“$25,000 Given to Local Economic Development Group”

When people with the same goal join together, great things can happen. The Norfolk Area Small Business Resource Team (SBRT), a group of economic development entities in Northeast Nebraska, has received a $25,000 economic development grant that will help them reach their common goal of supporting existing small businesses and facilitating the creation of new small businesses in the area.

The Federal Home Loan Bank, of which Midwest Bank in Norfolk is a member, awarded the grant through its Joint Opportunities for Building Success program. The program is designed to help financial institutions in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma promote jobs and economic growth in their communities.

The SBRT is made up of 12 different economic development entities that decided last year they could be more effective offering their services to new and existing business owners if they joined forces. The City of Norfolk Economic Development Division became the contact point for the group and refer businesses who contact them to the appropriate SBRT partners.

The partners include the Madison Area Chamber of Commerce; Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Nebraska Business Development Center; Nebraska Public Power District; Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce; Norfolk Area Economic Development Council; Northeast Community College-Center for Enterprise; Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District; Procurement Technical Assistance and Contracting; Rural Enterprise Assistance Project; Service Corps Of Retired Executives; and United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development.

The grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank in Topeka, Kansas, became available to the SBRT through an application process at Midwest Bank in Norfolk. The funds will be used to update the SBRT website; support database management of the businesses and members; and fund printed materials, educational seminars and advertising for the group.

For more information about the Small Business Resource Team go to www.norfolksmallbiz.com or call 402.844.2260 or email grow@ci.norfolk.ne.us.