

Casselton Area Community Foundation
c/o North Dakota Community Foundation
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2025 Annual Update

May 2025

Dear Friends,

You may notice a change in this year’s report - because our community foundation has been around for over 30 years we decided it was time we had our own logo! Our committee worked with a North Dakota graphic designer to develop a logo to represent our foundation and we are proud to unveil it to you in this annual report.

We especially like the imagery of a tree. As Nelson Henderson said many years ago *“The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”* This is the essence of our permanent fund - the grants we are giving out today are from the earnings of gifts made years ago. We are benefiting from the generosity of others.

In the same way, we encourage everyone to make a gift of some kind to this fund this year. As the Chinese proverb notes *“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”*

Thanks for joining us in continuing to build a fund for future generations of Casselton area residents!

CACF Advisory Committee

Edward McConnell, Chair	George Blank
Cami Wack	Julie Burgum
Scott Wolff	Amy Warrey
Melissa Grommesh	Brad Sessler

Casselton Area Community Foundation*

- Established in 1993
- Total Assets (as of 12/31/24): **\$890,076**
- Total Gifts to the CCEF in 2024: **\$22,946**
- Total Grants Awarded in 2024: **14 grants totaling \$31,880**
- Total Grants Awarded since 1994: **327 grants totaling \$466,432**

* Includes data from the Bradley & Julie Burgum Family Fund

\$31,880 Awarded in 2024

- Casselton Public Library:** \$6,000 for their 2025 summer reading program “Color Our World”
- Central Cass Friends of Fine Arts**
 - \$1,500 for a Mobile Art Display Wall
 - \$1,250 for Spreading Sunshine at Central Cass
 - \$1,250 Central Cass Community Marching Band
- Rural Cass County Emergency Food Pantry:** \$3,000 for general needs
- Casselton Cemetery Association:** \$3,000 for cemetery headstone leveling
- Central Cass Treehouse:** \$3,000 for food baskets and pantry products
- Casselton Park District:** \$2,500 for the City Flower Program
- Central Cass PTA:** \$2,500 for 2025-2026 school supply kits
- Casselton Economic Development:** \$2,500 for downtown revitalization and community engagement
- Cottonwood Golf Course:** \$1,500 for Tee Box #6 renovation
- Marketplace of Ideas/Marketplace for Kids:** \$1,500 for Casselton Education Day at Grand Farm
- Casselton Heritage Center, Inc:** \$1,430 to replace computer for archival documentation
- Community of Care:** \$1,000 for support to their volunteer program

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/Casselton and are due by October 30.

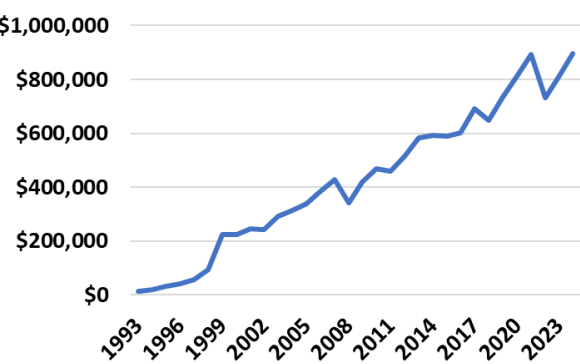
Fund Growth Over the Years

The Casselton Community Endowment Fund ended 2024 with a market value of more than \$890,000!

How did we get to this amount? First, a group of local residents had the forethought to create this fund at the North Dakota Community Foundation back in 1993. Then, many people have donated to this fund over the years, either through fundraisers or by sending in a check.

In fact, more than 240 different individuals, families, businesses, and foundations have made gifts to our Casselton fund! Of particular note, our fund received more than \$75,000 from the Otto Bremer Foundation over the years, approximately \$46,000 from the North Dakota Community Foundation (our fund's administrator), a stock transfer of more than \$25,000 from an anonymous donor, and an estate gift from Eleanore Langer of over \$15,000. In addition, the Bradley & Julie Burgum Family Fund has supported our grantmaking for years and is included in our assets.

The chart below shows the **market value of the fund as of December 31 every year from inception through 2024**. What impressive growth!



THANK YOU to all our donors and partners for investing in our community!

There are many ways to grow our fund. If you would like to discuss various giving opportunities or would like more information about the state's 40% tax credit, contact Amy Stromsodt with NDCF at 701-741-3193 or Amy@NDCF.net for a free, confidential, no-obligation conversation.



Estate Gifts Benefit Area Forever

Tom Larson was the city manager, assessor and auditor for the City of Park River for a number of years and was active in his community, serving on numerous boards. Tom wished for his estate to continue to benefit his community after he was gone.



Tom Larson

Tom left a gift of almost \$120,000 to the Park River Area Community Endowment Fund in his will. It is the largest one-time gift in the history of the fund.

"Tom was such a community leader," said Ann Berg, who served with Larson on the endowment fund's advisory committee. "We miss his wisdom and insight, and we think about him when we give out grants every year."

Estate gifts are a beautiful way to leave a legacy and support the causes that are important to you long after you are gone.

Here in Casselton, our foundation benefited from a \$15,000 estate gift from Eleanore Langer, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 103.

You can make a profound impact on future generations of Casselton residents by leaving a portion of your estate to the Casselton Area Community Foundation. Your gift will fund projects and programs that improve our quality of life forever. You can contact NDCF for more info or just include the following text in your will:

"I give and bequeath to the North Dakota Community Foundation (Tax ID 45-0336015), a qualified charitable organization under IRS 501(c)(3), located in Bismarck, North Dakota, _____ (a percentage of the estate, specific dollar amount, or remainder of estate) to the Casselton Area Community Foundation, a permanent component of the North Dakota Community Foundation."

* Be sure to visit with your attorney

Questions or want more information?



Casselton Area Community Foundation
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PO Box 246, Casselton, ND 58012

Casselton@NDCF.net
www.NDCF.net/Casselton



The Casselton Area Community Foundation is a component fund of the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF). Established in 1976, NDCF provides comprehensive charitable services including gift planning, bequest planning, and fiduciary services such as money management and an annual audit. For more information about NDCF or the Casselton Area Community Foundation, contact Amy Stromsodt, NDCF Development Director at 701-741-3193.