



For Immediate Release
Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022

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NDCF Joins Nationwide Celebration to Recognize Local Impact of Community Foundations

NOVEMBER 12–18, 2022

Bismarck, North Dakota – The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) will join in a nationwide celebration, November 12-18, 2022, to recognize the increasingly important role community foundations play in strengthening local communities and improving the quality of life for their citizens.

“Community foundations are place-based giving vehicles that support a wide variety of local nonprofit organizations and projects,” said Kevin Dvorak, President and CEO of NDCF. “They are a valuable tool in funding programs and addressing issues in our communities, now and in the future. Not only do they provide tangible impact, they offer residents a way to give back that is not restricted to one project or organization, but is designed to address the ever-changing needs of their community.”

NDCF currently administers community endowment funds for 69 local community foundations in North Dakota, as well as a variety of other types of charitable funds including scholarships, donor-advised funds, and organizational endowment funds, which support specific charities in the state.

NDCF has already made over 1,000 grants totaling over \$4.3 million in 2022 through its various funds. These grants are used in a variety of ways to improve the quality of life for North Dakota residents. Some examples of 2022 grants include:

- A \$5,000 grant from the Hebron Area Community Foundation to the Hebron Ambulance Service to help with the purchase of a new ambulance.
- A \$3,000 grant from the Tioga Community Foundation to the Acro Stars Gymnastics program for their building expansion.
- A \$1,280 grant from the Kenmare Area Community Foundation to the Donnybrook Park District for improvements to their City Park.
- A \$50,000 grant from the Bismarck Mandan Community Foundation to Ministry on the Margins, to help them convert their Coffeehouse from a pilot project to a permanent program. The Coffeehouse provides a safe place to gather or sleep inside overnight in Bismarck, out of the elements, for anyone who needs it.
- A \$1,897 grant from the Rolla Community Endowment Fund to the Rolla Community Center to replace the carpeting in the Senior Center with new flooring.
- A \$5,000 grant from NDCF’s Statewide Greatest Needs Fund to purchase food for the Community Food Pantry in Ryder, ND, which elicited the following response from one of their volunteers: *“Thank you!! This grant saved our necks!! Our account was really really low, it’s the lowest it has ever gotten. We stopped buying groceries, (and we are very very thrifty) until your grant was in the bank!! You saved us! Thank you, Thank you!!”*

Each community foundation at NDCF has an advisory committee made up of local residents that review grant applications and recommend grant awards to the projects and programs they believe will make the most significant impact in their area. They also lead fundraising efforts to help grow their funds for the future. NDCF's board of directors makes grant award decisions for the Statewide Greatest Needs Fund.

The State of North Dakota encourages donors to direct their philanthropic dollars toward qualified North Dakota endowment funds such as the community foundations at NDCF by offering a 40% State Tax Credit on certain gifts.

Community Foundation Week, created in 1989 by former president George H.W. Bush, recognizes the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

NDCF maintains three offices across the state to best serve their communities. For more information or to inquire about establishing a community foundation for your hometown, go to www.NDCF.net or contact the North Dakota Community Foundation at 701-222-8349.

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Established in 1976, NDCF is a public, non-profit tax-exempt corporation which receives and distributes charitable funds to support a wide range of programs that benefit North Dakotans. It manages over \$120 million in assets in over 800 component funds, including 69 local community foundations, and many organizational endowment funds, donor-advised funds, and scholarships. It has made over \$91.65 million in grants since its inception with the mission of improving the lives of North Dakota citizens and their communities through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy.