

Oliver County Community Foundation
c/o North Dakota Community Foundation
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August 2025

2025 Annual Update

Dear Community Friends,

An article last year in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* noted that rural areas in America receive much less charitable funding from national foundations than they should based on population. This doesn't come as a big surprise to many of us who live in "flyover country." The Midwest and especially its rural areas are often overlooked.

While this statistic may be discouraging to some, it is actually *inspiring* to our committee. We don't want to wait for help or handouts from national organizations to build projects or support programs here in Oliver County—we want to build our own charitable resource in the Oliver County Community Foundation.

The infusion of grant dollars from Grid United's North Plains Connector project has opened our eyes to the needs in our area—projects and programs that improve the quality of life of our residents were all around us, but there were no funds available.

A permanently endowed fund will generate charitable dollars for grant awards in our area forever, regardless of what other funding may come our way. **Please consider how you can help start a permanent fund for our area.** Gifts of all sizes are appreciated—together we can create a better future for Oliver County! Donations can be made online at www.NDCF.net/OliverCounty or you can mail a check to the address on the back.

Please feel free to contact any of us listed below or email us at OliverCounty@NDCF.net for more information. **Thank you for considering a gift to the future of our area!**

OCCF Advisory Committee

Deb Clarys, Chair
Jayar Kindsvogel
Mikael Schmidt

Lacey Hanson
Sharon Rud
Dave Berger

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." - Theodore Roosevelt

\$31,000 Awarded in Grants Second Grant Round Closes Oct. 13

The Oliver County Community Foundation (OCCF) awarded the following grants this spring:

- **Small Hands Preschool and Childcare:** \$10,000 to replace flooring
- **Oliver County Fair:** \$7,000 for a picnic table trailer
- **Oliver County:** \$6,000 for a County Comprehensive Plan Update
- **City of Center:** \$6,000 for a new water utility system
- **Center-Stanton Public School:** \$2,000 for a Crocobots FTC European Premier Event Travel and Outreach Initiative

Applications for our second grant round are due by October 13. More information and an online application can be found at www.NDCF.net/OliverCounty.



The Center-Stanton Public School Crocobots team was invited to compete in the First Tech Challenge European Premier Event in the Netherlands in July. While there, they also toured the Eindhoven University of Technology and The Next Nature Museum (pictured). Photo from their Facebook page.

What is a Community Foundation?

A community foundation receives gifts and donations from individuals, families, and businesses, and grants money back into the community for projects and programs that improve the quality of life for area residents.

The community foundation is guided by a local Advisory Committee, which leads fundraising efforts and recommends grant awards.

“The beauty of a fund like this is that it’s not tied to any one cause or organization,” said John Heinen with NDCF. *“Each year, the Advisory Committee will review applications from charitable organizations and community groups and recommend programs to receive funding.”*

The Oliver County Community Foundation got its start with an infusion of grant dollars from Grid United’s North Plains Connector project. **A total of \$125,000 in grants has been awarded from the fund to date, with another \$25,000 available this fall.**

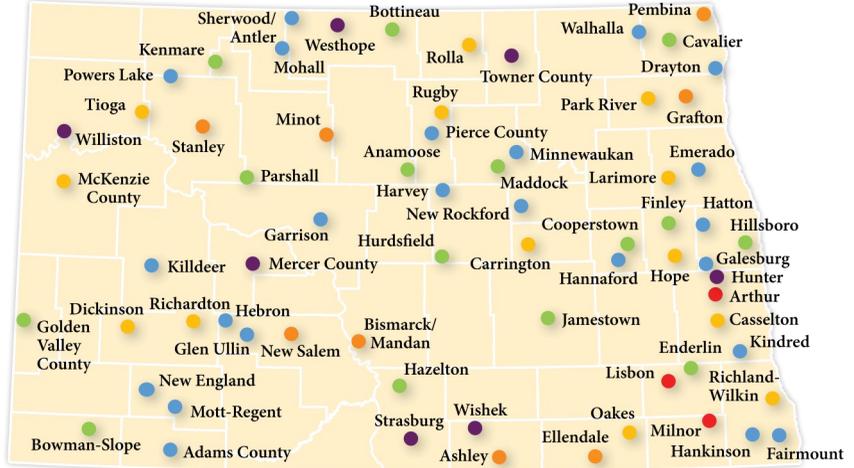
Many communities, however, start an endowment fund to provide a permanent resource for projects in their area.

“This is the last year we expect to have funding from Grid United,” said OCCF Chair Deb Clarys. *“Our committee would like to see our community establish a permanent fund, but we need a few businesses and families to step up and get us started.”*

There are over 69 local community foundations in North Dakota, some that started over three decades ago and others that started more recently. The larger these permanent endowment funds grow, the more earnings are available for grants every year (see map above)

Can you help us grow our fund so that we can better support the programs and projects that make Oliver County great? Consider setting up a recurring gift online or send a check to our address below. Or consider one of these options:

- **Donate stock**
- **Transfer money directly from your IRA -**



Total Assets = Annual Grants

\$5 million+	●	\$200,000+
\$1 million - \$5 M	●	\$40,000 - \$200,000
\$500,000 - \$999,999	●	\$20,000 - \$40,000
\$250,000 - \$499,999	●	\$10,000 - \$20,000
\$100,000 - \$249,999	●	\$4,000 - \$10,000
\$0 - \$99,000	●	\$0 - \$4,000

your donation (directly from your IRA to NDCF for our fund) counts as your Required Minimum Distribution, but you can avoid taxes on it!

- **Give memorial gifts to our fund in honor of family members and friends.**
- **Donate agricultural commodities!** Just instruct your elevator or broker to donate a certain number of bushels or head of livestock to the North Dakota Community Foundation (for the Oliver County fund)
- **Take advantage of the tax credit.** Individuals that give at least \$5,000 in one calendar year and businesses that donate ANY amount to the Oliver County Community Foundation endowment fund may take a 40% state income tax credit on their gift.

If you’d like to have a confidential conversation about these or other charitable-giving options, feel free to contact John Heinen from our partner, the North Dakota Community Foundation, at 701-590-4614 or John@NDCF.net

Questions - Donate - Apply for Grants?

Oliver County Community Foundation
 Attn: Deb Clarys, Chair
 PO Box 182, Center, ND 58530

OliverCounty@NDCF.net

www.NDCF.net/OliverCounty



The Oliver County Community Foundation is a component fund of the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF). NDCF provides comprehensive charitable services for the local committee and its donors including donor gift planning & bequest planning, communication support, and fiduciary services including an annual audit.