Honoring Willa Cather and her legacy for 60 years 1955–2015
To Our Friends and Supporters

It’s with abundant enthusiasm that we write you as the Willa Cather Foundation celebrates our 60th anniversary year. Some of you have been supporting the Foundation for decades, and we thank you. Others are relative newcomers, and we’re grateful you’ve been inspired along the way to help us further our work. To all, we hope you’ll continue your gracious support long after our next milestone anniversary.

Willa Cather is one of the most respected and acclaimed 20th century American authors. From her little town of Red Cloud, Nebraska where she came of age, we are entrusted with preserving the largest collection of nationally designated historic sites dedicated to an American author. As thousands of visitors pass through our doors each year to pay homage to Cather and tour the places that inspired many of her major works, we’re continually humbled.

We’re also reminded of our duty to share her enduring literature in a time when reading is seen to be on the decline and a crisis of confidence afflicts the humanities. Fortunately, we have many outlets to help inspire the public to discover Cather’s life and work. Whether the first introduction comes by way of attending a dramatic reading, viewing a special exhibit, or by encountering her world through our virtual tour, we’re always ready to share Cather’s enduring novels and stories with new audiences.

In the pages that follow, you’ll encounter an abbreviated history documenting our organization’s growth and development. As we celebrate 60 years and look ahead enthusiastically to the National Willa Cather Center’s completion in 2016, it feels appropriate to pause for reflection and celebration. We’re very grateful for your continued interest, enthusiasm, and support. Together, we’ll ensure that our next 60 years are as promising and productive as our first 60.

With thanks and appreciation,

Thomas Reese Gallagher, Board President
Ashley Olson, Executive Director

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Highlights of our first 60 years

- **1951**
  - The “Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial” is formally established in Red Cloud, Nebraska.
  - Life magazine runs “Willa Cather Country” photo essay by David E. Scherman.

- **1955**
  - Dr. W. K. Bennett acquires title to Cather’s childhood home, donates it to WCPM; funds immediate repairs to protect against deterioration.
  - Founder Mildred Bennett’s The World of Willa Cather is published (the first Cather biography).

- **1956**
  - The “Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial” is formally established in Red Cloud, Nebraska.
  - Temporary quarters set up in Red Cloud’s Besse Auditorium. Early gifts include Cather’s high school diploma and letters.

- **1957**
  - WCPM President Mildred Bennett edits Early Stories of Willa Cather. Proceeds support the WCPM.

- **1959**
  - First publication of the “Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial News Letter.”

- **1960**
  - Historically significant Garber Bank acquired. Built in 1888 by Silas Garber, early Nebraska governor and prototype for Captain Forrester in A Lost Lady.
  - The J. M. McDonald Foundation awards challenge grant of $5,000 to begin restoration of Garber Bank.

- **1961**
  - Dr. W. K. Bennett acquires title to Cather’s childhood home, donates it to WCPM; funds immediate repairs to protect against deterioration.
A Living Memorial to Willa Cather: The WCF at 60 Years

- 5 WCF-owned historic properties
- 612-acre tract of native prairie
- 6 historic sites preserved in partnership with Nebraska State Historical Society
- 59 Spring Conferences
- 14 International Cather Seminars
- 6,575 visitors (2014)
- 1,645 Opera House patrons (2014)
- 1,290 historic site tours (2014)
- 101 new additions to archive and museum collection (2014)
- 175 issues of the *Willa Cather Newsletter & Review*
- 1,592 donors in last 3 years
- $151,500 in student scholarships awarded
- $1.59 million in endowed assets
- $9.49 million in total assets

*All figures as of December 31, 2014*

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Our Mission

To promote Willa Cather’s legacy through education, historic preservation, and the arts.

Our Vision

To become a premier cultural center that offers broad educational opportunities for patrons to experience Cather’s work, explore historic landmarks related to her life and times, foster their own creativity, and embrace the arts and humanities.

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John G. Neihardt speaks at dedication of Garber Bank. Guests include Cather’s friends Carrie Miner Sherwood and Jennie Miner Reiher, and her sisters, Jessica and Elsie.

