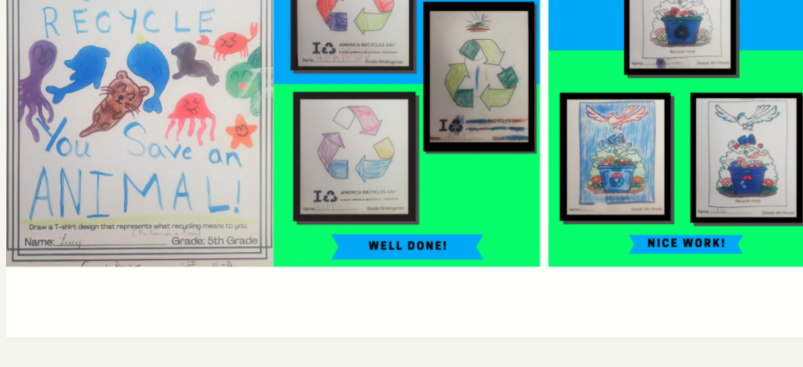
Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful (KNPLCB) is working with area Girl Scouts on a Chihuly inspired plastic bottle sculpture as part of the Artventure program. Scouts attend zoom meetings scheduled through March where they create 3 pieces of the overall display and send them into KNPLCB. There, the pieces are assembled into a single sculpture that will be auctioned online to benefit Girl Scout programming.

While working on the project, KNPLCB leaders talk with the girls about issues like recycling, reducing waste, and making changes in their lives that benefit the environment. According to Executive Director Mona Anderson, the project "has been such a positive experience and the participants have been so interactive with Zoom. We hope that next year we will be able to see them in person."

The silent auction is hosted by Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska and will be held online from Thursday, April 22, 2021 through Saturday, April 24, 2021. See their Facebook Event page [www.facebook.com/events/1375401979457814](https://www.facebook.com/events/1375401979457814) for details.

(left) Girl Scouts Final Recycled Sculpture

While celebrations looked a little bit different this year due to COVID restrictions, Keep Keith County Beautiful once again helped sponsor the annual America Recycles Day coloring contest at Prairie View School in Ogallala. Led by Nancy Armstrong and the school's Green Team, hundreds of pieces were submitted by kids from Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Each class picked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and prizes were awarded from the PepsiCo Recycle Rally - yet another environmentally minded program where students from the school excel! Check out their newsletter [here](#).



"Action on behalf of life transforms. Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal, it is not a question of first getting enlightened or saved and then acting. As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us."

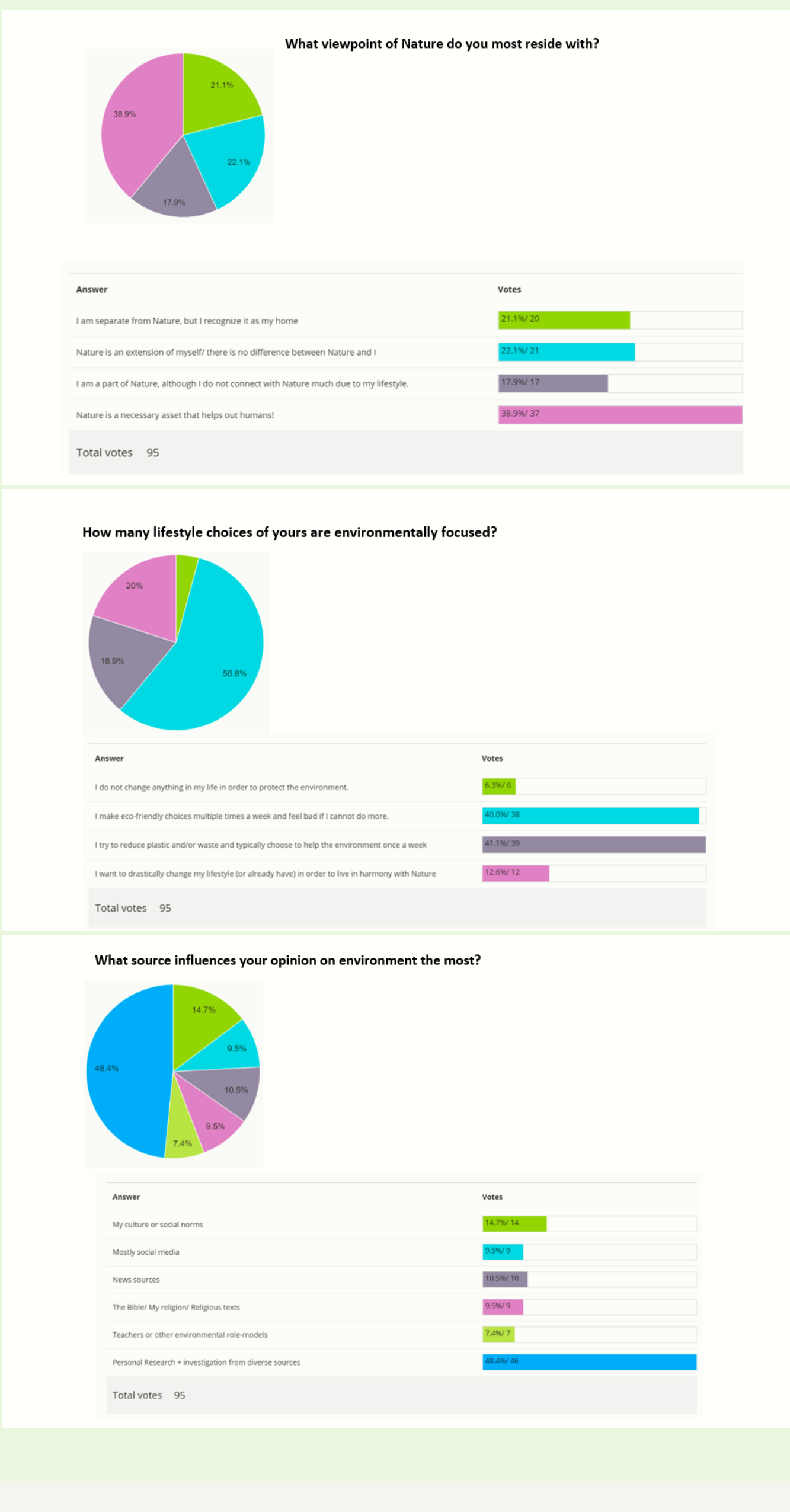
— Robin Wall Kimmerer from Braiding Sweetgrass

