Friends of the Grain Place Foundation

FOUNDING DONORS

Folks who make a tax deductible financial contribution before December 31, 2017 will become “Founding Donors” of the Grain Place Foundation. These gifts will support general operations as the foundation assumes more ownership of the Grain Place farm and establishes educational and scientific programs to enhance the legacy of a pioneering organic farm.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GIFTS TO THE FOUNDATION

Grain Place Foundation has received gifts of stock in the Grain Place farm and will eventually own at least 85% percent. It will gradually assume control of its operations. The Grain Place farm is a privately held, for profit, corporation with ownership restricted to members of the Vetter family and the foundation. Over the next several years family members will give shares of stock to the foundation. Each year the stockholders choose directors who control its operations. In addition, the foundation has received ownership of Don Vetter’s former home from his family. The home serves as a guest house and the official office for the foundation.

It has been the practice of the Vetter family to invest all of the income from the operation of the Grain Place back into the farm. Funds for the operation of the foundation come from outside gifts and revenue generated by foundation activities. The seed money to legally establish the foundation came from gifts given in memory of Don Vetter who died in March of 2015. Money to operate the guest house is generated from guests. The annual Grain Place Farm Tour and Summer Seminar was underwritten by grants from Grain Place Foods, Pinnacle Bank and private donors.

Plans are being developed to establish internships and cooperate with Educational Institutions (particularly UNL) in research projects of students. The foundation is actively involved in the search for a new Farm Manager for the Grain Place as this person will be integral to our mission.

All the work of the foundation has been carried out by volunteers. Our hope is to transition to a modest paid administrative staff over the next few years. The by-laws are written in such a way that future growth of the foundation is not limited to just the Grain Place. We do not know what will develop, but believe we have an important role to play in advancing healthy soil and communities.

Founding board members and the Vetter Family have made a commitment to develop something that will enable future generations to enhance a legacy.

How much money will it take?

As much as we can get! Basic operations, assuming grant funding for additional programs, will take upwards of $20,000 per year. Transitioning to even a part time paid staff will require at least an additional $30,000 per year.