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Our mission is to inspire and educate individuals to take daily actions to improve and beautify their community environment.

KCCB Board of Directors
 President: Debbie Vidlak
 Vice President: Terry Lorensen
 Secretary: Rachel Brandenburg
 Treasurer: Lois Froistad
 Members: John Baroni, Roger Behrns, Karin Forrest, Rick Yoder
 Exec. Director: Linda Behrns
 Assist. Director: Dana Stahl
Presentations: Contact us for free environmental programs for youth groups, schools or community organizations.

Financing is provided by the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy, Cass County, local business partners and members. KCCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Close the loop...Buy recycled!



"Thank You"
2021 KCCB Partners

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Community Recycling

We are proud to announce that due to many requests from individuals and a lot of work from the village of Eagle board members, Eagle once again has recycling available! Two containers are now in use at the Eagle village office parking lot for Eagle residents. One container will be used to collect cardboard items and the other for single stream recycling.

Lake WaConDa residents also have an opportunity to recycle again using the new recycling container located behind their community center. After their individual household recycling program was canceled, Lake WaConDa residents decided to go back to a community recycling container. Both communities are participating in the Cass County shared-fee program that uses a third party hauling agreement. Recycling is not free and we commend both of these communities and the Cass County commissioners for their financial support and efforts to provide this service.

KCCB provided educational materials and the signage on the bins to help residents recycle right. Please follow the recycle guidelines on the containers. "Wishcycling" only harms the recycle process and can result in a sizable fine to the community if the wrong materials are put in the container. If you have any questions regarding recycling, contact the village of Eagle, Kim Sherwin, Lake WaConDa HOA secretary or KCCB.



From the *Plattsmouth Journal*, the Plattsmouth City Council recently approved a three-year agreement for continued recycling services for its residents. Under the new plan, the city will pay Papillion Sanitation a bi-weekly rate of \$185 which will be paid by city taxpayers from the city's general fund. The recycling site is located on city-owned property on East Main Street.

Congratulations to the village of Eagle, Lake WaConDa HOA and the Plattsmouth City Council who recognize the need to provide this service for their residents. We're happy that recyclable resources will be diverted from the landfill due to these combined efforts.



Programs: KCCB recently provided holiday activities for after-school programs at Conestoga Elementary and Plattsmouth Middle Schools. About sixty youth learned how to make all natural, recycled or repurposed holiday ornaments and décor. Thanks to the amazing teachers and volunteers who helped students learn that not all gifts come from an online order or a store.

KCCB Retirements: After nearly a decade of guiding the KCCB organization, board members John Baroni, Roger Behrns and Rick Yoder will be completing their terms of office at the end of the year. Each of them has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to KCCB. They've attended many board meetings, planted trees, developed policies, collected recyclables and helped with multiple events. We appreciate their time and talents that have helped our organization become a valuable resource for Cass County residents. Thank you for your service to KCCB!

Linda Behrns, executive director for the past eight years, will be retiring at end of the year. Dana Stahl, current assistant director, will be assuming the executive director position. "Thank you all for your support of me as we've seen the organization grow and grow!" Linda



Sustainability
Spotlight
Feature

Bits and Pieces—Elmwood

by Dana Stahl, Assistant Director

When visiting the peaceful but vibrant town of Elmwood, it is likely that you'll spot Bits and Pieces, a popular resale store frequented not only by locals but many out of towners as well. While perusing the store, I found many items that caught my eye such as a flashy yellow vintage jacket, an unopened USA made tablecloth from the 70's and beautiful antique Christmas décor. I interviewed resident Kurk Shrader (rt.), the manager of Bits and Pieces and the curator of the historic Bess Streeter Aldrich home, to learn about Bits and Pieces humble beginnings. Shrader shared that what started out as a temporary fundraiser, turned into a long-term boon for the community.



When in 1994, the Elmwood Christian Church burned down, the church was seeking a way to raise funds to rebuild. An idea was hatched to rent a space in town to sell donated merchandise throughout the summer. When fundraising goals were quickly met and exceeded in months, it was decided instead of a short-term venture, to keep the store operating as an ongoing way to support the church and other community projects in Elmwood such as the Elmwood Learning Center. "We started out renting a small 600 square foot building, but it has since grown to being an over 3,000 square foot store," Shrader stated. Bits and Pieces is volunteer run so overhead costs are kept low.

