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NDCF Announces New Community Foundations in Celebration of Community Foundation Week NOVEMBER 12–18, 2015

Bismarck, North Dakota – During the week of November 12-18, 2015, the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) will join more than 750 community foundations across America celebrating *Community Foundation Week*. For more than 25 years, the effort has raised awareness about the increasingly important role of these philanthropic organizations in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

NDCF currently administers community endowment funds for over 61 community foundations in North Dakota, including the most recent additions in 2015: the Adams County Community Foundation in southwest North Dakota and the Dale L & Russell F Brown Memorial Funds, benefitting the communities of Lisbon and Milnor in the southeast part of our state.

“Community foundations provide resources to address the changing needs of a community,” said Kevin Dvorak, President & CEO of NDCF. “They are becoming increasingly important as our rural communities face a variety of challenges from aging infrastructure to sudden population changes to limited entertainment options for their residents.”

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. NDCF expects to grant out over \$3.5 million in 2015 through its various funds. These grants are used in a variety of ways to improve the quality of life for North Dakota residents. Some examples of 2015 grants include:

- A \$3,000 grant from the Anamoose Area Community Foundation to the Little Raiders Daycare for a building addition.
- A \$5,146 grant from the Ellendale Area Community Foundation to the Ellendale Fire District for Extrication Tools
- A \$750 grant from the Cavalier Community Foundation to the Cavalier Public School for Missoula Children’s Theatre Programming
- A \$23,750 grant from the New Salem Area Community Foundation to the Elm Crest Assisted Living facility to help expand their building and add another 9 apartments for elderly residents in need of care.
- A \$2,200 grant from the Tioga Community Foundation to the Tioga Park District for a Pool and Splash Pad.
- A \$710 grant from the Hebron Area Community Foundation to the Hebron Public School to assist with their All Class Reunion

“Whether the grant is large or small, they all fund projects and programs that improve the quality of life for our North Dakota residents,” said Dvorak.

Community foundations represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Every state in the United States is home to at least one community foundation—large and small, urban and rural—working to advance solutions on a wide range of social issues. For community foundations at NDCF, each fund has an advisory committee made up of local

residents that recommend grant awards to the projects and programs they believe will make the most significant impact in their area.

The State of North Dakota encourages donors to direct their philanthropic dollars toward endowment funds such as the community foundations at NDCF through a 40% State Tax Credit passed in 2011.

“That is a huge benefit to donors,” said Dvorak. “A gift of \$5,000 to a community’s endowment fund may actually have an out-of-pocket cost to the donor of only \$1,600 depending on their federal tax bracket. We certainly encourage people to look at their hometown community foundation as they plan their charitable giving for the year.”

Community Foundation Week, created in 1989 by former president George H.W. Bush, recognizes the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

For more information or to inquire about establishing a community foundation for your hometown, contact Kevin Dvorak at 701-222-8349.

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Established in 1976, the NDCF is a public, non-profit tax-exempt corporation which receives and distributes charitable funds to support a wide range of programs that benefit North Dakotans. It currently manages over \$60 million in assets in over 500 component funds, including 61 local community foundations, and many agency endowment funds, donor-advised funds, and scholarships. It has made over \$58 million in grants since its inception with the mission of improving the lives of North Dakota citizens and their communities through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy.