

For Immediate Release Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020 Contact: Kevin Dvorak, President & CEO, NDCF 701-222-8349, info@ndcf.net

NDCF WELCOMES BERNDT

Bismarck, ND— The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) is pleased to announce the addition of Jana Berndt to their staff. Berndt will serve as a part-time Development Director for the Richland-Wilkin Community Foundation (RWCF), a component fund of NDCF. NDCF has seven other staff members working in offices in Bismarck, Larimore, and Dickinson, North Dakota.

Berndt recently retired from Bremer Bank after a 36-year career, where she served as President/Market Manager of the Breckenridge-Wahpeton branch and also oversaw the consumer banking division for all of North Dakota.

"As I contemplated retirement, I knew I was not ready to completely be done working," explained Berndt. "The opportunity presented itself to continue the great work we started many years ago with the community foundation and it seemed like the perfect fit. I'm excited to join the team officially."

Berndt has served as the volunteer chair of the RWCF (formerly the Breckenridge-Wahpeton Community Foundation) for 20 years. During that time, RWCF's permanent endowment fund grew from \$190,000 to over \$561,000 in total assets. The Foundation has awarded over \$240,000 in 254 grants to local nonprofit organizations and agencies since its inception in 1985.

In addition to serving on the RWCF committee, Berndt has also served on the CHI – St. Francis Board of Directors and Finance Committee, the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Chamber of Commerce, the Breckenridge Education Foundation, the North Dakota State College of Science Alumni Foundation, and the United Way of Richland Wilkin Board of Directors, which recently disbanded. The RWCF took over the annual giving campaign previously run by the United Way to ensure that local nonprofits continued to receive that crucial financial support.

"Jana's experience and knowledge of this community and entire area makes her the perfect fit for this position," said Diane Cordes, a member of the RWCF Board of Directors. "We are so pleased she accepted this position and are very excited to see what she will be able to accomplish."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation can find more information at www.NDCF.net/RichlandWilkin.

Established in 1976, 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 \$100 million in assets in over 750 component funds, including 67 local community foundations, and many agency endowment funds, donor-advised funds, and scholarships. It has made over \$83 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.