



Meg Courter
Development Manager

“**THOUSANDS
OF IOWANS
ENJOY SIMILAR
TRADITIONS WHICH
ARE SHARED WITH
US THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR.**”

GENERATIONS OF

Tradition

W

Whether life-long east-siders, residents who live in the wider Des Moines metro, families who travel from various corners of our state, or even outside of Iowa - attending the Iowa State Fair is a tradition for so many.

Once inside the gates, where your group goes first and what attractions or concession stands you visit is generally the same Fair after Fair. For families, the first request parents might hear from their kiddos is “let’s go see the Butter Cow,” or perhaps they beg to test their bravery on their favorite Thrill Park ride. Fairgoers just can’t miss the activities that bring back those wonderful memories. It’s comfortable and comforting to accomplish the goals tradition prescribes for Fairgoers.

Often, the most meaningful is the search for a family brick or time spent sitting on a bench honoring a loved one. This is where tradition comes full circle. For these Fairgoers, the stories that are told year after year - about where Grandpa and Grandma camped, about individuals who haven’t missed a Fair, or about the generations who’ve shown livestock - all come down to doing something we love with friends and family. These stories are what make traditions so special.

Earlier this summer, the Blue Ribbon Foundation was contacted by Lisa Myers of Conroe, Texas. She needed help locating a bench honoring her grandparents, Edward and Lula Mander. Lisa planned to bring her grandson Cooper from Texas to experience the Iowa State Fair and learn more about Edward and Lula’s love for the Fair. Staff was thrilled to be able to help her locate the bench and learn more about her family’s connection to the Iowa State Fair.

Edward and Lula’s enthusiasm for the Fair reflected their pride in being Iowa farmers. It was a chance to get away from the farm, after completing most of the summer work and before harvest. They traveled from their farm near Lawton in Northeast Iowa and stayed in their pickup camper on the campgrounds. Catching up with their campground “neighbors” was essential.

From her childhood, Lisa recalls joining Edward and Lula in these favorite Fair activities, seeing the Butter Cow, admiring the beautiful vegetables at the Agriculture Building, watching the cows being milked and grabbing ice cream at the Dairy Barn. The family would finish the day by listening to fiddlers and viewing the displays in Pioneer Hall.

“Bringing my grandson to the Fair that was so integral to my summers as I was growing up was incredibly special,” said Lisa. “Cooper walked in the footsteps of his great-great grandparents during our time at the Fair, and we shared some quiet, restful moments seated on their bench. It felt like a circle had been completed bringing him to a place so laced with memories of my grandparents.”

Thousands of Iowans enjoy similar traditions which are shared with us throughout the year. The Blue Ribbon Foundation is pleased to make these special opportunities available through our various giving programs for individuals who wish to commemorate traditions or honor their loved ones.



Cooper at his first Iowa State Fair sitting on the bench of his great, great grandparents

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NOTED!

• SAVE THE DATES

Corndog Kickoff:

Saturday, July 12, 2025

Iowa State Fair:

August 7-17, 2025

- The Blue Ribbon Foundation will host an online Iowa State Fair souvenir auction November 14-17, 2024. Select lapel pins, ornaments and other memorabilia will be available for bid.
- Do you receive our monthly ENews? If not, please send your email address to Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org and we'll add you to the list.

NEED TO CONTACT US?

CALL

515-262-3111 Ext. 371

EMAIL

Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org

MAIL

P.O. Box 57130

Des Moines, IA 50317

www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org

STAFF

The Blue Ribbon Foundation staff consists of five full-time employees.

Peter Cownie, Executive Director, oversees the entire operation.

Robin Taylor, Assistant Director, tracks all accounting records, orders Fair merchandise and directs the auction portion of the Corndog Kickoff.

Julianna Curtis, Sponsorship Director, coordinates all sponsorships for the Iowa State Fair.

Meg Courter, Development Manager, organizes volunteers, manages the database and coordinates the Corndog Kickoff.

Drew Sniezek, Communications Manager, organizes giving programs and oversees all communications and event planning.



IOWA STATE FAIR
BLUE RIBBON
FOUNDATION



A Piece of the Puzzle

2024 CORNDOG KICKOFF BENEFIT AUCTION AND FAIR FOOD GRAZING PARTY



The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation's 2024 Corndog Kickoff Benefit Auction and Fair Food Grazing Party highlighted the fundraising piece of the Iowa State Fair puzzle with the help of many generous donors. The celebration raised a total of \$766,684 toward the renovation and preservation of the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds!

More than 2,000 Iowa State Fair lovers gathered for a night full of fun and food in the William C. Knapp Varied Industries

Building to raise money for various projects around the grounds. The Blue Ribbon Foundation auctioned off 31 live and 283 silent auction packages.

