

### *Elwood Area Foundation Hosts 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Gala*



The Elwood Civic Center was the location for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Elwood Area Foundation Spring Gala, with more than 290 people in attendance. The event, held on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, included a social hour, dinner, and silent and live auctions. Nearly 200 auction items were up for grabs, with choices to suit any budget and taste. There were handcrafted creations, antiques, cooking classes and fine wine, trips, children's items, and much more. Two lucky winners walked away with cold hard cash from the Split the Pot Raffle. The Jessy Karr Band closed

out the evening with live music and a chance for dancing.

Thanks to the support of the Elwood Area community and all those who donated and attended, the event was a huge success! The net amount raised was \$45,000. Of the proceeds, \$30,000 will be given to a community project, and \$15,000 will be used to further the EAF mission of encouraging, enhancing and providing opportunities for charitable giving, including youth grants. A recipient for the proceeds has not yet been designated, but there are many important community projects that are under consideration.



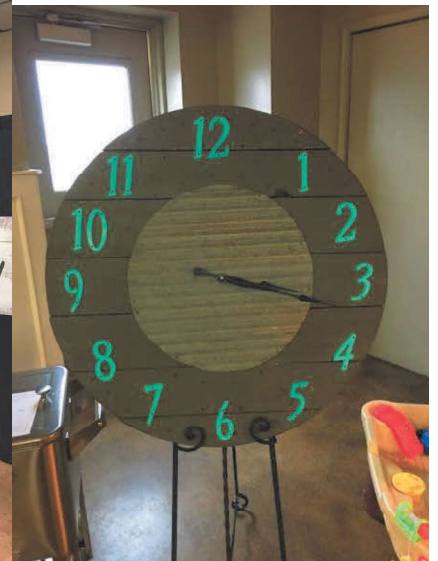
The decorating committee and set-up crew worked hard on the gorgeous table arrangements.



The Elwood Area Foundation Board and the Gala Committee are grateful for the continued support of those who contribute to the Gala. Because of your generosity, the Elwood Area Foundation is able to give back to the community.

Thank you for your support!

Just a few of the silent auction items available.





## COUNTY FARMERS DIRECTS AMERICA'S FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES DONATION TO ELWOOD AREA FOUNDATION

*Farmers Make a Difference in Rural Communities by Directing Donations from Monsanto Fund's America's Farmers Grow Communities Program to Local Nonprofit Organizations*

The America's Farmers Grow Communities program will provide more than \$3 million in financial support to nonprofits across the US in 2017. Since 2010, the America's Farmers Grow Communities program has given more than \$26 million to more than 8,000 nonprofits across rural America.

ELWOOD, Nebraska – Gosper County farmers Tyler and Lindsey Kugler have won the opportunity to direct a \$2,500 dollar donation from the [America's Farmers Grow Communities](#) program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, to the Elwood Area Foundation.

The Elwood Area Foundation will work together with the Village of Elwood to use the funds for improvements at the Elwood Village Park by adding a nine-hole disc golf course. This new equipment will be available for use by people of all ages and ability.

“We are so thankful to the Kuglers for honoring EAF with this nomination. Using this grant to make improvements at the park allows us to have an even greater impact on the youth in our community. While the new equipment can be used by all ages, we look forward to offering something that will appeal to older kids and young adults,” said Melissa Vinzant, EAF Executive Director.

The Grow Communities program's purpose is to make a positive impact in farm communities by partnering with farmers to support the causes that are important to them in their communities. Each year, farmers enter for a chance to win a \$2,500 donation that they direct to a local nonprofit.

Since the program began in 2010, farmers have directed more than \$26 million in donations across a broad cross-section of organizations that reflect the makeup and character of rural America, including food banks, emergency response organizations, schools, youth agriculture programs and many others.

“Farmers have directed funds to more than 8,000 community organizations across rural America since Grow Communities began,” said Al Mitchell, Monsanto Fund president. “Farmers are truly committed to this program because they see the difference the donation makes in their community.”

For more information or to see a complete list of the 2017 America's Farmers Grow Communities recipients, visit [www.GrowCommunities.com](http://www.GrowCommunities.com).

### **About America's Farmers**

The America's Farmers campaign highlights the importance of modern US Agriculture through communications and community outreach programs that partner with farmers to impact rural America. To learn more, visit America's Farmers at [www.AmericasFarmers.com](http://www.AmericasFarmers.com).

### **About the Monsanto Fund**

The Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Monsanto Company employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at [www.monsantofund.org](http://www.monsantofund.org).