

We Don't Know, But It Will Be Good

NEAFCS Endowment Committee

Why give to the NEAFCS Endowment? What will come from my contribution? Those are very appropriate questions. Interestingly, even though I am a contributor AND an advocate for the endowment, the only answer I can give is this: "We don't know."

What? That's not much of an answer!! *Or maybe it is. . .*

I see a comparison to the story told in "The Secret History of Home Economics" (2021) by Danielle Dreilinger. The Iowa NEAFCS affiliate is exploring this book this summer, and one of the things that struck me was the important role that money and other resources played in our history. The Lake Placid Conferences (1899-1909) played a major formative role in our profession by gathering people together to share ideas and define our vision. There were FUNDERS that helped make those conferences possible.

Of course, it wasn't *only* money that mattered. There were already visionary leaders who had started to look at household challenges in new, scientific ways. But had there not been a focused gathering of those visionaries – a gathering made possible by FUNDS – the new profession might not have been formed... or at best it would have been formed more slowly and less cohesively.

But when the funders and participants committed to the first Lake Placid Conference, did they know what would come from their contributions? No. They didn't know. They just knew they were putting a process in place. And they made progress. It was good.

That's how it is when we contribute to our NEAFCS Endowment Fund – we're investing in an unknown future for our profession. We don't know more than a year ahead *exactly* what the money will be used for, but we know that NEAFCS has a project funding process in place that's guided by experienced and committed people. WE (all of us as NEAFCS members) have the opportunity to use that money to try something new and different – something that will bring progress to our Extension Family and Consumer Sciences profession.

What will come from your contribution to the NEAFCS Endowment? We don't know, but it will be GOOD. Your gift helps build a better future for our profession. I encourage you to give today!