



9th Annual Harvest Gala
Celebrating 55 years in Business
November 18, 2023

Dear Friends of The Leadership Center,

We invite you to join us for a “*Harvest Gala*” on *Saturday, November 18, 2023* at The Leadership Center. Join us as we celebrate 55 years of serving guests from all over the state, country, and world! Please come out and celebrate with us with delicious food, friends, and great music.

We have been blessed abundantly as people and groups have started to regain normalcy in meetings and gatherings. We saw nearly 1,000 FFA members come for COLT. Family reunions have begun to happen again. What a joy to see the generations gather and celebrate their heritage and lineage. Our university and college clients are starting to come back too. Oh and we had the most beautiful wedding here in June of one of our teammates. Our hearts are filled beyond belief.

To make us smile even more, we hosted 8 sessions of D4LC M.A.P.S trainings and 2 mini sessions for teams to come and grow and learn. We had 3 Edgerton Partnership Camps in house which were created and led by our team.

And then the Lunch Bunch! We grew our programming to another town. This year, we served youth, 18 and younger, with a whole host of volunteers in Aurora (7 years), Marquette (3 years), and Central City (1 year). 95 student leaders were introduced to service leadership by creating a facilitating enrichment activities. We served a record 5,852 meals this summer!

Two other fun additions to what we do here are:

- 1) We opened Espressions: Coffee & Community in downtown Aurora. Our coffee shop serves as a community hub with lots of activities including story times, book clubs, writing and crafting groups, classes and of course great coffee and food. This endeavor has allowed us to expand on our workforce development and community service goals.
- 2) We have started the process to become an urban farm. Hopefully by the gala, we’ll be able to say we are! With our gardens, fruit and nut orchards, maple syrup tapping, honey bee hives, and now our shiitake mushrooms, it makes sense! All of these provided goods for our kitchen, our famers market stands, and can be found on the menu or for sale at Espressions: Coffee & Community. Our whole team is involved. These projects have been a source of food, education, and connection. It’s incredible being able to bring active agriculture to our property as we were originally founded by agricultural education teachers for the FFA.

- NVAF Board of Directors**
- President:** Kurt VanDeWalle, *Fillmore Central Public Schools*
- Vice President:** Jessalyn Schrock, *Shickley Public Schools*
- Secretary:** Alex Stocker, *Central City Public Schools*
- Treasurer:** Joel Miller, *Hampton Public Schools*
- District 1, 2, 5:** Holly Podliska, *Centennial Public Schools*
- District 3, 4, 7:** Haley Ransiear, *Tekamah-Herman Public Schools*
- District 6, 8, 11:** Kate Grimes, *Axtell Public Schools*
- District 9, 10, 12:** Rylee Dexter, *Chambers Public School*
- At-Large:** Phil Simpson, *Burwell Public Schools*
- At-Large:** Evey Choat, *McPhearson County Schools*
- At-Large Lincoln/Omaha:** Todd Reed, *Cenex-Harvest States*
- At-Large Nebraska:** Bailey Cooper, *National Guard-Nebraska*
- At-Large Banker:** Brittney Tvrdy, *Cornerstone Bank*
- Ex-Officio:** Maile Ilac Boeder, *Executive Director of The Leadership Center*

-continued-

As in past years, we carry forward our fundraising efforts during a beautiful evening of great music, delectable food, and lively auctions. This year's efforts will go towards three large projects:

- 1) **Our growing summer food service program.** As mentioned we expanded into 3 communities this year and served over 5,500 meals. We are reimbursed a portion of our costs through the NDE/USDA SFSP program for meals served. We are not reimbursed for any meals prepared and not served, labor to prepare meals, enrichment activities and supplies, or mileage. We usually cover these funds with grants and fundraising.
- 2) **Be more energy efficient and updating Kiewit Lodges HVAC systems to PTAC units.** Unlike many of the units currently installed, PTAC unites are both efficient and can be repaired. The current units are considered 'disposable.' We would have to purchase unites, sleeves and the walls fit to the unites.
- 3) **Filling in our old sewer lagoons that are no longer in use.** We have dirt on property from the when Aurora Cooperative built the building to do a fill. This would allow us to clean up the area, make it safe and beautiful.

