For Immediate Release

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NDCF Celebrates Local Giving During National Community Foundation Week

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BISMARCK, N.D. — From equipping firefighters to supporting local libraries and improving community gathering spaces, local community foundations help turn hometown generosity into lasting support. During National Community Foundation Week, November 12–18, the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) is recognizing the donors and volunteers who make that work possible.

Community Foundation Week was established in 1989 by President George H.W. Bush to recognize the work of community foundations and their partnerships with public, private and nonprofit organizations to address local needs.

Established in 1976, NDCF is a statewide community foundation that connects charitable giving with community needs. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than $141 million in grants benefiting North Dakota citizens and their communities.

NDCF's Statewide Greatest Needs Fund supports projects and programs across North Dakota, with an emphasis on organizations that have limited access to other funding. The foundation also partners with the Otto Bremer Trust to administer its Community Responsive Fund, supporting organizations that address essential needs such as food, shelter, healthcare and disability services.

NDCF's charitable-giving experts work with individuals, families, businesses and their professional advisors to explore giving options and establish charitable funds that reflect donors' interests and goals. These funds support causes ranging from scholarships and specific nonprofit organizations to the long-term needs of a hometown.

NDCF also administers community endowment funds for 73 local community foundations across North Dakota. These permanent funds provide ongoing support for organizations, projects and programs in the communities they serve.

"Our community foundations give people a way to invest in the places they care about," said Steve Lipp, NDCF President and CEO. "Local volunteers help identify where that support can make a difference, and gifts to these endowments keep working for their communities year after year."

As of October 2026, NDCF has awarded nearly $7.5 million in grants through its various charitable funds. Examples of this year's support from local community foundations include:

- **Carrington:** An $8,870 grant from the Carrington Community Endowment Fund (est. 1980) to the Carrington Fire Department for wildland firefighting turnout gear and boots.
- **Grafton:** A $50,000 grant from the Grafton Community Foundation (est. 1981) to the Red River Regional Council for tables and chairs at THE REYLECK, a historic building being transformed into a community hub for arts, preservation and events.
- **Lisbon:** A $3,750 grant from the Lisbon Area Community Foundation (est. 1981) to The House of Everyday Learning for its mobile therapy unit.
- **Kenmare:** A $3,500 grant from the Kenmare Area Community Foundation (est. 2009) to the Kenmare Park District for shaded canopy seating at the splash pad.
- **Golden Valley County:** A $6,722 grant from the Golden Valley County Community Foundation (est. 2008) to Golden Valley Manor for a kitchen oven and range update.

Each local community foundation has an advisory committee made up of area residents who review grant applications and recommend awards for projects and programs in their communities. Committee members also lead fundraising efforts to help grow their funds for the future.

Community endowment funds are designed to provide permanent support. Gifts are invested, and a portion of each fund is available for grants annually, creating a continuing source of funding as community needs change.

As NDCF celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2026, these local funds demonstrate how charitable giving can benefit communities over time. A gift made today joins the generosity of earlier donors, building a resource that can support future generations.

For more information about National Community Foundation Week or your local community foundation, making a gift or establishing a fund for your hometown, visit www.NDCF.net or call 701-222-8349.

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About the North Dakota Community Foundation

Established in 1976, the North Dakota Community Foundation works to improve the lives of North Dakota citizens and their communities through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy. NDCF administers local community foundations, scholarship funds, donor-advised funds, organizational endowments and other charitable funds throughout the state.



A grant from the McKenzie County Community Foundation (est. 2010) helped provide safer equipment for 5th and 6th graders in Watford City.



A grant from the Dickinson Area Community Foundation (est. 2016) helped support the construction of an outdoor classroom for students in Dickinson.



A grant from the Otto Bremer Trust's Community Responsive Fund will help support the Abused Adult Resource Center's Pam's House emergency shelter which provides a safe space in the Bismarck-Mandan community.