WCPM participates in unveiling of Cather’s bust at Nebraska State Capitol, by Nebraska-bred artist Paul Swan.

WCPM officially becomes the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

The Nebraska Legislature designates western half of Webster County “Catherland.”

Mr. V. H. Fette donates Red Cloud’s Burlington Depot to the WCPM.

American Association for State and Local History presents Award of Merit to WCPM.

“Catherland” sign unveiled at the highest point on “the Divide.”

Cather’s childhood home opens to visitors after complete restoration.
Educating Students and the Public

From the outset, supporting educators and students has been at the forefront of our mission. Educational tours, which, in 1956, were by appointment only and limited to a small museum collection in Besse Auditorium, have grown to include seven lovingly restored Red Cloud properties, offered several times daily to students of all ages. In 2014, more than 1,290 visitors took an intimate glimpse at these assets by way of guided tours, in addition to those who independently toured our Willa Cather Memorial Prairie and the dozens of Cather-related sites throughout Webster County.

Likewise, the “Spring Activities” that commenced in 1955 have evolved into our Spring Conference, an annual tradition that fills an early June weekend with the arts, humanities, scholarship, and abundant love of Cather’s literature. Those early days were full of new discoveries and projects, as well as esteemed speakers like John Neihardt, Maya Angelou, Eudora Welty, and Alfred Knopf.

Spring Conference today is every bit as exciting. Our 59th annual Spring Conference in 2014 welcomed more than 150 scholars and guests for guided prairie tours, literary presentations, and a keynote address by one of the nation’s foremost humanities scholars, NPR’s Clay Jenkinson. Focusing on our theme of “Mapping Literary Landscapes,” Minneapolis-based Illusion Theater presented My Ántonia on our Opera House stage. Though a familiar story to so many of us, the troupe of young actors brought a fresh perspective and boundless energy to Cather’s words, moving many in the audience to tears.

2014 also marked our return to Europe, as we organized “Cather in Europe/Europe and Cather,” a four-day symposium held in Italy. More than 40 scholars, including 12 international scholars, were in attendance at the Centro Studi Americani in the heart of Rome for this event recognizing the importance of European culture and travel to Cather’s life and work.
Preserving Cather’s Treasured Places

The Farmers’ & Merchants’ Bank was dedicated as the Willa Cather Memorial in 1962. Fittingly, this first museum dedicated to Willa Cather was situated in a historic building erected by Silas Garber, prototype for Captain Forrester in Cather’s *A Lost Lady*. The pause for celebration was brief—there was much more work to be done.

The 1960s and 70s brought a surge of property acquisitions and restoration projects. Cather’s childhood home was acquired in 1960 and opened to visitors in 1967. Many of the furnishings came from the estate of Willa Cather’s sister, Elsie. Cather’s lifelong friend, Mrs. Carrie Miner Sherwood, lent a helping hand and a good memory to the reconstruction of the house.

Red Cloud’s Burlington Depot was donated in 1965. The original two-story section of the depot, constructed in 1897, is the building Cather was familiar with during her last years in Red Cloud. Efforts to save the Depot were extensive, requiring relocation and full restoration. Meanwhile, the St. Juliana Catholic Church was donated in 1968. In this church, prototypes for Ántonia Shimerda and Anton Cuzak were married. Dedication ceremonies for these sites were held in 1970.

Two additional noteworthy sites rounded out our 15+ years of restoration work. Grace Episcopal Church was donated in 1969. Cather joined this church in 1922 and remained a member until her death. Two of the church’s beautiful painted glass windows were donated by Cather in memory of her parents. In 1976, the Pavelka Farmstead, setting of the final scene in *My Ántonia*, was donated.

The six sites mentioned above are today collectively known as the Willa Cather State Historic site, owned by the Nebraska State Historical Society and managed by the WCF. Later decades would bring about resurgence in ours efforts to preserve sites meaningful to Cather and her work.