Our goal this year is \$55,000.

We invite you to be a part of our continued work in our community and through out this great state and nation. Your contributions make a lasting difference for so many. Whether they participate in one of our numerous educational programs, attend a retreat, camp or workshop, or hold a meeting or reunion with us, we provide safe, welcoming spaces, delicious meals, and professional staff, so that they can *create moments that matter*.

With the purchase of tickets or donations (funds or auction items), your gifts are not only tax deductible, you become a part of our legacy! Your support allows us to continue to provide programs and spaces to *create moments that matter*. Your gifts allow us to continue serving our great community, the wonderful residents of Nebraska, and beyond.

Please join us for this celebratory evening. Tickets and sponsorships to this event can be purchased by returning the RSVP card in this invite, calling our office at (402) 694-3934 or visiting our website at www.TLCAurora.org

If attending isn't possible, please consider donating auction items or financial contributions as they can be a great way to promote your business services, products, or creative talents, while supporting The Leadership Center at the same time. Also note that we are offering a "Take Out" meal option on our RSVP card as well. Take out meals can be picked up at The Leadership Center at 6:30 p.m. the evening of the Harvest Gala. Sponsorships can be found on our website or handled by calling Mailè at 402-694-3934.

Thank you in advance for helping us continue our goal of *creating moments that matter* for years to come.

In deepest gratitude.



Maile Ilac Boeder, IOM
Executive Director



Kurt VanDeWalle
NVAF President



Elizabeth Lowe
Office Manager



Gabi Brosman
Clients, Events &
Community



NVAF Board of Directors

President: Kurt

VanDeWalle, *Fillmore Central Public Schools*

Vice President: Jessalyn

Schrock, *Shickley Public Schools*

Secretary: Alex Stocker,

Central City Public Schools

Treasurer: Joel Miller,

Hampton Public Schools

District 1, 2, 5: Holly

Podliska, *Centennial Public Schools*

District 3, 4, 7: Haley

Ransiear, *Tekamah-Herman Public Schools*

District 6, 8, 11: Kate

Grimes, *Axtell Public Schools*

District 9, 10, 12: Rylee

Dexter, *Chambers Public School*

At-Large: Phil Simpson,

Burwell Public Schools

At-Large: Evey Choat,

McPheerson County Schools

At-Large Lincoln/Omaha:

Todd Reed, *Cenex-Harvest States*

At-Large Nebraska: Bailey

Cooper, *National Guard-Nebraska*

At-Large Banker: Brittney

Tvrdy, *Cornerstone Bank*

Ex-Officio: Maile Ilac

Boeder, *Executive Director of The Leadership Center*



Harvest Gala: Saturday, November 18, 2023

The Leadership Center is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit and all donations should be tax deductible. Check with your tax professional to ensure such deductions.

Sponsorship and Donation Opportunities:

Presenting Event Sponsor (1)— \$4,000

Our Presenting Sponsor will be listed on our program as such: “The 9th Annual Harvest Gala presented by “insert sponsor name here.” The sponsor’s logo and name will be printed in the event program on the sponsors page as well as in any of our event media as well as on stage. The sponsor’s logo will also be on our webpage under “Proud Service Providers & Sponsors” located at bottom of each page with a link to your website. This sponsorship also includes company/donor name prominently displayed at event table, reserved seating, 8 guest tickets, and complimentary wine and beer for each guest at your table at the 9th Annual Harvest Gala. Please call or note each of your guests meal preference. We also need the names of your guests for the seating chart. Lastly, should any of your guests have dietary needs such as lactose or gluten intolerance, be sure to let us know so we can do our best to accommodate you and your guests. Thank you. **If sponsorship is received before 8/31/2023, sponsor will be listed on our invitation going out to all our guests.**

Entertainment Sponsor(1)— \$3000

This sponsor is the official sponsor of our live band, The Lauren Anderson Band. Our Entertainment Sponsor will have their logo & name printed in the event program and on stage. The sponsor will also be listed on our website and in all event media. This sponsorship includes company/donor name prominently displayed at event table, reserved seating and 8 guest tickets and complimentary wine and beer at the 9th Annual Harvest Gala. Please call or note each of your guests meal preference. We also need the names of your guests for the seating chart. Lastly, should any of your guests have dietary needs such as lactose or gluten intolerance, be sure to let us know so we can do our best to accommodate you and your guests. Thank you. **If sponsorship is received before 8/31/2023, sponsor will be listed on our invitation going out to all our guests.**

