Grafton Community Foundation
c/o North Dakota Community Foundation
PO Box 387
Bismarck, ND 58502-0387

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Nov. 2026

Grafton COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2026 Annual Update

Dear Friends,

Our partner in philanthropy for 45 years, the North Dakota Community Foundation, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! Congratulations to NDCF for achieving this milestone!

NDCF administers the Grafton Community Foundation's permanent endowment fund and its assets, sends receipts to our donors, files the proper paperwork with the IRS, provides fundraising and marketing support to our committee, and has relationships with other funding entities in the region, sometimes directing other grant dollars from outside our area to the GCF. **We couldn't do it without them!**

Our community and entire area has benefitted greatly from this organization that believes strongly in the power of place-based philanthropy and especially in endowed funds like ours. **Thanks to NDCF for all the support over the years and congrats on reaching this milestone!**

- Ryan Dusek, Chair

Grafton Community Foundation*

- **Established in 1981**
- **Market Value as of 10/31/26: $4.1 M**
- **Total Grants Awarded in 2026: 13 grants totaling $149,285**
- **Total Grants Awarded since inception: 216 grants totaling $1,000,622**

**** Includes data from the Harry & Merle Stephenson Memorial Fund, the Sig Jagielski Memorial Fund, and the Lynn D. Ebert Memorial Fund for the Grafton Community Foundation. Walsh County has also received more than $45,000 in grants from the Mary E. Finley Endowment for Seniors of Walsh County and the Northeast Regional Education Fund.***

$149,285 Awarded in 2026!

The Grafton Community Foundation was created to be a resource to support local community initiatives which improve the quality of life in the Grafton area.

This year, the Advisory Committee awarded nearly $150,000 to the following organizations:

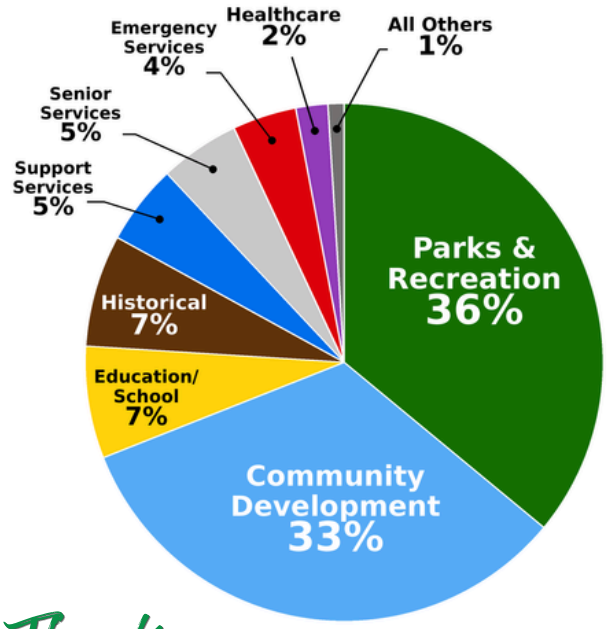
SuperGrant Award Winner: The Reyleck!
$50,000 for tables and chairs so this multi-use community building can host gatherings of up to 100 people

Other Grant Awards:

- **Grafton Parks & Recreation:**
  - **$250,000 for the new Aquatic Center** (payable over five years, $50,000 paid in 2026)
  - $5,700 for the Historic Elmwood Outdoor Shelter
- **Friends of the Carnegie Regional Library:** $15,000 for A Landscape for Generations
- **Fair Oaks Foundation Corporation:** $5,700 for a 3 hole short course/practice green, sand trap and chipping area (Phase 3)
- **Grafton Beautification Committee:** $5,700 for Monarch Alley: The Creative Commons
- **Helpful Hearts:** $5,000 for Helpful Hearts 2027
- **Northern Lights Council of the Boy Scouts of America:** $3,845 for Scouting start-up costs in Grafton
- **Grafton Senior Citizens Club:** $3,500 for operating expenses
- **ND Newspaper Association Education Foundation:** $2,000 for Kid Scoop News ND
- **Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons:** $1,000 for a Girl Scout Leadership Experience for Grafton Area Girls
- **North Dakota Shakespeare Festival:** $1,000 to present "Romeo and Juliet"
- **Walsh County JDA Foundation:** $840 for Pembina-Walsh Manufacturing (MFG) Day

Grant History Since 1981

The Grafton Community Foundation has awarded more than $1 million in grants since its inception to various organizations in Grafton and the surrounding area. Here is a breakdown of the types of projects this fund has supported:



Thank you . . .

to the more than 85 individuals, families, and businesses that have donated to this fund over the years. YOU have made these grants possible! Special thanks to Harry & Merle Stephenson, Sig Jagielski ("Uncle Sig"), and Lynn Ebert, who left the Grafton community gifts in their estate.

Don't Forget About the Tax Credit!

The North Dakota Charitable Income Tax Credit, passed by the ND State Legislature more than a decade ago, allows individuals that donate $5,000 or more and businesses that donate *any amount* to qualified endowment funds to receive up to a 40% state tax credit.

Depending on your tax bracket, this means a $5,000 gift to the Grafton Community Foundation may end up only costing about $2,000 after taking advantage of the tax credit and other deductions! (see chart below)

Gift Amount:	$5,000	$25,000	$50,000
Federal tax savings*	($960)	($4,800)	($9,600)
ND state income tax credit	($2,000)	($10,000)	($20,000)
Net cost of gift	$2,040	$10,200	$20,400

**For illustration purposes only. Federal tax savings may change. Consult your tax advisor*

Find more information about the State Tax Credit, go to the NDCF website – **www.NDCF.net/40**



Leave YOUR Legacy in Grafton

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

"I give, devise 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 Grafton Community Foundation, a component fund of the North Dakota Community Foundation."

* Be sure to consult an attorney

Questions or want more information?

Grafton Community Foundation
Attn: Ryan Dusek, Chair
c/o Old National Bank
910 Hill Ave, PO Box 511
Grafton, ND 58237-0511

701-352-5558 | Grafton@NDCF.net

www.NDCF.net/Grafton

Advisory Committee Members

Ryan Dusek, Chair
Dan Holt
Stephanie Woods
Katie Gorder
Hannah Braathen
Shawn Kasprick
Josie Lopez
J.R. Steele
Ryer Stark
Krystle Thiele

NDCF NORTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Grafton 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 Grafton Community Foundation, contact Amy Stromsodt, NDCF Development Director at Amy@NDCF.net or at 701-795-1531.