"The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation is beyond grateful for each contribution that made this year's Corndog Kickoff a success," said Peter Cownie, Blue Ribbon Foundation Executive Director. "Your support allows us to continue preserving the history of the Iowa State Fair, while improving the grounds and the facilities for your children, your grandchildren and all Fairgoers."

A special thank you to Corndog Kickoff patrons, concessionaires, auction donors, volunteers and guests for helping make this year's event a success. Mark your calendars to attend the 2025 Corndog Kickoff on Saturday, July 12.



IOWA STATE FAIR

Highlights

- Thank you for supporting these specific improvement projects in 2024: Ye Old Mill, Agriculture Building ramp and doors, Jacobson Square, Iowa State Fair Police Headquarters, campgrounds bathhouse, water bottle refilling stations, paved handicapped parking lot, Hillcrest Dorm's roof, parking lot lighting and sidewalks by the Anne and Bill Riley Stage.
- The Blue Ribbon Foundation sold a record \$679,000 worth of merchandise during the Iowa State Fair. Top selling items were t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and the Butter Cow stuffed animal. In addition, more than 65,000 bottles of water were sold. Both of these fundraisers wouldn't be possible without the help of our outstanding volunteers.
- The Sheep Barn renovation included the restoration of the brick, remodeled existing restrooms and added new ones, updated offices, repainted the interior, installation of underground storm sewer on the north, west, and east sides and new sun-shading for the show arena. The renovation will be complete with the installation of the restored terra cotta on the east end of the barn.
- Thank you to the Iowa Auctioneers Association for graciously donating the profits from their auctioneer showcase during the Fair. Congratulations to Quest Flesner, the Bid Calling Grand Champion at the event.
- Thank you to Painting with a Twist for offering painting classes to Fairgoers during the Iowa State Fair. The classes raised \$1,734 toward our mission. Participants truly enjoyed all the fun of the Fair and made memories they will cherish for many years to come.
- The Blue Ribbon Foundation hosted our BINGO fundraiser on the Grand Concourse for two days! 80 games were played each day with an average of 40 Fairgoers playing each game, helping the Blue Ribbon Foundation raise \$5,286.50.
- Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket for the luxury vacation in Turks and Caicos. The raffle raised \$19,050 toward our mission. We hope the winner enjoys their trip!
- The Woodcarvers' Auction raised \$78,146. All proceeds from the auction are dedicated to Our Fair's Future, the Blue Ribbon Foundation's endowment fund. A special thank you to Chainsaw Artists – Gary Keenan, T.J. Jenkins and Clint Henik for producing such outstanding pieces of art.



THANK YOU

Volunteers!



As we reflect on the Iowa State Fair, our appreciation for the 647 incredible Blue Ribbon Foundation volunteers remains unwavering. Thank you for your time and talent in making the 2024 Iowa State Fair a tremendous success.

Volunteers contributed an impressive 5,254 hours across 1,371 shifts, playing a crucial role in fundraising for the renovation and preservation of the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds. Your efforts in selling merchandise and bottled water, assisting with Jake's Club and BINGO, and promoting the Blue Ribbon Foundation's mission have made a significant impact.

WE ARE CONTINUALLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



Paige Abshire
Sonya Ackerson
Patti Adamovicz
Tom Adams
Cindy Adams
Sherree Adams
JoAnn Adamson
Terry Adamson
George Akes
Mallory Albright
Lori Alderson
Amanda Alderson
Juli Aldrich
Cassie Aldrich
Karen Alessio
Brad Allen
Robin Allen
Lauri Allen
Lindsey Allen
Mary Amadeo
Grace Amadeo
Grace Ambrose
Lisa Anderson
Hannah Anderson
Angie Arendt
Sharon Arendt
Dave Arens
Linda Arkema
Ervin Arkema
Justin Arnold
Kendra Arnold
Jacob Arrington
Jerry Arthur
Florida Arthur
Shawn Barnds
Paul Barnds
Andrea Barry
David Barry
Kate Bason
Chelsea Baudler
Teresa Bazzocco
Nicole Beary
Patrick Beckerdite

Deanna Bennigsdorf
Darin Bennigsdorf
Lance Bergeson
Sylvia Bergeson
Ron Bergfeld
Marilyn Bergman
Christy Berkenbosch
Jane Berry
Darcie Berry
Marsha Betlach
Steve Betlach
Kim Bigsby
Barbara Birchmier
Adeline Birchmier
Marlow Birchmier
Heidi Blessing
Arlene Blue
Mindy Blue
Melinda Blythe
Benjamin Bobier
Crystal Bobier
Molly Bock
Kerri Boender
Dave Boender
Elaine Bohling
Lynn Bohling
Mark Bohner
Jo Bond
Brooklin Border
Patrice Bork
Jean Bowden
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Connie Bowen
Cheryl Bowman
Ave Boyle
Pam Bradford
Christine Branstad
Tess Bredemeyer
Lee Brentlinger
Carol Brentlinger
Bree Bridgeman
Teresa Brown
Laura Brown