GoldenStars Event Sponsor (5)— \$2,000

Our Golden Stars Sponsors will have their logos & names printed in the event program. The sponsor’s logo will also be on our webpage under “Proud Service Providers & Sponsors” located at bottom of each page with a link to your website. This sponsorship includes company/donor name prominently displayed at event table, reserved seating, 8 guests and complimentary wine and beer at the 9th Annual Harvest Gala. Please call or note each of your guests meal preference. We also need the names of your guests for the seating chart. Lastly, should any of your guests have dietary needs such as lactose or gluten intolerance, be sure to let us know so we can do our best to accommodate you and your guests. Thank you.

Silver Moon Event Sponsor (5)—\$1,500

The Silver Moon Sponsors will have their logo & name printed in the event program. The sponsor’s logo will also be on our webpage under Harvest Gala Sponsors. This sponsorship includes company/donor name prominently displayed at the event table, reserved seating, 8 guest tickets and complimentary wine and beer at the 8th Annual Harvest Gala. Please call or note each of your guests meal preference. We also need the names of your guests for the seating chart. Lastly, should any of your guests have dietary needs such as lactose or gluten intolerance, be sure to let us know so we can do our best to accommodate you and your guests. Thank you.

Auction Item(s) — _____

Auction Item(s) Description: _____

Auction Item Value: _____

Will Drop Item(s) off to TLC _____

Please pick item(s) up at business _____

Pick up date & time: _____

Golden Harvest Table—\$750.00

Includes 8 tickets, a table, your title on the table & complimentary wine and beer. Please call or note each of your guests meal preference. We also need the names of your ticket holders for seating chart. Lastly, should any of your ticket holders have dietary needs such as lactose or gluten intolerance, be sure to let us know so we can do our best to accommodate them. Thank you.

Bronzed Bounty Table—\$660.00

Includes 8 tickets and a table. Please call or note each of your guests meal preference. We also need the names of your ticket holder for seating chart. Lastly, should any of your ticket holders have dietary needs such as lactose or gluten intolerance, be sure to let us know so we can do our best to accommodate them. Thank you.

Individual ticket to Harvest Gala—\$35 per ticket

*Please call or note each of your guests meal preference. We also need the names of your ticket holders for seating chart. Lastly, should any of your ticket holders have dietary needs such as lactose or gluten intolerance, be sure to let us know so we can do our best to accommodate them. Thank you. **takeout meal option available, please note accordingly.*

Kid Zone Ticket—\$15 per ticket

Do you want to attend, but need daycare? Bring your kiddos (4 & up) with and have them enjoy the Kid Zone featuring games and fun in the gym along with a movie and crafts. Each kiddo will get pizza, get to decorate cupcakes, play and have fun. The Kid Zone is being manned by our awesome Aurora National Honor Society student volunteers.

RETURN THIS FORM TO:

The Leadership Center, 2211 Q St, Aurora, NE 68818 by November 14, 2023

Donor Name (as you would like it to appear in the advertising):

I wish to remain anonymous Y or N

CONTACT INFORMATION

Business/Organization/Donor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

OTHER SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

We would like to be (circle one):

Presenting Event Sponsor

Entertainment Sponsor

Our meal will be steak & scallops with a salad, balsamic Brussel spouts, and garlic smashed potatoes.

Golden Stars Event Sponsor

Golden Harvest Table

Silver Moon Event Sponsor

Bronze Bounty Table

Here are the guest attending with us. If you do not know right now, we can call you closer to the event date.

Guest 1: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 2: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 3: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 4: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 5: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 6: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 7: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 8: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian

Individual Guest Tickets:

Guest 1: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian
Guest 2: _____	_____ Meal	_____ Vegetarian

Circle one: Attending Gala Picking up Event Meal Box @ 6:30 p.m.

Take out meals will include hors d'oeuvres, a main course & dessert.

We are attending the 8th Annual Harvest Gala and we are bringing our kiddos!

Kiddo #1 _____ Kiddo #2 _____