

Community Foundation completes Hunt Challenge

By raising \$150,000, Hunt family adds another \$50,000 to endowment

By Russ PANKONIN
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Sixteen months ahead of the deadline, the Imperial Community Foundation raised \$150,000 in order to meet a \$50,000 challenge grant offered by the Hunt family.

A \$10,000 donation received last week put the foundation over the top in raising the \$150,000 goal, according to board member Elna Johnson.

"But we're not done yet," Johnson said to a crowd during the Pinnacle Bank ribbon cutting Wednesday, Aug. 30.

"This is a great boost towards the next goal of \$1 million by 2015," she added.

A ribbon of 100 \$100 bills was cut in front of Pinnacle Bank and then given to the foundation by President Kelly Hammerlun.

Johnson said contributions from many businesses, other local banks and many individuals have all been key in reaching the goal.

The foundation launched a Star Builder program, allowing donors to become a Star Builder by pledging to contribute \$1,000 or more to the foundation over a three-year period.

Thus far, the foundation has 83 Star Builder members who have

made gifts and/or pledges. In addition, 47 other gifts in the form of memorials and other contributions have also been made.

Johnson said other planned giving through wills and estate planning is also in place for the future.

Endowment remains in place

Johnson said all the money raised for this challenge and the \$1 million campaign will be put into an endowment fund. The principle will remain intact, with only the interest used to fund community activities and efforts.

She noted Imperial is a great community because of those who went before and laid the groundwork. "Now, it's our turn to continue that," she added.

Speaking after the ribbon cutting, Roy Dinsdale, founder of Pinnacle Bancorp, said a local foundation is key to the growth of a community.

He said he remembers helping start a community foundation in Central City in 1967. Today, that foundation is worth more than \$12 million.

The Imperial Community Foundation is planning a future celebration to recognize completion of the Hunt Challenge.

Foundation board members include Johnson, Elsie Newman, Dan Reeves, Lori Pankonin, Doug Gaswick, Jane Moreland and Cyndi Weiss.

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