Kieran Brown
Diana Burch
Lawren Burch
Ami Burns
Tara Burow
Lori Busma
Tom Cameron
Randy Campbell
Darlene Cangas
LuAnn Carlson
Joyce Carpenter
Joyce Carr
Mike Carter
Darla Carver
Mark Carver
Meredith Caster
Dan Chambers
Pam Chambers
Sandy Chenney
Jaci Chiovaro
Zosh Choda
Diane Claey
Teresa Clevenger
Caren Clevenger
Melissa Clines
Peggy Cokeley
Sara Cole
Heather Collier
Deb Connor
Emma Cook
Emily Cook
Sherri Cooney
Susan Corbett
Don Corrigan
Deborah Cossolotto
Brenda Cox
Barb Crock
Janice Crouch
Doug Cutts
Ann Cutts
Jodi Daggett
Ryann Daggett
Linda Daniels

Kristin Davenport
Livia Davenport
Savanna Davenport
Jon Davis
Erik Davis
Carla Davis
Sharon Dawley
Cindy Deaton
Donna Decker
Marty DeDecker
Deb DeDecker
Debra Dell
Natalee Dermer
Steve Despotovich
Erika Dethrow
Julie DeVries
Phyllis DeVries
John DeVries
Mary Kay Dial
Carole Dickerson
Judy Dillenburg
Jessica Dinh
Richi Dorr
Cindy Dougherty
Makenzie Dubbin
Jennifer Duke
Kristy Dullard
Roxanne Dunn
Natalie Dunn
Elizabeth Dworkin
Sheri Edwards
Gary Edwards
Joy Elder
Karen Elrod
Laura Erickson
Rene Erlandson
Marilyn Erlandson
Ann Erlandson-Brown
Vickie Farver
Jeff Farver
Amy Feld
Allison Feldhacker
Ayla Feldhacker

Lisa Felice
Shaun Finnegan
Linda Finzen-Mathers
Samantha Fisher
Sue Fisher
Niki Fisher
Dawn Fitzgerald
Sharon Foddrill
Tracy Forbes
Neiley-Joy Forkah-Musoro
Shawn Foster-Tait
Margo Fox
Chris Fox
Sara Francy
Molly Francy
Linda Fyfe
Karen Fynaardt
Irene Gardner
Kathleen Garlisch
Jan Gaudian
Juanita Gilley
Jeff Gilley
Gina Glass
Susan Glick
Nikki Goodell
Linda Goodell
Lavon Goodrich
Angela Goodrich
Audrey Gorham
Clara Gorham
Dane Gorham
Linda Grabau
Melissa Graeve
Janet Grant
Jenni Green
Barry Green
Sally Greenfield
Nancy Greening
Mary Grieser
Bob Griffis
Kevin Griffith
George Griffith
Linda Groenendyk

Kim Groh
Lois Gunderson
Dan Gunderson
Cindy Haars
Julie Haefner
Julie Hagerty
Brett Halley
Charlene Haluska
John Haluska
Debbie Hamblin
Rick Hamblin
Julie Hanel
Norma Hanke
Kathy Hansen
Maureen Hanson
Olivia Hanson
Henry Hanson
Lisa Hanson
Carolyn Hanson
Robert Hartley
Kathy Harms
Nola Harper
Julie Harriman
Jill Harryman
Suzy Hart
Perry Hartley
Suzanne Hartley
Patricia Hartley
Holly Hartman
Ray Hartz
Owen Haus
Amy Haus
Elliott Haus
Olivia Haus
Abby Hawkins
Rodney Hawkins
Christine Healy
Steven Heinle
Abby Henry
Kim Henson
Sheryl Herrold
Roberta Hersom
Marcia Hewitt