Cather’s beloved Red Cloud Opera House was donated in 1991 and a grand reopening celebration was held in 2003, after years of careful restoration. The Harling House, a primary setting in *My Ántonia*, was donated in 2001. The First Baptist Church, which Cather attended as a child, was donated in 1987. The 612-acre Cather Memorial Prairie was gifted to us in 2006. The Cather Second Home was purchased through a generous gift in 2011 and reopened as a guest house. Last, but not least: the Moon Block, acquired in 2000, will open next year as the National Willa Cather Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Haldine Johnson donate Pavelka Farmstead, a primary setting in *My Ántonia*. Acquisition of WCPM’s six historic properties by Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS) receives final approval of Legislature, marking new era in our history.

Prairie Workshop sponsored by Nature Conservancy, Kearney State College, and WCPM. 25-page Catherland spread appears in National Geographic.

PBS’s *Into the Morning: Willa Cather’s America*, screens at Spring Conference prior to national premiere.

WCPM opens modest office, gift shop, and gallery in downtown Red Cloud.

Maya Angelou delivers keynote at 26th annual Spring Conference.

2nd International Cather Seminar held in Hastings and Red Cloud.

Prestigious Sower Award presented to WCPM by Nebraska Committee for the Humanities.
Showcasing and Protecting Valuable Collections

When our founding members signed our articles of incorporation in 1955, there’s no doubt they had big dreams for “the Memorial.” We think they would be pleased with our progress. Cather family members and other gracious donors have been most generous to the WCF for many years, contributing to the collections begun by our founders and creating a rich and varied assortment of artifacts and papers.

Our earliest gifts, including Cather’s high school diploma, academic hoods, autographed first editions, photographs, Cather family heirlooms, and letters written by Cather to friends and acquaintances, set the pattern for later gifts and acquisitions. Most interesting, perhaps, is the manuscript for a poem entitled “The Earth Rabbit,” written by Cather for her sister, Elsie. Or, a cloak and fur cape of Cather’s donated by her niece, Virginia Cather Brockway. Or better yet, the musical Turkish doll described in *O Pioneers!* Cather likely encountered the doll during her childhood visits to the home of Dr. Henry Cook, whose family facilitated the gift.

Today, collections amassed by the Foundation before 1978 make up the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial Collection of the Nebraska State Historical Society. All pieces remain part of the Willa Cather State Historic Site in Red Cloud, which, under our management, is regularly open for guided tours, as well as study and research.

Some of the richest collections received in recent years include the Helen Cather Southwick Collection, Betty Kort Collection, Southwick Rare Book Collection, and in 2014, the Beatrix “Trix” Mizer Florance and Sidney R. Florance Collection. Pieces that make up these collections are just as rich and varied as those of our early years, including Cather’s fine clothing, jewelry, and handbags; rare first editions or pre-publication books inscribed by Cather to friends and family; and a newly identified collection of letters, cards, and notes written by Cather to a lifelong friend in Red Cloud. When the National Willa Cather Center opens in 2016, these treasures will be kept safe and accessible to the public for years to come in a climate-controlled archive and museum.
Engaging Artists and Arts Patrons

When our restored Red Cloud Opera House opened its doors in 2003, we shared the enthusiasm of Cather fans nationwide that another site meaningful to Cather’s life and work was meticulously preserved for the benefit of future generations. Even while embracing a vision to host and develop public arts and cultural programs, we could not have imagined what an important staple the Opera House would become to residents of Red Cloud and the surrounding communities.

From our 2003 dedicatory performance of The Bohemian Girl produced by Ariel Bybee and James Ford to 2014’s moving production of My Ántonia by Illusion Theater, the Opera House is once again a vibrant and bustling community arts center. Since opening, the Opera House has hosted nearly 200 concerts and theater performances. The walls of our art gallery have been graced with the artwork of more than 75 artists from the Midwest and beyond, as well as traveling exhibits from the “NEH on the Road” series, Exhibits USA, and the Museum of Nebraska Art. All of our exhibits are open to the public at no charge.

Some of our most memorable events in 2014 included Mary Carrick’s cabaret featuring Broadway music, a concert by emerging local band Lester Junction, a Missoula Children’s Theatre production of Treasure Island put on by local students, and a traveling exhibit from Exhibits USA entitled Grand Ole Opry paired with tribute performances to Patsy Cline and Johnny Cash.

Stunning encaustic work by Margaret Berry, photography by Peter Brown, landscapes by Catherine Meier, and watercolor images by Scott Kirby ornamented our gallery spaces.

