



STORY COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR  
**PHILANTHROPY**

.....  
2021



The **Story County Alliance for Philanthropy** is interested in showing appreciation for all that has been accomplished in the name of giving – and to show that there is still much to do. By celebrating an annual Story County Philanthropy Day, the community will honor individuals, businesses, and organizations that provide essential services to county residents.

# 16TH\* ANNUAL STORY COUNTY PHILANTHROPY DAY

**THURSDAY,  
NOVEMBER 18**

## WELCOME

*Jean Kresse  
President & CEO,  
United Way  
of Story County*

*\* In keeping with Covid-19 CDC recommendations and out of respect for our valued volunteers and public safety, the November 2021 awards are presented by video. To view the video, please go to the Story County Alliance for Philanthropy website [www.storycountyphilanthropy.org](http://www.storycountyphilanthropy.org) or visit our Facebook page SCAP Story County Alliance for Philanthropy.*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

### **Award Presenter - Jeff Iles**

Iowa State University

### **Award Winners**

Outstanding Philanthropist

*Sarah and J. Ben Buck*

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser

*Georges Niang Golf Outing*

Outstanding Youth Group in Philanthropy

*The SHOP Food Pantry*

Outstanding Business Philanthropist

*Ames Ford Lincoln*

Outstanding Group Philanthropist

*Northcrest Community Residents*

Rising Star Philanthropist

*Sia Agnihotri*

## CLOSING REMARKS

*Jeff Iles*

## OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST



### **Sarah and J. Ben Buck**

Nominated by  
Mary Greeley Medical  
Center Foundation

Sarah and Ben Buck are committed to improving lives and making Story County a better place for those less fortunate or who need a helping hand. For decades, they have provided financial support and dedicated service to more than a dozen nonprofit organizations that align with their strong values.

Among those most impacted by their generosity are the Mary Greeley Foundation, Friendship Ark, Ames Miracle Park and Field (in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Ames), Mid-Iowa Community Action – MICA, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Rotary Foundation, and United Way of Story County. Sarah and Ben also provide annual support to many more organizations and serve in volunteer leadership roles that make an impact and inspire others to give. They have made transformational contributions to our community.

Because of the Buck's compassion, planning and foresight, their support will continue well after their lifetime. They have generously endowed two education funds through the Mary Greeley Foundation, a scholarship that is awarded annually to a student pursuing a degree in healthcare and an award to provide tuition assistance to employees. Both will continue in perpetuity. They endowed a third scholarship for

students at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. As members of the Greeley Society, they will also provide future support to their education funds and the medical center through an estate gift.

Sarah and Ben Buck have dedicated their lives to quietly serving others and are true philanthropists in every sense of the word. They make every effort to promote love of humankind and exemplify what we could use more of in this world.

### **Previous Award Recipients**

2005: Janet S. and Donald R. Payer

2006: Marge and Erb Hunziker

2007: Ruth and Clayton Swenson

2008: Sherry and Lee Sargent

2009: Clare and Jim Frevert

2010: Janice and Marvin Walter

2011: Carolyn and Chuck Jons

2012: Jennifer and Brian Dieter

2013: Yvonne and Kevin Kinzler

2014: Julie and Harold Pike

2015: Hertz Family: Randy and Liz Hertz and Tom  
and Joyce Hertz

2016: Bev and Warren Madden

2017: Jeff and Peggy Johnson

2018: Pat and Louis Bannitt

2019: Ruth Harris

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISER



### Georges Niang Golf Outing

Nominated by  
Mary Greeley Medical  
Center Foundation

Since 2017, Lyndsey Fennelly and Betsy Waite have partnered with Iowa State University Men's Basketball alum and current Philadelphia 76ers Georges Niang to plan, market, execute and host the annual Georges Niang Golf Outing which benefits local nonprofit organizations. This full day event has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support mental health services at Mary Greeley Medical Center; the building of a home for Habitat for Humanity; a new van to transport youth to appointments and wellness activities for Youth and Shelter Services; and programs, services and homes for Friendship Ark.

Organizing and hosting an all-day event for 150 people is a major undertaking. It involves recruiting about 125 golfers, recruiting volunteers, securing silent and live auction items, prizes, games at each hole, a celebrity auction, sponsorships, food, and special guests.

Georges, Lyndsey and Betsy not only give of their time and expertise to raise funds for the designated nonprofits, they contribute personally to them as well. They truly care about the mission and impact of each organization and the Ames community.

