

SOLOMON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GROWING FOR GREATNESS

Welcome!

Summer has a way of bringing our communities to life. Main Streets fill with visitors, parade routes are lined with lawn chairs, county fairs showcase months of hard work, and hometown festivals remind us why so many people are proud to call Mitchell County home. It's a season that celebrates tradition, neighbors, and the places that connect us.

Behind every parade, fundraiser, and community celebration are people willing to give of themselves. Volunteers, donors, businesses, nonprofits, and local leaders all play a role in creating the experiences that make our communities special. At SVCF, we're honored to help that generosity create lasting impact through grants, charitable funds, and partnerships that strengthen Mitchell County.



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As you enjoy everything summer has to offer, I encourage you to consider how you can make a difference. Whether it's volunteering, supporting a local project, or investing in a cause you care about, every act of generosity helps build a stronger community.

Thank you for being part of what makes Mitchell County such a remarkable place. We hope you enjoy this summer edition of Growing for Greatness.

— *Julia Rabe*

New Fund Spotlight!

MITCHELL COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHES NEW ORGANIZATION FUND

A Legacy for the Next Generation

For generations, the Mitchell County Fair has been more than a summer tradition. Whether exhibiting livestock, competing in 4-H, volunteering alongside neighbors, or cheering from the grandstands, countless Mitchell County residents have memories tied to the fair. Those experiences shape not only future agricultural leaders but also a deep appreciation for community, service, and hard work.

This year, the Mitchell County Fair Association took an important step toward preserving that tradition by establishing an Organization Fund with SVCF. The new fund provides a permanent charitable vehicle for donors who wish to support the future of the fair through tax-deductible gifts, memorial donations, and estate planning.

Why Now?

The idea began with a single conversation...

An anonymous donor approached SVCF with the desire to include the Mitchell County Fair in their estate plans. While the Fair Association had long received questions from community members interested in making charitable gifts, there wasn't a simple way to accept planned gifts or establish a permanent endowment. Working alongside the Fair Association, SVCF helped navigate the process of establishing the nonprofit structure and charitable

fund needed to honor that donor's wishes. Today, that opportunity is available to anyone who wants to invest in the future of the Mitchell County Fair.

"Agriculture has shaped our family for generations. Supporting the fair is one way we can help ensure young people continue to experience the values of hard work, responsibility, and stewardship that come with it."

– Anonymous Planned Giving Donor

More than One Gift

While one donor inspired the journey, the impact reaches much further.

The Mitchell County Fair Association Organization Fund creates a lasting source of charitable support that can grow over time through gifts of all sizes. Future earnings from the fund can help strengthen and preserve the fair for generations to come, ensuring this cherished tradition continues to serve youth, agriculture, and the entire community.



Every charitable goal is different. Sometimes it's supporting a favorite nonprofit. Sometimes it's creating a scholarship, honoring a loved one, or leaving a gift through an estate plan.

Community foundations exist to help make those goals possible.

By providing charitable expertise, fund management, and planned giving solutions, SVCF helps donors create lasting legacies while helping organizations build sustainable futures.

"Sometimes our role is helping donors discover the best way to give. Other times it's helping organizations prepare to receive those gifts. In this case, we were able to do both- creating an opportunity that will benefit the Mitchell County Fair and future generations of Mitchell County families." - Julia Rabe

As a volunteer organization we value the partnership with the SVCF to ensure the current and future success of the Mitchell County Fairgrounds and the programs it hosts. We have strong community support and want to maintain that for generations to come."

- Melinda Latham, MC Fair Board Treasurer.



WAYS TO SUPPORT THE FAIR

- ✓ Current Gifts
- ✓ Memorial Gifts
- ✓ IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions
- ✓ Estate & Planned Gifts
- ✓ Appreciated Assets

To learn more about supporting the Mitchell County Fair Association Organization Fund, contact SVCF.





Growing Generosity

THREE YEARS OF GIVE TO GROW

What started as a new idea has quickly become one of Mitchell County's signature celebrations of generosity.



This spring, Solomon Valley Community Foundation hosted its third annual Give to Grow, generating \$134,519 in charitable impact for 32 nonprofit organizations across Mitchell County through community donations and SVCF's annual matching pool.

More than a fundraiser, Give to Grow is designed to help nonprofits build long-term sustainability through endowed funds while bringing together donors, businesses, volunteers, and families to celebrate the organizations that strengthen our communities.



Three years after its launch, Give to Grow continues to demonstrate what's possible when a community comes together around a shared purpose.

From local businesses sponsoring hourly prizes and youth giving opportunities to volunteers donating their time and energy, each partner helps make the event possible. Alongside SVCF's annual matching pool, these contributions create an experience that celebrates generosity while helping local nonprofits build stronger, more sustainable futures.

TOTAL NUMBERS

- **\$379,656** Total Community Impact
- **\$130,000** Matching Dollars Invested
- **1,404** Gifts Received
- **300+** Fifth Graders Introduced to Philanthropy
- **15** of Endowed Funds Created



Interested in helping expand the impact of Give to Grow? SVCF welcomes conversations with individuals, businesses, and organizations interested in supporting future events, including opportunities to help grow the Give to Grow matching pool. Contact Executive Director Julia Rabe to learn more.

A Summer Tradition

SVCF HELPS KEEP AMERICA'S PASTIME ALIVE

Few things say summer in Mitchell County quite like the crack of a bat, kids chasing fly balls, and families gathered around the ballfield on warm evenings.

Behind every game is an incredible team of volunteers, parents, coaches, concession workers, grounds crews, city staff, and community supporters, who donate countless hours to give local youth the opportunity to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. It's these dedicated volunteers, along with community support, that keep summer baseball and softball thriving across Mitchell County.

Over the past years, Solomon Valley Community Foundation has been proud to invest in several projects that strengthen the places where these memories are made.

- **Over 350 Local Athletes.**
- **30 Teams.**
- **Hundreds of Volunteers.**

ONE INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY.

Beloit Baseball Organization

A grant helped construct a new press box and storage facility serving Beloit High School, American Legion, and K-18 baseball programs. The shared facility improves game operations while supporting athletes of all ages. *(Fall 2024)*

USD 273 Softball

SVCF awarded a grant to support the construction of a new press box at the Beloit High School softball field, enhancing the experience for players, coaches, officials, and fans. *(Fall 2025)*

Waconda Baseball Association

A grant helped fund updates to the concession stand—the organization's largest annual fundraiser. *(Spring 2025)*

Eugene Schmitt Tipton Youth Sports Fund

This fund helps keep the tradition of youth sports thriving in Tipton by providing annual grants that support local athletic programs, including the community baseball league.

Beloit's Dream Big 2.0 Project

Mitchell County residents recently selected the expansion of Beloit's baseball fields as the city's Dream Big project. The \$10,000 SVCF Impact Grant will help launch a long-term vision of developing a sports complex capable of hosting youth tournaments, welcoming visiting families, and creating new opportunities for community growth.





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**NOW ACCEPTING
FALL GRANT APPLICATIONS
JULY 1ST - AUG 1ST**

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GROWING FOR GREATNESS

SUMMER 2026

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SVCF board members and staff at Give to Grow 2026

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