Left to right: The Opera House stage in 1903; members of the cast of Illusion Theater’s My Ántonia; Emma Jewell, Jane Kleeb and Mary Henning reading from Cather’s letters.

1993 – 2002

1993
Celebrated playwright/screenwriter Horton Foote speaks at Spring Conference.

1994
6th International Seminar, “Cather’s Canadian and Old World Connections,” held in Quebec.

1995
Schematic drawings unveiled for Red Cloud Opera House restoration.

1996
Congressional Record entry by Bob Kerrey recognizes 125th anniversary of Cather’s birth, 80th anniversary of My Ántonia publication, and 75th anniversary of her Pulitzer Prize.

1998
20-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 281 is designated the Willa Cather Roadway.

1999
Dick Cavett is guest speaker at Spring Conference.

2000
C-SPAN enters management agreement with NSHS to provide tours and oversight of the historic properties donated to the state in 1978.

2001
WCPM enters management agreement with NSHS to provide tours and oversight of the historic properties donated to the state in 1978.

2002
C-SPAN holds a live broadcast of American Writers from Red Cloud.

2002
The White House “Salute to America’s Writers” series, hosted by First Lady Laura Bush, honors Cather.
6

Supporting Scholars and Publishing New Work

When the Willa Cather Foundation was chartered in 1955, founder Mildred R. Bennett already had two Cather publications to her credit: *Early Stories of Willa Cather* and *The World of Willa Cather*, her groundbreaking biography of Cather’s life in Red Cloud. Since then, the WCF has supported researchers of all levels in their scholarly pursuits by not only providing access to primary source material and sites, but also by providing a journal dedicated to Cather literary scholarship and discovery.

Long before officially becoming the *Willa Cather Newsletter & Review* in 1997, the *Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial Newsletter* offered members new insights on Cather’s work by publishing original scholarly essays, as well as those of our scholarship recipients. Edward Johnson of Lincoln East published his winning essay in 1968, taking home $150. In 2014, Grace Iaquinta, also of Lincoln East, won the Norma Ross Walter Scholarship for her original essay. Her $2,000 award demonstrates that while some things remain the same, the cost of college does not. Through the years, more than $150,000 has been distributed to high school students in the forms of essay contest prizes and scholarships, an original goal of our organization.

All told, 336 students, historians, and scholars have published original research and criticism in our nearly 1,000 published pages. All materials published in the *Willa Cather Newsletter & Review* are donated by students, scholars, and professionals committed to Cather studies and to the success of the Willa Cather Foundation. Members of our Board of Governors volunteer their time and expertise to support this exemplary publication. The informative journal is a living history of the Foundation itself.
Finally, two Cather properties year after year speak with special power to our visitors and pull them into Cather’s life and work. One is the home where she lived during the crucial years between the family’s move to Red Cloud and her departure for the University of Nebraska, a house that serves as backdrop for many of her works, and where she herself chose and hung the wallpaper for her own attic room. The other is the Pavelka Farmstead on the prairie north of Red Cloud, the setting for the final book of My Ántonia. These two buildings are at the heart of our mission. We recognize that as property stewards, we must work with our partners at the Nebraska State Historical Society to preserve and utilize these priceless assets to the fullest extent.

In the scholarly and critical communities, recent decades have brought a surge of appreciation for Cather’s work. Once dismissed as a Midwestern woman writer, she is now regularly named with Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Faulkner, and Wharton as among the greatest American writers of her era. But this critical acclaim has not yet captured the attention and kindled the interest of the general public to the extent we would like. In keeping with our mission, we continue to work to extend her reach.