## Environmental Survey

by Anna Gilmore, KNB Intern

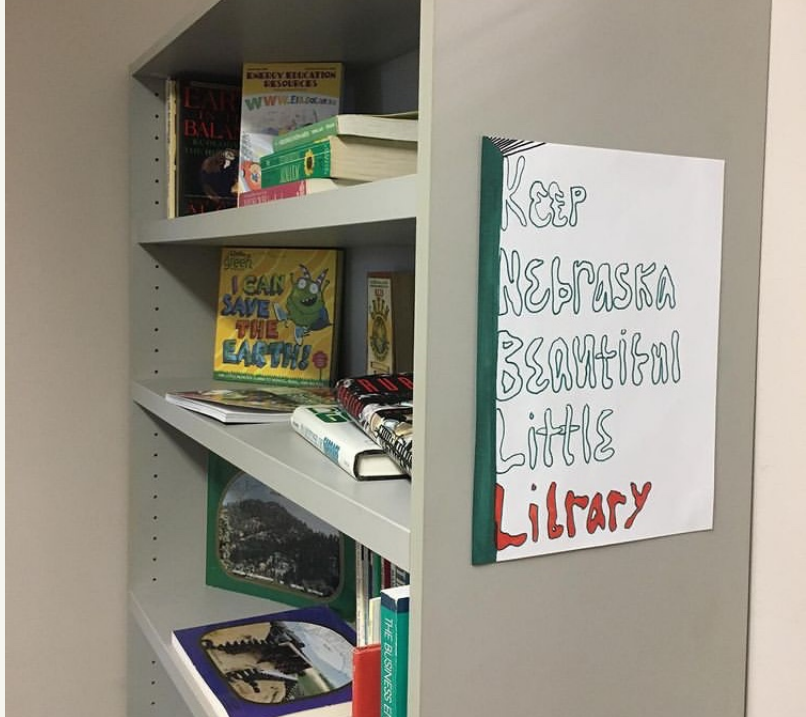
I curiously created a survey based on the questions of what drives people's viewpoints of the environment, what is their viewpoint/feelings towards Nature, and is there any chance that people are open to change regarding their own feelings and actions towards the environment. This whole survey is based off an idea that humans need to feel a spiritual and/or emotional connection to a concept to inspire the motivation for change. Based on answers to questions with different environmental philosophy in mind, there were 4 different environmental focus outputs. This survey, posted on social media and sent to our board members got 95 responses and ended with where they view the environment and how they could get a deeper connection with Nature to feel more inspired to protect all animals and plants.

What is hopeful is that 87 people around the United States area of teenagers and older are willing to change their lifestyle for the sake of Nature. This opinion is regardless of what has influenced their environmental beliefs the most—social media, news, religion, culture, or diverse sources. Love for Nature can be less of a war on information and science and more community backed protection. The people who do look into diverse sources about the environment show their desire to learn more. Those people tended to have environmentally focused hearts and minds which are the highest forms of respect for Nature. It is interesting to look at sources of environmental opinion for people of a diverse age range. It poses the question: are our sources of information limiting us from empathy for other species besides ourselves? What would help enhance our minds?



