

Milnor Community Foundation  
C/O North Dakota Community Foundation  
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May 2025



MILNOR  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

# 2025 Annual Update

Dear Friends,

An article 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 wait for help or handouts from national organizations to build projects or support programs here in Milnor - while we appreciate any support we can get from outside sources, we are busy building our own charitable resource in the Milnor Community Foundation.

This foundation will generate charitable dollars for grant awards in our area forever, regardless of what other funding may come our way. **In addition, there are some great tax benefits for donating to our foundation.**

If you ever have any questions about our foundation, please feel free to contact one of us!

**MCF Advisory Committee**

Chad Fyre, Chair    Andrea Hogness    Lee Hanna  
Bobbi Haugen    Kyle Peterson    Bud Heinert  
Mike Schutt

## \$98,601 Awarded in Spring 2025

The MCF awarded a total of \$98,601 in 11 different grants in April to the following organizations:

- **Milnor Recreation/Park Board:**
  - \$25,000 for pickleball and sand volleyball
  - \$5,500 for a pool robot
  - \$3,685 for the baseball program
- **Milnor School District:** \$20,000 for playground surface
- **Gibbon Miller Post 9069 VFW:** \$15,000 for the Vet's new building project - cabinets and countertops
- **Smith Thune American Legion:** \$8,822 for appliances and kitchen supplies
- **Milnor Scholarship Association:** \$7,500 for 2025 High School Scholarships
- **Milnor Alumni Association:** \$5,000 for the All School Reunion
- **The House of Everyday Learning:** \$3,500 for a Mobile Therapy Unit/Therapy on the Go!
- **City of Milnor:** \$3,094 for Main Street banners and flowers
- **Jessy's Toy Box:** \$1,500 for the annual toy drive

Grants are awarded twice a year. **Grant applications for the Fall 2025 grant round are due by October 1.** More information and the online grant application can be found at [www.NDCF.net/Milnor](http://www.NDCF.net/Milnor).

**Milnor Community Foundation\***

- **Established in 2018**
- **Market Value of Fund as of 12/31/2024: \$5.2 million**
- **Total Grants Awarded in 2024: 18 grants totaling \$201,180**
- **Total Grants Awarded since fund inception (includes April 2025 grants): 169 grants totaling \$1.49 M**

*\* Includes data from the Russell F. and Dale L. Brown Memorial Funds for Milnor.*



Jessy's Toy Box, located in Wyndmere, collects toys, gift cards and other items for children who are in the hospital or who are receiving infusions.

# Our Grants in Action!

The grand opening of the 3,800 square foot addition to Camryn’s Clubhouse was held on March 28. The expansion will allow the daycare facility to serve more families in Milnor and the surrounding communities, increasing both childcare availability and economic opportunity.

The Milnor Community Foundation was proud to provide several grants to Youth Opportunity Unlimited over the past several years in support of this project!



# Donating Ag Commodities Makes Good Sense (& Cents)

Many North Dakotans do their charitable giving in a very tax-wise way - they gift a portion of their harvest.

*“Gifting agricultural commodities is a really smart way to give back,”* noted Scott Nicholson of the North Dakota Community Foundation, who works with area producers on their gifts. *“Farmers can deduct the cost of production, but the portion of the harvest that is donated does not have to be claimed as income to the self-employed farmer. This can result in thousands of dollars in tax savings as opposed to a straight gift of cash.”*



The Milnor Community Foundation can accept many different types of agricultural commodities as gifts, including livestock. Donors could also use agricultural gifts to create a donor-advised fund at the North Dakota Community Foundation and determine where they would like their grant dollars to go at a later date.

If you are interested in learning more about this giving option, contact Scott Nicholson at [Scott@NDCF.net](mailto:Scott@NDCF.net) or 701-892-2007 for a free, confidential conversation. He can provide illustrations of your potential tax savings and discuss various ways to structure your gift to meet your charitable-giving desires as well as optimize your tax savings. Learn more at [www.NDCF.net/AgGifts](http://www.NDCF.net/AgGifts).



# Leave Your Legacy in Milnor

The grants we award are largely due to the legacy gifts we received from Dale and Russell Brown, who remembered our community in their estate plan. Thank you Dale and Russell!

**If you would like to leave some or all of your estate to the Milnor Community Foundation, the suggested bequest language is as follows:**

*“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, specific dollar amount, or remainder) to the **Milnor Community Foundation**, a component fund of the North Dakota Community Foundation.”*

*\* Be sure to consult an attorney*

# Questions or want more information?

Milnor Area Community Foundation  
Attn: Chad Fyre, Chair  
PO Box 70, Milnor, ND 58060

[Milnor@NDCF.net](mailto:Milnor@NDCF.net)  
[www.NDCF.net/Milnor](http://www.NDCF.net/Milnor)



The Milnor Community Foundation (MCF), the Russell F. Brown Memorial Fund for Milnor and the Dale L. Brown Memorial Fund for Milnor are all component funds of the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF). Established in 1976, NDCF provides charitable giving and fiduciary services including donor gift planning and an annual audit. For more information about NDCF or MCF, contact Scott Nicholson, NDCF Development Director for SE ND at 701-892-2007.