The NWCC’s enhanced archival facilities will offer further outreach opportunities, including the creation of scholarships to fund research residencies and fellowships for visiting scholars and students, as well as research seminars drawing on our unique trove of materials. We’re planning the design, fabrication, and installation of a permanent exhibition entitled American Bittersweet: The Life and Writing of Willa Cather, which will lend itself well to reproduction as a traveling exhibit for libraries and museums nationwide.
## Financial Summary 2014

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2014 and 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$235,875</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Accrued interest receivable</td>
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<td>Pledges receivable, net</td>
<td>472,685</td>
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<td>Contributions receivable, net</td>
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<td>Assets in charitable remainder trust</td>
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<td>Bookstore inventory</td>
<td>41,109</td>
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<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>3,104,810</td>
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<td>Art and historic structures</td>
<td>265,760</td>
<td>181,485</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,491,219</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,856,607</strong></td>
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### Liabilities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses and taxes withheld</td>
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<td>$22,669</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
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<td>1,128,765</td>
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<td>Split interest charitable remainder trust</td>
<td>444,225</td>
<td>428,282</td>
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<td>Capital lease obligations</td>
<td>7,643</td>
<td>10,701</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,464,060</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,590,417</strong></td>
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### Net Assets

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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanently restricted</td>
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<td>2,047,698</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,027,159</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,266,190</strong></td>
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### Total liabilities and net assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total liabilities and net assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$9,491,219</td>
<td>$7,856,607</td>
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### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

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<tr>
<th>Revenue and Support</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions and memberships</td>
<td>$1,396,333</td>
<td>$1,686,837</td>
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<td>Nebraska State Historical Society appropriations</td>
<td>80,406</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
<td>781,230</td>
<td>258,817</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales and admissions</td>
<td>82,268</td>
<td>99,347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent income</td>
<td>33,369</td>
<td>37,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and seminars</td>
<td>38,131</td>
<td>88,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in value of split interest</td>
<td>9,067</td>
<td>12,159</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalties income</td>
<td>9,403</td>
<td>8,097</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
<td>13,815</td>
<td>11,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and investment gains</td>
<td>104,281</td>
<td>124,963</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,548,303</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,396,461</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$34,621</td>
<td>$49,432</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education and scholarships</td>
<td>45,186</td>
<td>93,415</td>
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<td>Preservation of sites and collections</td>
<td>143,950</td>
<td>145,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical center operations</td>
<td>169,246</td>
<td>144,459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cather prairie operations</td>
<td>16,464</td>
<td>19,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>226,492</td>
<td>222,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development and fundraising</td>
<td>133,025</td>
<td>152,614</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$787,334</strong></td>
<td><strong>$842,398</strong></td>
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### INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase in Net Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>$6,266,190</td>
<td>$4,712,127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$8,027,159</td>
<td>$6,266,190</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The financial statements of the Willa Cather Foundation are audited annually by an independent public accounting firm. A copy of the audited financial statements and the Foundation's tax filing (Form 990) may be obtained by contacting the Foundation's office.*
Support

The following individuals and organizations were donors to the Willa Cather Foundation in 2014. Space does not permit us to list donations under $50.00, but we are grateful for these contributions. Every gift is important to us.

