By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

One hundred people attended Saturday's "An Enchanted Winter Evening" hosted by the Chase County Hospital Foundation.

The event held at the St. Patrick Parish Hall was a way to say "thank-you" to people of the area who support the hospital and the work of the foundation, said Executive Director Randy Vlasin.

Vlasin noted the foundation works to support Chase County Community Hospital and its Clinics in Imperial and Wauneta by securing resources through private donations and grants.

Recent equipment purchases used with such foundation funds include:

A $20,000 portable ultrasound used in several different diagnostic procedures.

A $15,000 energy platform that is used in a variety of surgical procedures. It reduces patient surgery and recovery time.

A $4,900 treadmill used in the cardiac rehab and physical therapy departments.

Other funds have been used for hospital/clinic staff training, scholarships for staff education, support of the hospital's annual All Cancer Walk, WELLS Angels Health & Wellness Program and toward a permanent endowment for future healthcare needs.

Vlasin said such efforts couldn't happen without the support of the foundation donors.

Several retired foundation board members were recognized for their service which concluded during the past year.

Presented plaques that night or who will receive them include Russ Pankonin, Jill Moline, Denise Smith and Bill Bauerle.

The foundation's current board of directors includes Sam McNair, president; Linsey Foote, vice president; Marilee Wallin, secretary; Ray Lindekugel, treasurer; and members Tonda McGarr, Ray Malleck and Roger Minneman.

Those attending Saturday enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages provided by the St. Patrick Altar Society and Knights of Columbus.

Following the social hour, the attendees were entertained by the five-member Toasted Ponies of Lincoln, who provided more than an hour of bluegrass music and song.

Their performance also had financial support from the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Earlier in the day, The Toasted Ponies entertained at the Imperial Manor, something they do as a community service project with no charge.

Upcoming event: Slice Fore Life Golf Benefit

Vlasin asked people attending to note the next fundraiser for the foundation, the annual Slice Fore Life Golf Benefit.

This year's golf outing will be held Saturday, June 22, at Enders Lake Golf Course.

Vlasin said those interested in golfing or supporting the event as a sponsor can contact him at 308-882-7379 or 882-6519.