**Mercer County Community Foundation**
**c/o North Dakota Community Foundation**
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**Sept. 2026**

# 2026 Annual Update

## Greetings!



As many of you already know, the Mercer County Community Foundation (MCCF) was established in 2019. It provides a way for residents, businesses, and organizations to give back to our area, now and in the future.

**We think it is important to report back to you about the foundation's activities so we are creating this Annual Update.** It gives some information about our fund's history, where the grant dollars went this year, and ways to support our fund.

**The MCCF is a component fund of the North Dakota Community Foundation, which manages 73 local community foundations just like ours all across the state.** They have extensive knowledge about charitable giving and many years of experience (see article on the back.)

I want to thank our committee who leads fundraising efforts and reviews grant applications to make a positive impact in our area. Feel free to reach out to me or any committee member if you have any questions or want to get more involved!

*- Christie Obenauer, Chair*

**MCCF Advisory Committee**

Julie Graney, VC — McKinzi Wiedrich, Sec.
Kenneth Miller — Todd Meier

**Mercer County Community Foundation**

- **Established in 2019**
- **Market Value of Endowment Fund as of 6/30/26: $52,329**
- **Total Grants Awarded in 2026: 2 grants totaling $1,260**

## $1,260 Awarded in 2026

The Mercer County Community Foundation's endowment fund was established to create a permanent charitable resource for projects and programs in our area.

The MCCF Advisory Committee recommended two grant awards from the endowment fund's earnings in 2026 to the following organizations:

- **Mercer & McLean Counties Commission on Aging:** $630 for an outdoor walk-in freezer
- **Stanton Rural Fire Protection District:** $630 for a water tender upgrade

Grants are awarded once a year. Any organization with a 501(c)(3) status or government agency may apply. Applications are available online at **www.NDCF.net/MercerCounty**



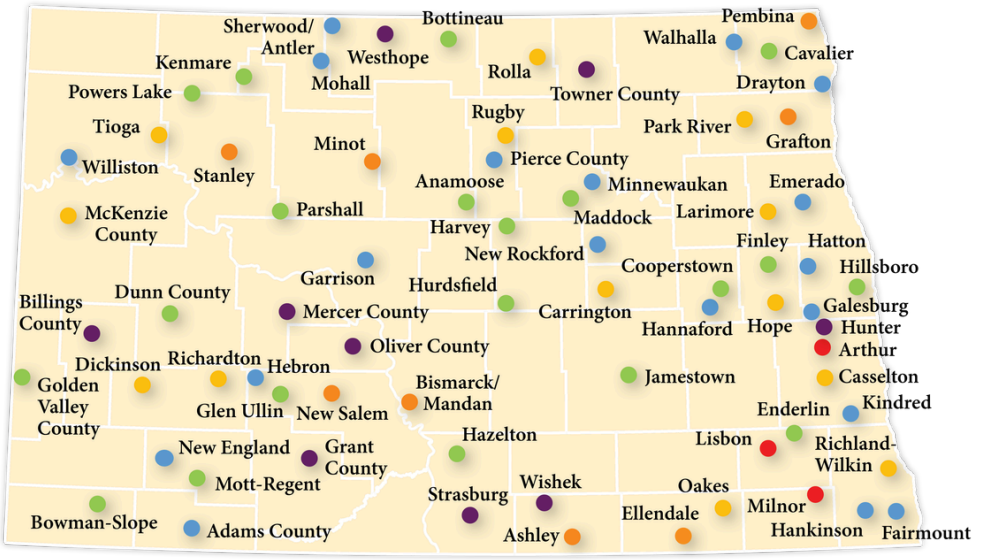

"What a man does for himself dies with him. What he does for his community lives long after he is gone."

- Theodore Roosevelt

# What is Our Potential?

There are more than 73 local community endowment funds in North Dakota, some that started over four decades ago and others that started last year.

The larger these permanent endowment funds grow, the more earnings are available for grants every year. Some funds award more than $40,000 in grants annually!




Can you help us grow our fund so that we can better support the programs and projects that make Mercer County great? Consider setting up a recurring gift online or send a check to our address below.

**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 - $99,999 | $0 - $4,000 |

- **Donate stock**
- **Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA.** Those 70 1/2 and older can give up to $111,000 per person to NDCF directly, for the benefit of our foundation.
- **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 Mercer County Community Foundation may take a 40% state income tax credit on their gift. Some restrictions apply - talk to your tax advisor. This generous incentive can make a significant difference at tax time! *(See chart below - for illustration purposes only)*

| Gift Amount | $5,000 | $25,000 |
|---|---|---|
| Fed Tax Savings | ($960) | ($4,800) |
| State Tax Credit | ($2,000) | ($10,000) |
| Net Cost of Gift | $2,040 | $10,200 |

- **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 Mercer County fund). If you donate the commodity BEFORE it is sold, you don't have to count the sale as income AND you can deduct the cost of production.
- Make the North Dakota Community Foundation (Tax ID#45-0336015), and specifically our fund, **the beneficiary of your life insurance policy or a partial beneficiary of your estate.**
- **Any gift can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one** - just let us know!



If you'd like to have a confidential conversation about these or other giving options, feel free to contact Julie Graney, a Certified Financial Planner in Beulah and a member of our committee at 701-873-4565 or **JGraney@MyGFpartner.com**

## Connect with Us!

**Mercer County Community Foundation**
PO Box 117
Hazen, ND 58545

MercerCounty@NDCF.net

**www.NDCF.net/MercerCounty**

*For more information about our partner the North Dakota Community Foundation, contact John Heinen, NDCF Development Director at 701-590-4614.*

NDCF NORTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION