



SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Strategic Doing Initiatives

Strategic Doing teaches people how to form collaborations quickly, move them toward measurable outcomes and make adjustments along the way. In today's world, collaboration is essential to meet the complex challenges we face. Strategic Doing enables leaders to design and guide new networks that generate innovative solutions. It is a new strategy discipline that is lean, agile and fast—just what organizations, communities and regions need to survive and thrive.

BACKGROUND

In March of 2017, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation trustees announced support of the Strategic Doing initiative in NW Kansas. All 26 counties that the Hansen Foundation serves are participating in the process.

After three years of funding unrestricted County-wide grants, the Trustees wanted to challenge counties to think longer term and really consider how these county-wide funds could be used to support both preservation and growth in our NW Kansas communities. Strategic Doing training have been provided as a tool to help counties learn the process for this broader thinking.

County-wide efforts should encompass many organizations and individuals. Strategic Doing encourages broad participation. In most instances, the numbers of people coming together to begin the *dreaming* and *doing* in NW Kansas has been impressive.

WHAT ARE WE DOING IN SHERIDAN COUNTY?

The Sheridan County Community Foundation has an agreement with the Hansen Foundation to continue supporting and using the Strategic Doing Initiative and process in order to continue receiving unrestricted grant funds from the Hansen Foundation that we can grant locally to our area organizations.

The Sheridan County Community Foundation has spearheaded the Strategic Doing initiative by convening residents to discuss opportunities for betterment. Committees have been formed and/or area organizations have taken on specific projects to work on through the years. The community meetings are designed to get things started, the strategic part if you will. The *Doing* part will happen both now and into the future!

Several past Strategic Doing projects in the county have included the Hoxie Grade School playground renovation, Hoxie Recreation Community Center, a community garden, and various upgrades to the hospital.

Current Strategic Doing projects

- **Technical/Equipment Upgrades to the Hoxie High School Auditorium**
 - Phase 1 is Complete! (Audio/Visual upgrades, new stage floor, and backstage area repainted)
 - Phase 2, which includes upgrading the stage lighting system, is ongoing.
- **Wayfinder Signage on Hoxie Main Street**
 - Directional signs indicating key landmarks in Hoxie were installed on Main Street in Summer 2022. The project was spearheaded by the Hoxie Rotary Club in coordination with the City of Hoxie.
- **Pocket Park Project**
 - Past committees have been formed but no progress has been made.
- **Park Improvements**
 - A committee has previously worked on ideas to update the Hoxie Pool Park. Additional action is needed.
- **Childcare**
 - The Foundation along with a local childcare committee worked diligently through the latter half of 2021 and into 2022 to help address the current childcare needs of Sheridan County. From that work, two projects were developed, and funding was raised.
 - The **Hoxie First Steps USD 412 School Daycare** opened on October 10, 2022. The daycare is housed in a modular home that is situated directly north of the grade school. The daycare offers childcare slots to school personnel first with remaining openings available to the public.
 - The **Daycare Duplex Facility**, which is being constructed by the Sheridan County Community Foundation, will feature two units for new, private childcare providers to lease. The units will be furnished with many of the furniture, equipment and items needed for new daycares to get off the ground. The estimated construction completed date is April 2023. More information to come!

If you are interested in joining a project committee or have a new project in mind that would benefit from the Strategic Doing process, contact the Foundation at 785-675-1240 or director@growsheridancounty.org for more information.

Photos of Current Projects



New sound board at the Hoxie High School Auditorium.



Wayfinder Signage on Hoxie Main Street.



School daycare modular located north of the grade school.



Foundation's daycare duplex under construction.