$100,000 and Above
Anonymous
Anonymous
Peter Kiewit Foundation, Omaha, NE
John W. Carson Foundation, Encino, CA
Robert A. Cary, Portland, OR
The Chief Foundation, Inc., Grand Island, NE
Charles Gifford & Michele van Deventer, Omaha, NE
Glenwood Telecommunications, Blue Hill, NE
Gilbert M. & Martha H. Hitchcock Foundation, Omaha, NE
Humanities Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
Hod & Willa Kosman, Scottsbluff, NE
Paul R. & Lynette R. Krieger, Hastings, NE
Dan & Leslie Levy, Lincoln, NE
Geraldine L. Lewis, Red Cloud, NE
The McGowan Family Foundation, Inc., Omaha, NE
John P. & Anne Nelson, Omaha, NE
Rhonda Pauley, Hastings, NE
Bernard J. & Nancy S. Picchi, New York, NY
Brian Abel Ragen, St. Louis, MO
Three Pillars Media Inc., Lincoln, NE
Webster County Visitor Promotion, Red Cloud, NE
$2,500 to $4,999
Dr. Curtis & Lisa Albers, Grand Island, NE
Adrian K. Alnoquist, Bloomington, MN
Heritage Bank, Red Cloud, NE
Cather Project, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Lincoln, NE
Jane Renner Hood, Lincoln, NE
Rick & Barb Kudrna, Red Cloud, NE
Dr. Susan N. Maher & Al Kammerer, Duluth, MN
John J. & Sally Murphy, Newton, MA
Frank & Shirley Sibert, Kearney, NE
Richard Norton Smith, Arlington, VA
Leonard & Kate Sommer, Lincoln, NE
UNAMIMUS, Lincoln, NE
Dayre & Tere L. Williams, Red Cloud, NE
$1,000 to $2,499
Virgil & Dolores Albertini, Fairway, KS
Bahr Vermeer Haecker Architects, Omaha, NE
Steve & Deb Bartels, Franklin, NE
Greg Searson & Jo Bass, Omaha, NE
Edward & Margaret Bates, Lincoln, NE
Erma B. Bennett, Indianapolis, IN
Margaret & John Stevens Berry, Lincoln, NE
Mark W. & Ashley Bostock, Windsor, CO
John & Kathleen Brooks, Cameron, MO
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Mike & Sara Corless, Mission Hills, KS
Tom & Marianne Culhane, Omaha, NE
Max Despain, Monument, CO
Roy & Gloria Dinsdale, Omaha, NE
Elise R. Donohue, Clyde Park, MT
William & Joan Dunfey, Jamaica Plain, MA
Daniel & Gretchen Eakes, Grand Island, NE
Jack & Judy Ekeler, Fremont, NE
Ethan & Stephanie Evert, Red Cloud, NE
John Fonda, Omaha, NE
Creigh Family Foundation, Lincoln, NE
Robert & Jeanette Hunt Fund, Blair, NE
Gary Thompson Agency, Inc., Red Cloud, NE
Charmion Gutzke, Nashville, TN
Dennis & Sally Hansen, Red Cloud, NE
Jeffrey Hayden & Eva Marie Saint, Los Angeles, CA
Mary Manning Healthcare, Hastings, NE
Steve & Jill Hornady, Grand Island, NE
Anne Hubbard, Omaha, NE
James W. Johnson & Michael L. Connell, New York, NY
Frederick J. & Diane Kaufman, Hays, KS
Ruth & Jim Keene III, Omaha, NE
Nella Kincaid, Lincoln, NE
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Ronald Lapp, Los Angeles, CA
Boo Law & Jeanne Hale, Bethesda, MD
David & Nancy Lederer, Chapel Hill, NC
Bill & Tanya Lindsteadt, Hastings, NE
Mid America Arts Alliance, Kansas City, MO
Dr. Robert K. Miller, Lake Oswego, OR
Jack & Pamela Osborne, Hastings, NE
Shari Patrick & Steven Leichter, Sands Point, NY
Alexander Payne, Topanga, CA
ReverendCharles & Nancy Peck, Kearney, NE
Mon Pep, Apts, CA
Gene & Margaret Pokorny, Jaffrey, NH
David Porter, Saratoga Springs, NY
Dr. Susan A. Schiller, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Richard & Marlene Schilling, Loveland, CO
Julie M. Schroeder, Omaha, NE
Paul & Jackie Shapiro, Albany, NY
D. Charles Shoemaker & Lynne A. Friedewald, Hastings, NE
C. Kay Stahl, Kearney, NE
Roger & Liana Steele, Grand Island, NE
Jon C. Teaford, Lafayette, IN
Robert & Debbie Thacker, Canton, NY
Dwight E. Theohald, Red Cloud, NE
Gary & Marcia Thompson, Lincoln, NE
Stockman Family Foundation Trust, Delray Beach, FL
Brad & Katy Wolf, Red Cloud, NE
Dan Yost, Hastings, NE
Michael & Carmen Zalman, Lincoln, NE
Peter & Krista Zandbergen, Omaha, NE
$500 to $999
John & Gaylene Adler, Omaha, NE
Anonymous
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce P. Baker II, Omaha, NE
South Central State Bank, Blue Hill, NE
Jerry Kenny & Bridget M. Barron, Kearney, NE
Dr. Fred & Mary Bliss, Davis, CA
Fred & Deanna Bosselman, Doniphan, NE
Carl & Karen Brasee, Grand Island, NE
George H. Brockway, New York, NY
Curt & Mary J. Brumbaugh, Red Cloud, NE
AFP–Nebraska Chapter, Omaha, NE
Dr. Gary Cook, Cumberland, MD
Richard & Katherine Endacott, Pleasant Dale, NE
Ella Epp, Henderson, NE
James L. Farmer, Red Cloud, NE
Larry & Lynn Fenwick, Macksville, KS

