NACO Educational Foundation Created

County officials and affiliate groups will be able to contribute tax-deductible dollars to the NACO scholarship program beginning in 2009. The NACO Board recently approved formation of a 501(c)(3) educational foundation and will submit a request for IRS approval of nonprofit tax status after corporate filings are completed.

Formation of the foundation will facilitate the contribution of memorials, solicitation of grants, and other fundraising endeavors that have been suggested to expand the program.

In 1999, NACO began a scholarship program to recognize outstanding young people with ties to county government. Six high school seniors received $500 scholarships in the first year of the program. As the program expanded over the next decade, NACO awarded $69,000 in scholarships to 114 children and stepchildren of Nebraska county officials and employees. Since 2004, the NACO Board of Directors has annually approved awards of $1,000 to 12 students. The awards can be used for any educational expenses as the student continues his or her education within the state of Nebraska.

NACO will be considering fundraising events to facilitate this program. Suggestions for fundraising events or activities are welcome.

2009 NACO Scholarship Applications Available

Nebraska high school seniors who are the children or stepchildren of county officials or employees are encouraged to apply for one of twelve $1000 scholarships. Additional information and the downloadable application can be found under the ‘Services’ tab on the NACO website. Applications must be received with a postmark dated no later than March 2, 2009.

See the January issue of CountyLine for updates on past recipients.
New NACO Program: Network of Care

NACo, in partnership with Trilogy Integrated Resources, has launched an interactive, single information Internet network that consumers, community-based organizations, and local and state governments can use to access a wide variety of important information relating to social services. The Network of Care’s individual Web sites and eLearning online training services focus on several social services areas — such as behavioral health, aging and people with disabilities, developmental disabilities, children and families, domestic violence and public health. The Web sites give critical service information, support, advocacy and state-of-the-art communication tools to consumers, caregivers and providers.

Click here to view Nebraska’s site, launched Feb. 18th.

The State of Nebraska DHHS, NACO and NACo are working together to make this program available to the citizens of the state.

News Across the State...
Links are to outside sources and may not be available indefinitely

Counts again appeal for more legal muscle
Omaha World Herald, 02/09/09

Commissioners look at new purchasing card options
Aurora News Register, 02/12/09

County board tags new jail for stimulus funds
Lincoln Journal Star, 02/12/09

Website provides property tax information
Norfolk Daily News, 02/16/09

Push for Election Day signup persists
Omaha World Herald, 02/18/09

County Official Changes...
Nuckolls County Clerk of District Court—Karla Devaney has been appointed to replace Danelle Whitmore, who has resigned.

Hamilton County Clerk of District Court—Wendy Thomsen has been appointed to replace Becky Shaw, who has resigned.

Polk County Surveyor—Christopher Hays has been appointed to replace LeRoy Gerrard, who was elected to the county board.

Nationwide/NACo Scholarships Available for High School Seniors

Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the administrator of NACo’s deferred compensation program, will award four Nationwide/NACo college scholarships - each worth $2,000 - to four high school seniors whose parent or grandparent participates in NACo’s 457 Deferred Compensation Plan. The deadline for applications is March 15. For more information about eligibility and application procedures, click here.