Jason Neises is the Community Development Coordinator at the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque (CFGD). He works with rural communities in the CFGD seven-county region to implement Community Heart & Soul, a planning and development process designed to increase participation in local decision-making and empower residents to shape the future of their communities in a way that upholds the unique character of each place.

Originally from Dubuque, Neises has spent most of his career in adult education and working with non-profits, including Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Chicago Architecture Foundation, and the Peace Corps. He volunteers in the community with the Dubuque County Historic Preservation Commission, Cub Scouts, Dubuque Art Museum, the Dubuque Winter Farmers’ Market, and the Thomas Determan Global Perspectives Endowment.

Neises has an education degree from the University of Northern Iowa. He lives on a small farm north of Dubuque with his wife and two boys.

Shane Hale is the City Manager of Cortez, Colorado in the Four Corners Region, where he has been employed since 2011. He has a master’s degree in political science with an emphasis in public policy administration from the University of Colorado and a bachelor’s degree in mass communication from the University of Southern Colorado. Hale served for four years in the U.S. Navy on the USS Pensacola cruise, where he completed two Mediterranean Sea tours. Shane’s wife Darci is a first grade teacher, and his boys Sawyer (8) and Nolan (5) are equal parts cute and ornery. During the Heart and Soul outreach, Cortez reached out to engage the Ute Mountain Ute tribe around the design of a gateway sign that honored the tribe. To collect input on the design, the city hosted two workshops in Towaoc, with the goal of working together with tribal members to make the symbols along the southern entrance to the city connect with Ute Mountain Ute beliefs and traditions.

Debbie Moreno is a journalist, a poet, a parent, and an active volunteer—skills and experience that have transferred to her role as project coordinator of Galesburg on Track, a Community Heart & Soul project in Galesburg, Illinois. Debbie is devoted to effective communication with residents and has built a strong and dedicated group of volunteers that represent the broad range of perspectives.

Caitlyn Davison joined the Orton Family Foundation as an Orton Fellow and transitioned to a full-time staff position working in both the programs and communications departments. Her experience in community planning, public participation and non-profit marketing includes working as Assistant Planner with Colorado Parks & Wildlife. Caitlyn holds a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from the University of Colorado. She also earned a master’s degree in community planning and development from the Muskie School for Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. She was awarded the 2012 Outstanding Capstone Award for her work co-writing a white paper on commercial strip redevelopment. Caitlyn is an active member of the New Gloucester Land Management Planning Committee and serves on the board of the Treehouse Institute. She lives in New Gloucester, Maine, with her husband, Ben and the newest member of their family, Lowell Harper Davison.

Caitlyn Davison
Orton Family Foundation
Shane Hale
City of Cortez, CO
Debbie Moreno
Galesburg on Track
Jason Neises
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque

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