Highlights
Capital Campaign
Cather Center
National Willa
A new arts and culture fundraising continues to construction underway
Honorary National Chair
Ken Burns helps successfully launch public phase of campaign
Endorsement received from former First Lady Laura Bush
Enthusiastic crowd attends ceremonial groundbreaking and dinner with esteemed guest Richard Norton Smith
Initial goal of $6.7 million reached when a generous anonymous donor puts us over the top
Final bids received: 4% above preliminary project budget
Construction underway for facility completion and opening in 2016
Fundraising continues to raise $160,000 necessary to meet final project costs
A new arts and culture destination will provide a proper home for our priceless materials and preserve the legacy of one of our nation’s greatest authors!
The Cather Legacy Society

Virgil and Dolores Albertini, Fairway, KS
Melvin C. Anderson†, Red Cloud, NE
Anonymous, Hastings, NE
Martina E. Artirst, Omaha, NE
Hazel C. Baker†, Omaha, NE
Will Fellows, Milwaukee, WI
Helen Cather Garner†, Pittsburgh, PA
Ella Cather Lewis‡, Long Beach, CA
Josephine Frisbie†, Omaha, NE
Cynthia Mines, Wichita, KS
Warren and Julie Olin-Ammertor, Syracuse, NY
Helen L. Sagr‡, Albuquerque, NM
Amy L. Soderberg‡, Beatrice, NE
Norma S. Steen†, Grand Island, NE
Margaret Lambrecht Votipka†, Fairmont, MN
Norma Ross Walter†, Vallejo, CA
A descendant of Frank H. Woods, Chicago, IL
† Deceased

Join the Cather Legacy Society

The Cather Legacy Society was founded to recognize individuals who make charitable gift plans to benefit the Willa Cather Foundation beyond their lifetime. Gifts received further our mission to promote Cather’s legacy through education, historic preservation, and the arts. You may join the Cather Legacy Society by making a future gift intention in your will or through a beneficiary designation. For more information, contact Ashley Olson, Executive Director, at 402-746-2653 or aolson@willacather.org.
Honorary and Memorial Gifts
Contributions made in 2014 in memory or appreciation of certain individuals are credited in the donor list and repeated here in recognition of the individuals honored.

$250 and Above
In memory of Anthony “Tony” Jeffery Kirkpatrick
In honor of John A Yost & G. Wade Leak
In honor of Nancy Naramore & Dorothy Kammerer
In memory of Barbara Sprague
In honor of David & Helen Porter
In memory of Curtis E. Watson
In honor of John Mercer

$100 to $249
In memory of Malcolm Douglas Crawford & Sheila Eigeman Crawford
In memory of Loretta Lohr
In honor of Charles & Ethel Bruhaker Norris
In memory of, Naomi Hull
In memory of Marshall Berman
In memory of Aleck & Frances Arneson
In honor of William N. Buffett
In memory of Charles Blackstone
In honor of Georgene Fudali
In memory of James Woodress
In honor of Maude M. Dunn
In memory of Nathan & Marvel Guy
In honor of Susan Rosowski

$50 to $99
In memory of Charlene Hoschouer
In honor of John Taylor
In memory of Marietta Sims
In honor of Beverly Buck Pollock
In memory of Bud Gauger
In memory of Doreen Sanders
In memory of Edsel Pope
In memory of Eleanor Roosevelt
In memory of Elizabeth “Juny” Ogden
In memory of Norma Ross Walter
In memory of Patty Hutton
In honor of Lucia Woods Lindley & Dan Lindley
In memory of Bette Miksch
In honor of Virgil Albertini

The Willa Cather Foundation

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(The HTDD is supported through a collaborative partnership with the City of Red Cloud, Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Community Foundation, and Red Cloud Community Foundation Fund.)
Promoting Willa Cather’s legacy through education, historic preservation, and the arts.