### Previous Award Recipients

2005: Verne C. Bates  
2006: Phillip O'Berry  
2007: Suzan Shierholz  
2008: Linda and Bernie White  
2009: Heather and Gary Botine  
2010: Nealla Benson  
2011: Rollie and Willie Struss  
2012: Dr. Jay Brown  
2013: Jim Black  
2014: Roger Kluesner  
2015: Monica Porter  
2016: Tim Day  
2017: Alan & Mary Christy  
2019: Sheila Lundt

## OUTSTANDING YOUTH GROUP IN PHILANTHROPY



### **SHOP (Students Helping Our Peers) Food Pantry**

Nominated by  
Iowa State University  
Foundation

The SHOP (Students Helping Our Peers) Food Pantry was created in 2011 by a group of students from the Food Science and Human Nutrition learning community. The intent was to help combat food insecurity among their peers. The mission of SHOP is to “engage with anti-hunger advocates and serve the student population by increasing hunger awareness and food security.” SHOP Food Pantry accomplishes this mission by providing free, non-perishable food and personal care items for ISU students.

SHOP served an average of 35 students per week during spring 2021. Over the same period, a total of more than 6,800 pounds of food was provided by SHOP, far more than any other semester. SHOP’s operations are supported by both financial donations and direct food donations from many entities throughout Story County. In 2020, they raised nearly \$25,000 in their efforts to combat food insecurity on ISU’s campus. SHOP Food Pantry volunteers exemplify the attributes of the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy and are very deserving of this honor.

### **Previous Award Recipients**

2005: Kevin Geiken and Keegan Kautzky  
2006: Nevada Multiage Program  
2007: Cory M. Hanson  
2008: Joe Wallace  
2009: Central Elementary K-Kids  
2010: Story County Youth Philanthropists  
2011: Ames Public Library Teen Advisory Group  
2012: Nevada High School Key Club  
2013: Girl Scout Troop 28 and 150  
2014: Mrs. Lynn Nielsen’s Special Needs Class  
2015: Kate Hulshizer  
2016: Pi Kappa Alpha  
2017: AHS Reggie’s Sleep Out Committee  
2018: Latinx Student Leadership Council  
2018: Michael Wiechmann  
2019: Roland-Story Community School District – Student Organizations

## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PHILANTHROPIST



### Ames Ford Lincoln

Nominated by  
United Way of  
Story County

Since locating in Ames in 2012, Ames Ford Lincoln and the Johnson family have made an immediate and lasting impact throughout Story County. Their commitment to the community of Ames goes beyond their desire to have satisfied customers. They are committed to being good neighbors and benefactors. They give credit to their customers, stating that without them they understand their ability to give back to the community in so many different ways would not be possible.

Their philanthropic contributions are considerable throughout Story County, including United Way of Story County and the Wheels for Work program, Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County, Mary Greeley Foundation, Ames Chamber of Commerce and the Ames Chamber Steak Fry, InterCity Trip, Leadership Ames, LIVE UNITED, Ames Foundation, Ames Main Street Farmers' Market, Ames Public Library, Iowa State University, Able Up Iowa Foundation, Story County Medical Center, Friendship Ark, ACPC, and Ames Municipal Airport Terminal Project.

Through their generosity and genuineness, the impact of Ames Ford Lincoln and the Johnson family can be felt throughout our county.

### Previous Award Recipients

- 2005: Pella Rolscreen Foundation, SC
- 2006: McFarland Clinic PC
- 2007: Sauer-Danfoss
- 2008: First National Bank
- 2009: Burke Corporation
- 2010: Greater Iowa Credit Union
- 2011: Alpha Copies & Print Centers
- 2012: Kreg Tool Company
- 2013: 3M
- 2014: Bethesda Lutheran Church
- 2015: Wilson Toyota Scion of Ames
- 2016: Country Landscapes
- 2017: Renewable Energy Group
- 2018: South Story Bank and Trust
- 2019: RE/MAX Real Estate Center

## OUTSTANDING GROUP PHILANTHROPIST



### Northcrest Community Residents

Nominated by  
Jan Beran & Dee Matthews

When we think about compassionate and caring people who support our community, Northcrest Community Residents are top of the list. These generous residents regularly invest in Story County by contributing their financial support, energy, time, and service in a variety of ways.

Each year, Northcrest Community Residents are invited to identify non-profit organizations in the community they know are doing important work. With the help and leadership of the Resident's Council, one organization is selected. The selection process is lively and extensive as many nominations are submitted annually. Over the past six years, collective gifts have totaled \$194,130. As a result, six worthy organizations have benefitted from their generosity.