Chris Higdon	Jennifer Kucera	Jennifer Moss	Marlene Risinger	Leah Stalcup	Jim Viggers
Benjamin Higdon	Tisha Lack	Kristen Mott	Kurt Roberts	Alan Stalcup	Teresa Viggers
Angela Hilbert	Aylissa Lacy	Lindsey Mulhall	Holly Robinson	Natalie Starostka	Emily Voeller
Emerson Hilbert	Sheila Laing	Jessi Myers	Sally Robson	Cindy Starr	Mike Voigt
Kala Hill	John Laing	Melissa Myers	Cory Root	Steve Starr	Connie Vos
Theresa Himes	Joy Latcham	Lisa Naaktgeboren	Amanda Roper	Joe Steele	Norm Vos
Joe Hintzsche	Tony Latcham	Kevin Nabity	Jenni Rope-Smith	Joyce Steinkamp	Mary Walker
Rick Hoenig	Broc Latcham	Diane Nabity	Rachel Rouse	Juli Steppuhn Henderson	Terri Walker
Sandy Hoenig	Brady Latcham	Timmy Negrete	Cheryl Rozendaal	Beth Steven	DeeAnn Walker-King
Becky Hoffman	Brandt Latcham	Stacey Nelson	Nancy Rude	Daniel Stevenson	Angie Walker-Springer
Shirley Holm	Rosie Laubach	Tena Nelson	Steve Russell	Jill Stevenson	Anne Walter
Breelyn Holst	Ashlie Lee	Carolyn Nelson	Kay Russell	Deborah Stewart	Jennifer Walz
Ginny Hood	Casey Lee	Tammy Newton	Maureen Ryan	Suzi Stewart	Michelle Walz
Rylie Hootman	April Leeper	Kristi Neyens	Shirley Ryan	Susie Stine	Cheryl Wandell
Rhonda Huegerich	Miranda Lemons	Tracy Nicholson	Terry Sabol	Virginia Stone	Jeff Wangsness
Jeri Hunt	Karen Leonetti	Kris Nielsen	Matthew Sabol	Sherry Stuart	Andrea Warburton
Andrea Hyde	Amy Lindgren	Jordan Nihart	Frances Sales	Wei Su	Green
Connie Ingle	Mary Beth Lint	Joe Nixon	Amber Samuelson	Rochell Sutfin	Kelsey Warfield
Ella Jack	Shujing Liu	Laura Noehren	Don Sandy	Bob Sutfin	Robert Waters
Mary Jack	Kris Livingston	Scott Nolte	Adriane Sankey Tiedens	Emily Swales	Pam Waters
Jody Jacklin	Lori Lockard Randleman	Harper Nolte	Melissa Savits	Shelley Swartzendruber	Karen Watkins
Todd Jacklin	Riley Lonsdale	Todd Nordquist	Jennifer Saylor	Angel Swim	Carole Weaver
Bryan Jansen	Rose Lonsdale	Kim Nordquist	John Paul Saylor	Valinh Swore	Randi Webb
Susan Jansen	Teresa Loops	Shaylee Norman	Gary Schad	April Talbot	Jennifer Webb
Donna Jansen	Amanda Lucero	Julie Norman	Jessica Schaffer	Joshua Tarbell	Tycene Weber
Kurt Jansen	LeAnn Lund	Brian Nuehring	Anne Schaufenbuel	Robin Tarbell-Thomas	Alan Wedemeyer
Jean Jennings	Lori Lunsford	Suzanne Nuehring	Michael Schermerhorn	Leilani Tavares	Annette Wedemeyer
Addison Jensen	Amber Lyddon	Lyndee Ohmstede	Stephanie Schermerhorn	Dianne Taylor	Amelia Weiny
Kim Johnson	Frank Lyons	Katie Oliver	Sydney Schermerhorn	Terri Taylor	Dan Werner
Brittany Johnson	Jennifer MacDuff	Phyllis Olson	Jody Schmaltz	Tamra Taylor	Carol Werner
Julie Johnston	Katelyn MacDuff	Teresa Osborn	Donna Schmidt	David Taylor	Norma Wessel
Cheryl Jontz	Shannon Maddy	Lisa Ott	Marilyn Schneck	Teresa Taylor	Kim Wetzel
Denise Judy	Millie Malone	Becky Patterson	Sue Schreuder	Gary Taylor	Michael White
Everett Judy	Judi Manning Mireles	Lori Pearson	JoAnn Schroder	Lisa Terranova	Kris White
Elliott Judy	Kaci Marshall	Greg Peiffer	Eden Schuchart	Cindy Testroet	LaCie White
Conner Junkins	Nancy Martin	Diane Peiffer	Nicole Schuchart	Lisa Tharpe	Laury Whitham
Kris Junkins	Leanna Martin	Dixie Pencil	Marsha Schultz	Joe Tharpe	Deb Wickham
Lori Kautzky	Ron Martin	Jane Peterson	Ronald Schulz	Emily Theis	Angie Widmer
Bill Keel	Mark Martin	Cathy Pierce	Tara Schulz	Connie Thienes	Deb Wilkins
Sarah Keel	Emily Martini	Shan Pinegar	Justin Schulz	Curtis Thienes	John Williams
Joan Keifer	Robbin McClelland	Kathy Pleima	Barb Sexton	Kay Thomas	Michelle Willis
Dan Keitzer	Linda McClure	Randy Pleima	Kris Sheaffer	Molly Thomas	Gene Willis
Jan Keitzer	Loni McCollum	Chantele Plier	Shannon Shepherd	Denny Thompson	Mary Beth Willis
Dee Keller	Linda McConnell	Terri Pollard	Josh Shields	Elijah Thompson	Martha Wilson
Cathy Keller	Larry McCreery	Craig Pope	Dixie Shipley	Autumn Tiedens	Dave Windisch
Joe Kenyon	Michelle McCreery	Cheryl Price	Steph Sieren	Latrishia Tran	Marcia Wing
Joshua Keplinger	Connie Mcdonald	Mark Probst	Bruce Simonton	Courtney Turner	Kennan Winn
Saara Khounlo	Beverly McKnight	Betsey Qualley	Linda Simonton	Joanna Tuttle	Shelley Wirth
Ricki King	Jill Mead	Charlotte Qualley	Jody Simpson	Susan Utt-Smith	Doug Wirth
Sharon Kingsbury	Rhonda Mechaelsen	Kelsey Quinn	Amanda Skidmore	Teresa Van De Boe	Traci Wolfe
Kim Kiser	Laura Meyer	Marcine Raatz	Norma Smalley	Brenda Van Der Kamp	Kathy Wolk
Mike Kiser	Laurie Meyer	Riley Rasmussen	Sharilyn Smith	Jana Van Der Kamp	James Wollaston
Gene Klein	Matthew Meyer	Barb Rasmussen	Carol Smith	Kathy Van Dike	Tina Woods
Danyell Klein	Theresa Miller	Rachel Reece	Mike Smith	Lois Van Heukelom	Mary Woods
Travis Klohs	Donnella Miller	Kenton Reece	Nicholas Smith	Lawrence Van Heukelom	Brittany Woods
Lori Klug	Cathy Miller	Dave Reinders	Derek Smith	Susan Van Hill	Jordan Woody
Elizabeth Knautz	Holly Miller	Carol Renfro	Suzi Sobaski	Pat Van Lent	Judy Woody
Mark Knowles	Amy Miller	Diana Rezac	Steve Sommer	Mary Lou Van Roekel	Linda Wright
Deanna Knowles	Pierce Miller	Brey Rhoades	Shirley Sorenson	Sheryl Vander Linden	Fred Zeitler
Joy Koepnick	Angela Milligan	Christine Riemenschneider	Carol Sperry	Alan Vander Linden	Danice Zern
Lydia Koepnick	Janice Mineart	Mike Riemenschneider	Cindy Spiker	Ron VanderMeiden	Jack Zern
Dylan Koepnick	Gary Modlin	Kathy Rinkenberger	Jo Sprague	Margaret VanderWeerd	Josh Ziegler
Kyndra Koepnick	Lisa Modlin	Blanche Riordan	Ed Sprague	Leon VanderWeerd	
Lauren Kratz	Lisa Monahan	George Risinger	Cindy Spurr	Darcey Veasman	
Susan Kruckenberg	Vicky Morgan		Theresa Staats	Marla Veenstra	

