

**Get to Know....**  
**DENNIS HANSEN**  
Chair of the  
**RED CLOUD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND**



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*Investing in Our Hometown*

*Dennis Hansen is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Farmer and Rancher from Red Cloud, Nebraska. He graduated from Red Cloud Community Schools in 1974 and received a bachelor's degree in Agronomy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1978. He returned to the family farm in 1980, where he resides with his wife, Sally. They have 2 sons, Matthew Hansen & Sarah Baker Hansen of Omaha, and Cole & Abbey (Williams) Hansen and granddaughter Kate of Olathe Kansas. He currently serves as the Chair of the Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund.*

**What is your favorite thing about Red Cloud?**

When I moved back to Red Cloud in 1980, I thought one of the things I wouldn't like would be that everyone knows who I am. Now it's one of my favorite things.

**What are some of your favorite businesses to shop at in Red Cloud?  
Why?**

You won't find many towns of 1000 people that have a greater variety of businesses than Red Cloud has. We are truly fortunate to have a lumber yard, bowling alley, restaurants, bars, flower shop, implement dealers, local newspaper, parts store, western clothing store, insurance agencies, book store, feed store, banks, styling salon, pharmacy, gas stations, auto repair shops, grocery store, coffee shop and even a tax preparer. If you forget to report something to the IRS, you can just go up the street and find a couple of lawyers. And I've probably not even named half of the businesses. However, if I must name one, it probably would have to be the simple pleasure of a pour-over coffee from Prairie Plum.



**You're the Chair of the Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund (RCCFF). RCCFF is in the final phase of the Rural Development Philanthropy (RDP) Challenge which has the potential to add \$300,000 to RCCFF's Legacy Endowment. Can you explain why you value being a member of RCCFF, what the campaign is, and why people should consider donating?**

*Why I value RCCFF*

It's difficult to explain to others what the Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund has done for "me". When I first started as a member, I thought I was volunteering for "them". Little did I know how much I was going to learn about people and relationships through my involvement.

*The RDP/Legacy Endowment Campaign*

With the help of the Nebraska Community Foundation, we were able to secure a challenge grant. We have until December 31<sup>st</sup> to finish raising \$200,000. The Sherwood Foundation will match \$1 for every \$2 raised, therefore we can gain an additional \$100,000. The money will be invested, and the members of the Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund will have discretion to spend 4.5% to help with projects that benefit Red Cloud every year.

*Why should people donate?*

Coretta Scott King said, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members". Being able to spend an additional \$13,500 every year to bring positive change to Red Cloud benefits all.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN HERE:

[Legacy Endowment Campaign](#)

[Click to Donate](#)

**Do you have any hobbies or interests you'd like to share?**

Obviously, I like to play golf, and I love nature and the outdoors.





**Do you have any pets?**

We used to have dogs when our kids were young but now I like to be a little more mobile. If I want to leave for a week, pets would be too inconvenient.

**What would your high school teachers or guidance counselor say about you if we asked?**

I've been out of school for a while, so most of them would probably say, "Who??"

**What are you most proud of?**

My wife Sally, our sons Matthew and Cole, our daughters-in-law Sarah and Abbey and our granddaughter Kate!



*Hansen (left) with fellow Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund members at The Valley Child Development Center in Winter 2017. Pictured from L to R: Ashley Armstrong, Todd Mahin, Jill Swartzendruber, Jarrod McCartney, Ashley Olson, Jay Hall, Kory McCracken, Stacie Heldt, and Adam Vetter. Not pictured: Jay Yost, Clint Shipman, Danny Bengel, and Ryan Sherwood.*

**Do you have a mantra or mission statement that you live by?**

The “7th generation” principle taught by Native Americans says that in every decision we must consider how it will affect our descendants seven generations into the future. That seems like a pretty solid statement to live by.

**What historical figure or celebrity would you most like to have dinner with? Why?**

Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey. They seemed to have solved a problem comparable to one that society is struggling with today. Maybe I could get some ideas.



## **Do you have any advice for someone looking to relocate to rural Nebraska?**

Be open to change. For example, if you normally shop at the local Hy-Vee that takes a 20 minute drive in traffic and a three block walk to get in the front door, to choose from 20 different kinds of toilet paper, you will have to replace that with pulling up to the front door of Hometown Market, walking down an aisle, and choosing from 3 or 4 choices of toilet paper, get a friendly hi and thanks from the cashier and be out in 3 or 4 minutes. I probably save 20-30 minutes of time that I can use to work on my golf game.



Dennis with Kate Gallagher, Sally Hansen, Kerra Robinson, Ashley Armstrong, and Danny Bengé representing The Valley Child Development Center at the Thriving Children, Families and Communities Conference

**Who is your favorite writer?**

Hands down, Willa Cather.

**What is your favorite song and/or musician?**

I like a variety of music. If I had to pick one artist, it would probably be the Eagles.

**What is your dream vacation?**

Probably somewhere on a golf course with my family.

**What's your favorite place to visit in Nebraska?**

I love the expanse of the Sandhills and the closeness of a crowded night out in the Haymarket or Old Market areas. Nebraska: honestly, it's not for everyone, but should be.





## Who has been the biggest influence in your life? Explain why.

It would have to be my parents. I think most children like to say they are nothing like their parents, but deep down, they are a lot like their parents, me included.



The City of Red Cloud won the 2018 Showcase Community Award, thanks in large part to the community's ability to pull off large projects and because of the ability of different groups and interests in the community to work together. Dennis played an integral part in helping to connect all of those different groups through his work on the Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund. Pictured L to R: Terri Eberly and Brenda Knehans (Auld Public Library); Travis Fraser (South Central State Bank and Red Cloud Chamber of Commerce); Gary Ratzlaff (Mayor of Red Cloud); Hansen, Ashley Olson (Willa Cather Foundation & RCCFF); Todd Mahin (City of Red Cloud, RCCFF, and On the Brix); Sally Hansen (TVCDC); Jarrod McCartney (Heritage Tourism, RCCFF, TVCDC, Chamber, City, Willa Cather Foundation); Marion Arneson (Willa Cather Foundation).

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