Bits and Pieces is committed to the "R's" reuse, repurpose, and recycle. Nearly all items donated are used or repurposed. In addition, clothing that isn't suitable to be resold is donated to a company that turns clothing into rags to be reused and scrap metal is saved to be recycled as well. They also try to reuse and recycle other items when possible. Shrader shared, "Our philosophy has always been to be good stewards of what we've been given." Additionally, Bits and Pieces supports the community by promoting literacy. Each child who enters the store is given a free book to read. "They can come in every day of the year if they want and get a free book," says Shrader. Bits and Pieces prime location on main street also serves as a great location to get the word out for local events. Currently, Bits and Pieces is serving as a collection site for KCCB's Holiday Light Recycling drive to help divert even more landfill waste. Due to Covid-19, the store transitioned from in-store shopping only to an online presence of posting materials for sale on social media which opened an even broader audience to view and purchase items.

If traveling through historic Elmwood, be sure not to miss a stop at the delightful Bits and Pieces store. Open Tuesday-Saturday. Contact Kurk Shrader for more information. Bits and Pieces accepts donations from individuals both in Elmwood and outside of town. We thank Kurk and all the many devoted volunteers of Bits and Pieces for your ongoing commitment to reduce, reuse and recycle and for enriching the Elmwood community in so many special ways!

Christmas Light Recycle Drive!



We've added another new event this year! We are in the middle of our very first holiday string light recycle drive! KCCB recycle bins are located at eight locations throughout the county to make it easy for all Cass County residents to participate in recycling lights. The lights will be taken to a recycling facility in Omaha where we'll receive a small payment for the lights as a KCCB fundraiser. From there, they will be disassembled and recycled. If you have any questions, please contact us! The drive is open until January 10th. Thanks to all who have donated nonworking lights so far!

Participating locations are: **Beaver Lake Clubhouse, Bits and Pieces in Elmwood; Eagle Village Office, Louisville Public Library, Murray Village Office, Plattsmouth Public Library, Union Village Office and Weeping Water Public Library.**

KCCB Receives 4-H
Achievement Award

We were honored to receive the 2021 Meritorious Service Award at the Cass County 4-H Annual Achievement Party held at the Cass County Fairgrounds on November 7. KCCB was recognized for providing supplies and leading 4-H youth litter cleanups after the Cass County Fairs for many years plus providing workshops for 4-H youth.



KAB Conference in
Washington DC.



KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL

By Dana Stahl, Assistant Director

Keep America Beautiful was finally able to hold their national conference this year in Washington DC. The conference was held at the Washington Hilton from November 15th-17th. It was fitting to be at a KAB conference on America Recycles Day, November 15th. I was excited to attend my first national conference and take many ideas back to Nebraska with me to use going into 2022!

The primary focus of the conference this year was discussing the results of the national litter study conducted this past year and brainstorming ideas about how to combat the high amount of litter located throughout the United States. The study showed that there are approximately 50 billion pieces of litter along our roadways and 20 billion pieces along waterways. Breaking these numbers down, it equates to 152 pieces of litter per person, hence the **#152andyou campaign** we've been promoting this year at various events. With cigarette butts being the most common littered item, many communities have acted by placing cigarette urns throughout their towns to offer a better alternative and focusing on educating their community. The good news is, there has been a 54% reduction in litter since 2009, but we still have a long way to go to be a litter free country, especially adding COVID PPE and increased disposables to the mix. We have taken many measures to work towards our litter free goal as well by adding the "Adopt a Spot" program, providing litter cleanup supplies to groups, distributing reusable litter bags, cigarette car and pocket containers and educating thousands of Cass County children.

The experience of attending national conference, meeting like-minded individuals, and learning new information will have a lasting impact on me and has inspired me to move into the new year with new ideas and confidence. Though we still have so much work to do in Cass County, I believe that much progress is being made. Please contact me if you wish to do a litter cleanup.

Support KCCB While Shopping Any Time of the Year at [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Select **Keep Cass County Beautiful** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation of 0.5% to KCCB. Thanks for your support!