Marilyn Sokol - Belle Plaine

Marilyn has dedicated over 17 years to coordinating volunteer programs at the Benton County Community Center. She leads a group of 16 volunteers on Wednesdays, overseeing projects such as making pillows for hospital patients, crafting blankets and treats for nursing homes, and providing food support for the community. Additionally, Marilyn assists in finding transportation for individuals needing rides to medical appointments.

Pat Burch - Norwalk

Pat is heavily involved in the National Quilts of Valor Foundation and has provided quilts to over 250 veterans and active duty service personnel since 2019. Her efforts have made a significant impact on American heroes across the state, country, and even globally. In June, Pat organized over 60 people in four separate locations to make Quilts of Valor on a single day, resulting in over 50 finished quilts. This demonstrates her exceptional commitment to supporting and honoring veterans and active duty service members.

Roxanne Cogil - Jamaica

Roxanne is actively engaged with the Yale Community Club, assisting with the coordination of events. She is committed to serving the Jamaica Lions Club and fundraising for community projects. Roxanne's involvement extends to supporting youth activities, agricultural initiatives, and advocating for individuals with disabilities. Roxanne's extensive volunteer work demonstrates her unwavering commitment to serving her community in a meaningful way.

Nelson Klavitter - Dubuque

Nelson has played a key role in organizing Architecture Days, a popular event that offers tours of Dubuque's historical sites. Nelson is an ambassador for the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce and is actively involved in showcasing Dubuque to job-seekers and newcomers through his role as a tour guide for Travel Dubuque and the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. He has been a committed member of the Dubuque Noon Lions Club for over 50 years and is an active volunteer at their food booth during the Dubuque County Fair.

John Klein - Treynor

John is a dedicated community leader who has made significant contributions to various youth and community initiatives. He has actively written grants for community projects, organized essential services such as swim lessons and transportation, and supported youth groups through fundraising. He supports the Treynor Community Can Kennel, which benefits various youth groups and has raised over \$246,000 to date.