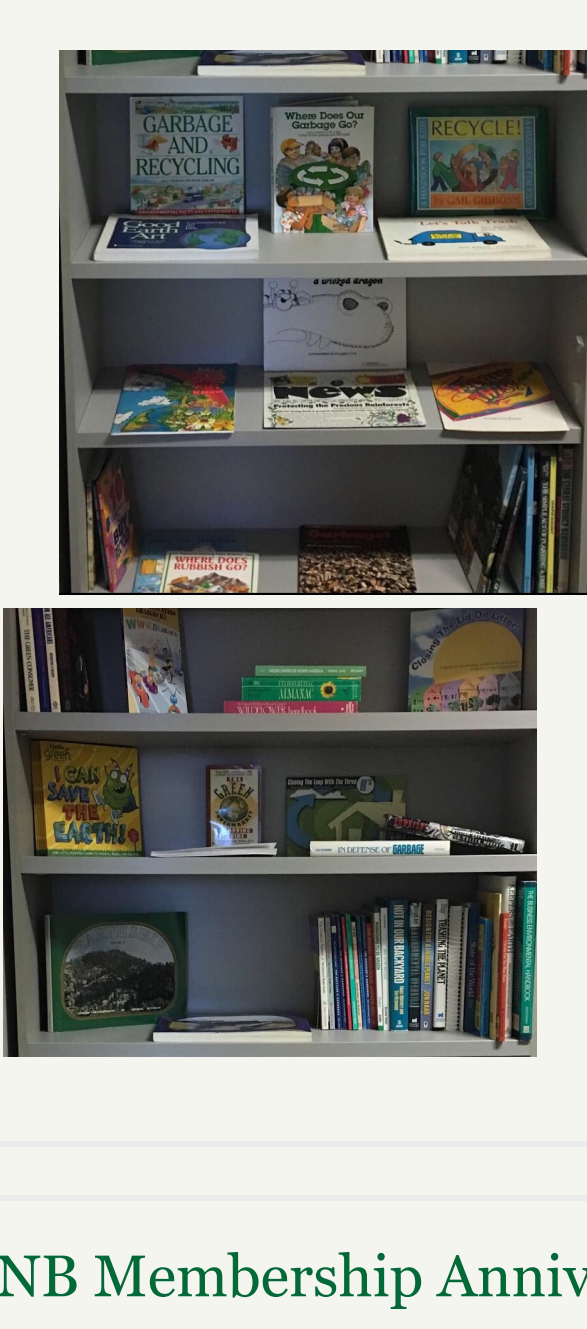
## KNB Little Library

As we're sure was the case for many an office, 2020 found us clearing out old documents, cleaning up bookshelves, and consolidating a host of materials assembled over the years. When all was said and done, we found quite the collection of



environmentally themed reading material for young and old alike! From field guides like Wildflowers Of North America, or The Environmental Almanac, to guides for environmental living like The Green Consumer or Vice President Al Gore's Earth In The Balance, we have a plethora of titles we'd love to share with others! Books can be checked out for a two week period and are generally available from 8:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Friday for pick up. If you would like to make an appointment due to COVID restrictions, feel free to contact us at [info@knb.org](mailto:info@knb.org).

3201 Pioneers Blvd #118, Lincoln, NE, 68502



## KNB Membership Anniversaries

Arbor Industries, Inc., Lincoln, NE, Supporting

Ash Grove Cement Company, Louisville, NE, Supporting

City of Auburn, Auburn, NE, Community

FAST Global Solutions, Falls City, NE, Other Corporate

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, Omaha, NE, Supporting

Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, Holdrege, NE, Non-Profit

Washington County Recycling Association, Blair, NE, Non-Profit

Justin and Chris King, Columbus, NE, 3-Year Family

A Plus Community Tree Care, Ogallala, NE, Other Corporate

City of Alma, Alma, NE, Community

City of Holdrege, Holdrege, NE, Community

City of Imperial, Imperial, NE, Community

Nebraska Public Power District, Columbus, NE, Sponsoring

Nemaha County, Nebraska, Auburn, NE, Community

Upper Loup Natural Resources District, Thedford, NE, Non-Profit

Anne E. Kramar, Omaha, NE, Senior Citizen

George H. Frye, Lincoln, NE, Senior Citizen

American Recycling, Lincoln, NE, Supporting

Keep Beatrice Beautiful, Beatrice, NE, Non-Profit

South Platte Natural Resources District, Sidney, NE, Supporting

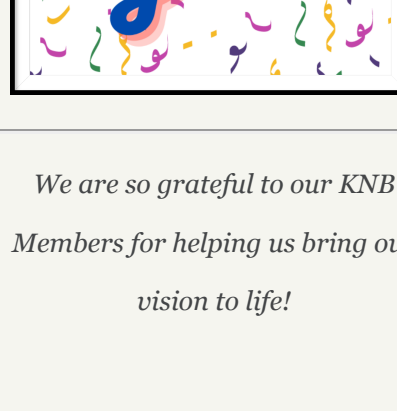
Woodward's Disposal Service, Inc., Hastings, NE, Supporting

Ken Pohlman, Omaha, NE, 3-Year Senior Citizen

Jocelyn Golden, Lincoln, NE, Supporting

Dr. Thomas and Evelyn McKnight, Fremont, NE, Supporting

Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Lincoln, NE, Community



We are so grateful to our KNB Members for helping us bring our vision to life!