

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



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To give away money is an easy matter and in any man's power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large and for what purpose and how is neither in every man's power – nor an easy matter. Hence it is, that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy and noble. –Aristotle

As development directors, we spend a vast majority of our time doing one thing—raising money. All this effort does have a payoff, however. We get to participate with the local committees that have the enviable responsibility of giving the money away. So this year, we decided to use the “*Community Connection*” portion of the Annual Report to highlight just a few of the community projects funded by our local community funds across the state. The volunteers in all of our communities are so dedicated and they are all doing such wonderful work, it was difficult to choose. Here is just a small sample of the extraordinary things that are accomplished every year all across the State.

Each community participating in the Community Endowment Fund Program drafts their own “grant guidelines” (you can find them by going to www.NDCF.net and clicking on the desired community on the map of North Dakota). These guidelines give direction to grant seekers on issues such as geographic limits, size of grants, preference of project versus operating funds, etc. Advisory committee members use these guidelines to begin the process of deliberating amongst the applicants. Committee members also weigh factors such as the level of

local involvement and support, the opportunity to leverage the funds, the number of people to be served with the grant, and the ability of the grant to affect the success of the project.

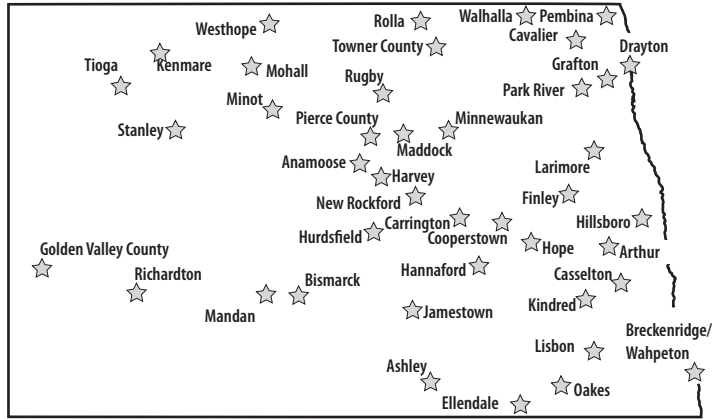
Cooperstown is a prime example of how to use a grant to leverage funds. The local advisory committee made a grant to the Griggs County Historical Society to develop and build the Northern Plains Cold War Interpretive Center. That grant was used to leverage funds from the North Dakota Department of Tourism as well as another grant from the Air Force Missileers Association. Even a small grant such as this can be very effective when used to leverage other grants that require matching funds. It is but one example of how communities are getting better at identifying ways to stretch their valuable local resources.

Along the same lines, a few years ago, the community of Cavalier made a grant to the local sports booster club to purchase cases of water with the “Cavalier Tornadoes” printed on the label. The water is sold through concessions for all home games. Sales now sustain themselves as well as provide additional proceeds to help with the expenses of the sports program. This one-time grant allowed an organization the opportunity to become self-sufficient and create a resource for their future.

Using a grant as seed money to start a project is a common use for the funds. The Wahpeton-Breckenridge Community Foundation made a \$3,000 grant to a new venture, “Hope for the Holidays” in December of 2009. Partnering with

We have partnered with many communities since 1981. If we partner with your community, we will come to your community and come back again. We are with you for the long-term, not just today.

The forty-two community funds operating in North Dakota



the Richland-Wilkin Kinship Program, which coordinated the effort, local Chamber Bucks were used to purchase toys, clothing and other goods from local businesses. The radio station fielded calls from the public to identify recipients. The program targeted low income families as well as adults and seniors who are often forgotten during the holidays. Nearly 1,000 people received holiday assistance in this first year of operation. By partnering with a larger organization, the local committee had a greater effect in the community and reached a greater number of people through the program.

The Rugby Community Endowment Fund used a portion of its grantable funds to inspire residents to support the annual fundraising efforts of other local non-profit organizations. The Fund teamed up with the Rugby Lions Club and Rugby Community Chest to create a day of charity and fun as a way to promote philanthropy throughout the community. Organizations applied in advance to receive matching funds from the Rugby Community Endowment Fund, then participated in the charity fun day in Ellery Park, where residents enjoyed a picnic, free ice cream, and an evening of entertainment. Each organization hosted a booth and collected donations of all sizes from area residents, which were matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$500 per organization by the Rugby Community Endowment Fund grant. Local organizations raised a total of

\$4,628 on Charity Day, and earned \$3,050 in matching funds from the Rugby Community Endowment Fund.

In 2009, the Ellendale Area Community Foundation provided the Arts Council with a \$1,500 grant to bring college educator and photographer Roddy MacInnes to Ellendale for their Artist in Residence Program. MacInnes, a native of Scotland and Professor of photography at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado, spent three weeks instructing students in Ellendale, Oakes, and LaMoure, as well as conducting community classes with 4-H participants, senior groups, and other community groups. The Arts Council received a matching grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, as well as financial support from each of the three schools in order to help cover the costs of travel, lodging, and equipment/supplies for the Artist in Residence.

Working at the North Dakota Community Foundation is very rewarding. Every day brings new challenges, new goals, and new friends. We pride ourselves on the usefulness of our organization and the success of our community fund program, which is only possible because of the high caliber of volunteers with whom we work. The North Dakota Community Foundation is truly the People of North Dakota's foundation. It belongs to us all, it works for us all, and it always will.