Crystal James - Ottumwa

As a member of Team Iowa Missions, Crystal and her husband have made nine trips to Haiti to share hope and compassion and support children and the elderly. As a retired teacher, she is actively involved in providing musical and educational programs to people of all ages by volunteering in multiple educational and community organizations. Crystal also is involved with the Ottumwa Lord's Cupboard, where she assists in distributing food to families and individuals in need.



Chloe Hamaker, Blue Ribbon Foundation Intern, celebrates Crystal James of Ottumwa as Iowan of the Day.

Tate Gieseemann - Bellevue

Tate, at just 17, is an exemplary leader and dedicated community server. He has showcased strong leadership skills through his involvement in Boys State, Student Council, FFA, and FBLA. Tate's contributions extend to the State Youth Advisory Council and the Bellevue School Board, where he provides valuable insights. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Legion and the National Honor Society. Tate's commitment to community service is evident through his participation in the Bellevue High School Silver Cord Program, and plans to join the Marines after graduation.

Rodd Holtkamp - Primghar

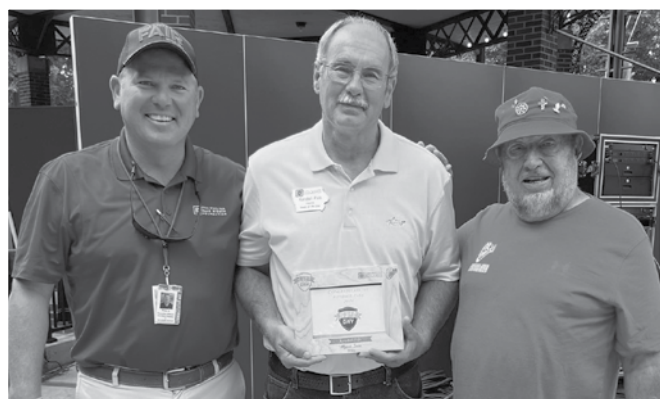
Rodd has been an essential contributor to Primghar and O'Brien County for many years, actively involved in various community initiatives. His dedication has been demonstrated through his work with the MercyOne Hospital Foundation for two decades and serving on the original EMS Building Construction Committee. Rodd has also shown his commitment to the O'Brien County Fair by securing sponsors for four billboards to commemorate its 100th year.

Elaine Graham Estes - Des Moines

Elaine is a respected figure in Iowa, known for her pioneering work in civil and women's rights. She integrated dorms at Drake University and later became the first African American director of the Des Moines Public Library. Her accomplishments include innovating library materials, automating the library, protecting privacy rights, and serving on multiple boards and organizations, including the American Library Association and the State Historical Society.

Kendall Pals - Algona

Kendall, former Algona Chief of Police, dedicated 41 years of service to law enforcement. He initiated a program for officers to read to young students, promoting positive relationships with the community. Post-retirement, Kendall remains actively involved in volunteer work, serving on various committees and organizations to give back to his community. He volunteers on election days, helps out at local community events, provides assistance to the people of Haiti, and supports veterans through "Moving Veterans Forward" of North Central Iowa by collecting and distributing furniture and household items.



Peter Cownie, Blue Ribbon Foundation Executive Director, and Speed Herring of Cookies Food Products, present Kendall Pals of Algona with his Iowan of the Day award.

BLUE RIBBON FOUNDATION

Internships



he Blue Ribbon Foundation works year-round to plan and prepare for the Iowa State Fair. Each summer, our office expands from a five-person team to eight by welcoming three dedicated interns. We couldn't have a successful CornDog Kickoff or Fair without their hard work.

Our internship program offers hands-on experience, allowing interns to develop their organizational and administrative skills while gaining expertise in business, communication, event management, marketing, and public relations. This is not your typical internship; each intern becomes a true member of the Blue Ribbon Foundation team, collaborating closely with staff, coordinating key projects, and fostering strong relationships between committed donors and the Iowa State Fair.

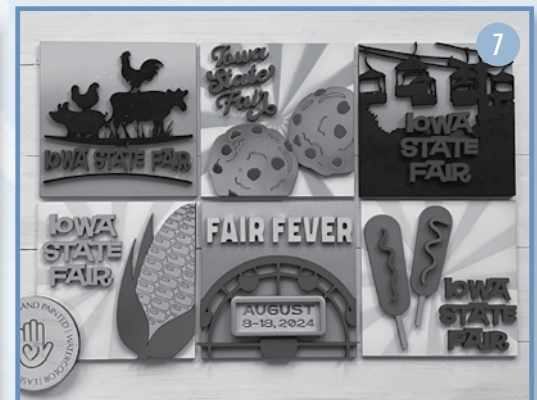
A special thank you to our 2024 interns – Chloe Hamaker, Jayce Reed, and Lauren McCullum. From coordinating the Iowan of the Day program to planning donor hospitality events and engaging sponsors, each intern was a vital part of our team.