Individually, Northcrest Community Residents also financially support many additional non-profit organizations as well.

### Previous Award Recipients

- 2009: Heartland Senior Services Variety Show Committee
- 2010: Mary Greeley Medical Center Auxiliary
- 2011: Josephine Tope Community Auditorium Capital Campaign Committee
- 2012: Ames Public Library Friends Foundation – Sales Committee
- 2013: Kiwanis of Story County
- 2014: Ames Police Benevolent Association
- 2015: Altrusa of Ames
- 2016: Ballard Education Foundation
- 2017: Rotary Club of Ames
- 2018: Ames Morning Rotary
- 2019: Story City Friends Endowment





### Sia Agnihotri

Nominated by  
Able Up Iowa

Sia is a 12-year-old who resides with her parents and younger sister in Ames. Sia is often called a “kind soul” by her friends, teachers, and family members. Sia’s traits of empathy and her giving nature were visible from a very young age.

Sia was nominated because she was able to successfully mobilize citizens in Story County to act at the local level. Sia, with the help of her family, created a Jars of Hope fundraising campaign selling over 500 cheesecake jars and donating the proceeds to help alleviate the suffering caused by a second wave of COVID-19 in India. When asked what keeps her motivated for philanthropic work, Sia responded quoting Aesop, because “no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Sia is not only a role model for her peers, but for everyone in Story County, which is why she was selected as the Story County Alliance for Philanthropy’s Rising Star Award. We are confident this extraordinary young woman will continue to pursue her philanthropic passion well into the future.

### Previous Award Recipients

Spirit of Philanthropy | 2010: JoAnn Mosley

## AWARD PRESENTER



### **Jeff Iles**

Chair, Department of Horticulture  
Iowa State University

Jeff serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State University (Ames, IA). He teaches, conducts applied research, and provides Extension programming in the areas of landscape plant establishment and maintenance, woody plant (mostly trees) evaluation, and nursery and garden center management. He received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in horticulture from Michigan State, Penn State, and Iowa State, respectively. Between degrees, Jeff worked in the retail garden center segment of the green industry, first in suburban Detroit, Michigan, and later in Littleton, Colorado.

Jeff is a member of the Rotary Club of Ames, serves on the Board of Directors for the Brenton Arboretum, and in his spare time is an avid cyclist. In fact, he will be riding in his tenth Tour des Trees (TREE Fund event/fundraiser for tree research and education) next year, right here in the great state of Iowa.



### Art Ciccotti

Artist  
Ciccotti Art Glass

Art Ciccotti grew up in Southern California, married, and moved to Ames, Iowa. He attended Iowa State University and graduated as an Art and Design major with an emphasis in Art Education. While attending Iowa State, he became part of the glassblowing club, “The Gaffers’ Guild.” There he learned the basics of glassblowing. After graduating in 1987, Ciccotti built his first studio. Over the years, he attended workshops around the U.S. to learn different techniques and hone his skills as a glassblower. As years passed, Ciccotti moved to a smaller town outside of Ames and rebuilt his studio, which is now known throughout the Midwest as Ciccotti Art Glass.

*Each SCAP award recipient received a beautiful, one-of-a-kind, hand blown vase made by Art.*



### Photographer

### Mark Looney

Munn Woods Studio  
Email: [mark@munnwoods.com](mailto:mark@munnwoods.com)

## STORY COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR PHILANTHROPY MEMBERS

### **Able Up Iowa**

Anna Magnusson

### **Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County**

Kaitlin Binnebose

### **ChildServe**

Rachelle Flory

### **Friendship Ark**

Jennifer Ellis

### **Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance**

Charlie Weber

### **Iowa State Memorial Union**

Kevin Merrill

### **ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**

Lisa Stephany

### **ISU Foundation**

Jodi Knox

### **Mary Greeley Medical Center Foundation**

Rita Gilbertson

### **Story County Community Foundation**

Liz Zuercher

### **The Arc of Story County**

Tricia Crain

### **The Bridge Home**

Lynn Owens-Hill

### **United Way of Story County**

Emily Randall & Jean Kresse

### **Youth and Shelter Services**

Jill Niswander

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[www.storycountyfoundation.org](http://www.storycountyfoundation.org)

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## THANK YOU

to all who played a role in the Story County Philanthropy Day Celebration. We are grateful to live in communities with people who care and give so freely of themselves to improve the lives of others.

**Story County Alliance for Philanthropy**  
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