



Something Good In The Good Life: Game Changing Projects For Columbus & Nebraska

Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference – April 28th, 2022



WHAT WE ARE GOING TO COVER?

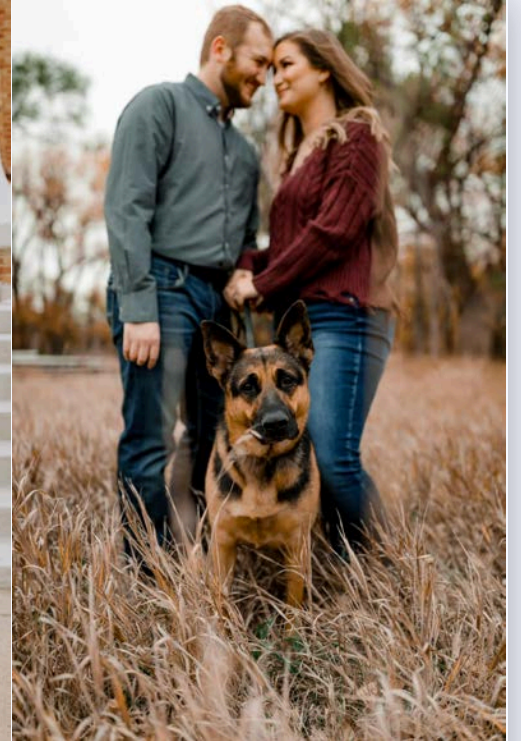
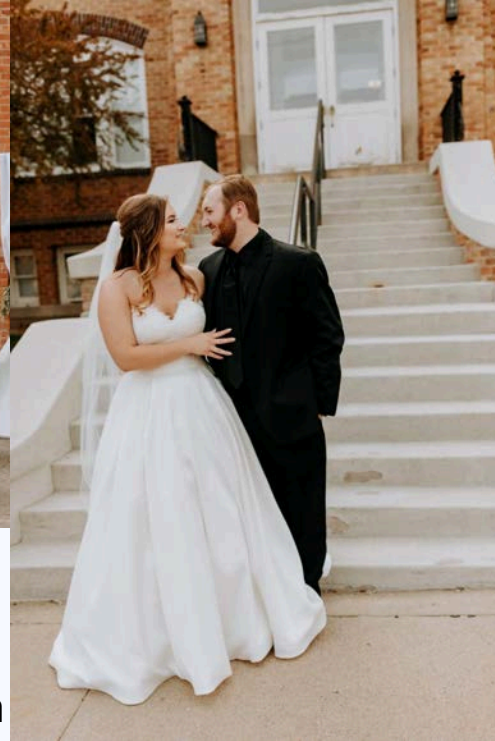
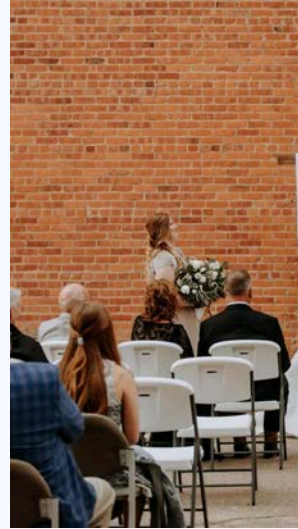
1. About Me
2. Background on Columbus
3. Something Good
4. Game changing projects completed
5. Game changing projects under way
6. How can you replicate this in your community*

*Denotes a Key Point



ABOUT ME

- Moved to Columbus in March 2021
- Married in April 2021
 - 1st anniversary was Easter
- Vice-President of Nebraska Chambers Association
- Youngest Chamber Executive in Mid-America region



City of Power & Progress
Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce

Mantra

How do we attract 18-34 year olds to Columbus?*



BACKGROUND ON COLUMBUS

1. How It Started
2. Behlen Mfg. Co.
3. Becton-Dickinson
4. Manufacturing & Entrepreneurial Growth
5. Today





GAME CHANGING PROJECTS COMPLETED

1. Quality of Life Centers*
2. East Central District Health Department
3. Wellness Center/YMCA
4. Columbus High School STEM Wing
5. New Police Station
6. New Fire Station



GAME CHANGING PROJECTS UNDERWAY



CITY OF COLUMBUS
COMMUNITY BUILDING



COLUMBUS COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL FIELD HOUSE



HARRAH'S CASINO &
RACETRACK

HOW YOU CAN REPLICATE THIS IN YOUR COMMUNITY*

1. Find Your Partners
2. Establish Something Good
3. Create Something Good



FIND YOUR PARTNERS

- Your Chamber of Commerce
- Your Nebraska Extension office
- Your economic development organization
- Nebraska Public Power District/your electric utility
- Area Employers (local & corporate)
- Area K-12 and Higher Education Institutions
- Your Nebraska Community Foundation Affiliated Fund
- Your city government
- Your county government
- State agencies (DED, DOL, DHHS, etc.)
- Your hospital
- Your United Way organization
- Your future*
- Other organizations that exist in YOUR community*



Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce



ESTABLISH SOMETHING GOOD

- **CCH***
 - Convene
 - Collaborate
 - Handshakes, not Handouts*
- **Ask for help; You don't necessarily have to recreate the wheel**



CREATE SOMETHING GOOD

- Once you've seen one Chamber, you've seen one Chamber
- Likewise, once you've seen one community, you've seen one community
- Create amenities and opportunities that make your community unique



FINAL COMMENTS





QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND CONTACT INFO



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