If you know a hardworking, motivated college student who loves the Iowa State Fair, please share the Foundation's 2025 internship opportunity with them. Visit our website at www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org to learn more about the program. Applications will be accepted until November 30.

IOWA STATE FAIR STORE

The Blue Ribbon Foundation is dedicated to enhancing and preserving the Iowa State Fairgrounds through the sale of merchandise in our online store. When you shop at www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org, you're not just buying unique items, you're also supporting a great cause. Be sure to check out the highlighted items. Thank you for your support!



Special Order

The Blue Ribbon Foundation partnered with Sticks, Inc. to create two specialty Iowa State Fair items in the "Sincerely, Sticks" collection. All profits from the sale of these two items go directly to the Blue Ribbon Foundation.

Picture Frame: This 4"x6" photo frame has a unique Iowa State Fair design. It includes a support stand for tabletop display and a keyhole on the back for hanging. \$120

Lazy Susan: This 18" lazy Susan showcases livestock, music, food and family – everything we love about the great Iowa State Fair. \$250

Both items ship free directly from the Sticks, Inc. website (www.Sticks.com) within 1-2 weeks.



Qty.	Item	Description	Price	Total
	1. Cookbook	The 22nd Edition Cookbook features select ribbon-winning recipes from the 2022 and 2023 Iowa State Fairs. Delicious appetizers, snacks, side dishes, main dishes, breads, desserts and more are just waiting to be made in your kitchen at home.	\$20	
	2. Pork Chop on a Stick Ornament	One of the most popular food items is the Pork Chop on a Stick. Commemorate its deliciousness with this one-of-a-kind ornament.	\$25	
	3. Puzzle	This double-sided 350 piece jigsaw puzzle features a majestic photograph of the Iowa State Fairgrounds' Horse Barn. The other side of the puzzle highlights the Fair's competitive spirit with award-winning ribbons.	\$18	
	4. Sky Glider Ornament	This ornament celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Sky Glider, created by Sticks, as part of the "Sincerely, Sticks" collection.	\$25	
	5. Socks	Never wear boring socks again with one-of-a-kind Iowa State Fair socks. Blue with Butter Cows or Black with Corndogs (Circle design choice.)	\$10	
	6. Tea Towels	Tea Towel featuring two designs: "Everything is Better with Butter" or "The Best Foods are on a Stick!" (Circle design choice.)	\$10	
	7. Wood Tile	Created by Mrs. Hand Painted, these 4" wooden tiles add a little Iowa State Fair to your home décor. Stands are available to display the tiles. Tile Design: Animals, Cookies, Corn, Ferris Wheel, Corndog Stand: Black or White (Circle design choice and stand color.)	Tiles: \$6 Stand: \$18	

Please send with payment to:

Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation

P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317 • or call: 1-800-450-3732

Under \$25 = \$9; \$26 – \$50 = \$10
\$51 – \$75 = \$11; Over \$76 = \$12

Shipping

Total

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Check Card # _____ Exp. _____

Security Code _____ Signature _____

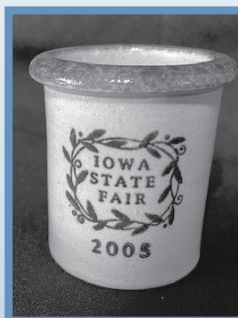
IOWA STATE FAIR SOUVENIR ONLINE AUCTION

From the very start, Fairgoers have cherished souvenirs from their visits to the iconic Iowa State Fair. The Blue Ribbon Foundation continues this tradition by offering a variety of souvenirs as part of our fundraising efforts.

A selection of these souvenirs and other memorabilia will be featured in an online auction this fall. Some collectibles include the Foundation's lapel pins offered since 1993, ornaments, Isabel Bloom sculptures, Sticks' plaques, a selection of Iowa State Fair staff-issued lapel pins and much more!

Online bidding will open on Thursday, November 14 at 10 AM and close on Sunday, November 17 at 8 PM.

Check the website for updated photos and descriptions of each souvenir beginning in November. To bid, you must register as a bidder and provide the required information on the form, including a valid credit card number. Winning bidders will receive details on how to pick up their item(s) or have them shipped.



PROJECT *Updates*

The combination of large-scale projects and smaller improvements enhances the Iowa State Fairgrounds and preserve its rich history. Your support is vital to these efforts, and it's exciting to think about the positive changes ahead. Thank you for being part of this mission!

Some of the upcoming projects include: addition of sod around the new bath house in the campgrounds, William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building kitchen/concession stand remodel, Agriculture Building roof, new staircase accessing the west side of Grandfather's Hill, Administration Building carpet, repaved Thrill Ville entrance and hard surface behind the Elwell Family Food Center, new dirt for the Jacobson Exhibition Center, and a sidewalk on the west side of the Anne and Bill Riley Stage. All of this plus beginning work on renovations in the Horse Barn.

Back the Barns: Thank you to those donors who have joined the Back the Barns fundraising campaign. These individuals are committed to supporting the renovation of the historic, early 20th-century animal barns, ensuring that generations of Fairgoers will continue the cherished tradition of showing their livestock at the Iowa State Fair.

Please consider joining this specific campaign. As a token of our gratitude, you will receive a commemorative belt buckle, and your name will be included on a plaque recognizing donors upon project completion.



☐ **Yes! I want to join the "Back the Barns" Campaign!**

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$3,000 Membership

☐ One-time \$3,000 gift

☐ Annual gift of \$1,000 for a 3-year term

☐ Quarterly gifts of \$250 for a 3-year term

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Sec. Code: _____

Signature: _____

MAILBOX

"I can't thank the Blue Ribbon Foundation enough for the honor of 'Iowan of the Day' during this year's Iowa State Fair. I hope by bringing my 4 grandchildren to the Fair, I am continuing a tradition with my family that my parents started with me and that my wife and I continued with our two daughters."

Redd Holtkamp

PRIMGHAR

"My sister and I love to volunteer at the Iowa State Fair and this was our first time for the Blue Ribbon Foundation in the Elwell Family Food Center. This was by far our favorite 'job' yet, everyone was so kind! Including all of our customers which I learned SO MUCH about the Fair from. Can't wait to volunteer again in 2025."

Bree Bridgeman

GRANGER



IOWA STATE FAIR
**BLUE RIBBON
FOUNDATION**

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DONOR PROFILE: ERNIE & PAULA BARNES

Many people claim to be Iowa State Fair enthusiasts or Fair fanatics. One couple truly earns their self-proclaimed "Fair Junkie" title. They have more than 50 combined years of service to the Iowa State Fair.

While Ernie grew up in Mississippi and Paula in Indiana, both were local fairgoers who were active in the agriculture industry. It felt natural for them not only to attend the State Fair when they moved to Iowa in the mid 1980's, but also to fill leadership roles within the event.

Ernie volunteered in the livestock barns for five years before becoming the Swine Barn Superintendent. He has held this role for 22 years.

"Every morning, I'll drink my cup of coffee and sit on a bench outside of the Swine Barn," said Ernie. "The benches are in honor of icons in the pork industry. I reflect on how things have changed and improved. It's my favorite way to start the day."

Paula got involved with the Fair's volunteer program and took over as the Information Volunteer Superintendent in 2004. While Ernie stays busy in the Swine Barn, Paula fills her Fair days by managing 250 Information Booth volunteers. Paula takes pride knowing that volunteering at the Iowa State Fair is a family tradition. Many volunteers are retired couples and some are even a grandparent and grandchild duo.

"The Iowa State Fair is all about family," said Paula. "Our kids showed livestock, worked on the Blue Ribbon Foundation's water crew and our daughter was even the State Fair Queen in 2004."

Ernie and Paula have been involved with the Blue Ribbon Foundation since the organization was created in 1993. In fact, Ernie was one of the live auction ringmen at the very first Corndog Kickoff held in Pioneer Hall in 1997.

"The event was a success," said Ernie. "Even back then, the Blue Ribbon Foundation knew how to make those important connections with people that would lead to bigger and better things."

The first Corndog Kickoff raised \$67,000 and had 450 people in attendance. This past summer's event, in which Ernie continued his role as a ringmen, hosted 2,000 Fair lovers and raised \$766,684.

Both Paula and Ernie are so dedicated to their roles during the Iowa State Fair that they rarely see each other.

"We might be able to eat together once during the 11 days," said Ernie. "Otherwise we grab food from our favorite concessionaires and eat in the camper when we have a free minute. We are able to carve out more time to explore the Fairgrounds when the grandkids are here."

Paula's talents of event planning and organization don't end in August. The couple owns and operates "Barnes' Place," a wedding venue on their property in Adel. The venue is booked almost every weekend in the summer and fall, sometimes even having two weddings on the same weekend.

"I'll be bussing tables at a wedding reception and someone will recognize me from the Fair," said Ernie. "We'll get to talking and I'll get behind on my cleaning duties."

Ernie is full of Iowa State Fair stories and could probably strike up a conversation with just about anyone. As for Paula, one story she will always remember is the time that she and her granddaughter were walking into the Administration Building, and the granddaughter said, "Look! There's a brick with my mom's name."

Even with their differing duties and schedules, Paula and Ernie agree that it brings them great joy to reconnect with many friends who they see only once a year during Fairtime. The Iowa State Fair will forever be a special place for the Barnes family.

Thank you, Ernie and Paula, for your dedication to the Iowa State Fair and support of the Blue Ribbon Foundation.

