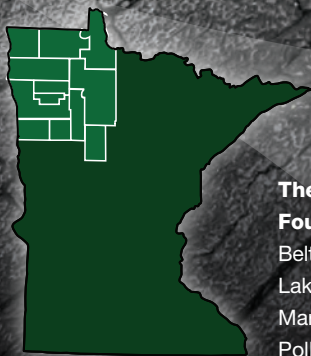


Disaster Recovery Fund

A philanthropic financial tool for communities to prepare for natural and man-made disasters in order to sustain the place we call home.



The Northwest Minnesota Foundation serves 12 counties:
Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson,
Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen,
Marshall, Norman, Pennington,
Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau.



**Northwest
Minnesota
Foundation**
Developing Community Assets

201 3rd St. NW • Bemidji, MN 56601
218.759.2057 Phone • 800.659.7859 MN Only

www.nwmf.org  



Smart & Responsible Disaster

Is Your Community Financially Ready?

We believe that a key component of a community's ability to be resilient and thrive during a crisis is to invest in thoughtful preparation. Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) helps communities sustain the place they call home by helping them set up a Disaster Recovery Fund (DRF).

A community's DRF is a philanthropic financial tool to raise money for covering costs during natural and man-made disasters.

Setting up a DRF with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation also includes:

- Support for local advisory committees
- Administering disaster recovery loans, grants and technical assistance
- Community planning support
- Managing the fund and assisting with fundraising and marketing
- Providing a conduit for pass-through funding (business loans, etc.)
- Receiving and receipting charitable contributions

Why Setup this Fund Before A Disaster?

It is vital to have a plan in place to streamline the process of recovery.



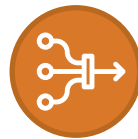
1. Clearer thinking and rational decision-making.

Having a fund in place before a disaster allows your community to create an efficient strategy that is fueled by careful thought rather than reacting to the pressures of immediate needs and emotions.



2. Better response to the generosity of others.

Setting up a DRF before a disaster assures that donations will be directed immediately to an account specifically for your community. Fundraising before a disaster is also a way to secure resources for the needs of your community and neighbors.



3. Simpler paperwork and a more organized process.

Coordinating a communicated plan will help support recovery efforts post-disaster.

Why Northwest Minnesota Foundation?



1. Donations stay local.

When working with the NMF, your DRF dollars stay in your community. Money raised will be used at the discretion of the local advisory committee.



2. We are trusted, aware of needs, and connected.

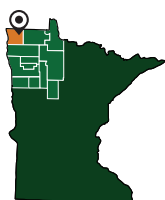
We have formed relationships with state, regional and community partners that can assist during the time of a disaster.



3. We are experienced.

We have established several DRF's in communities to accept charitable donations during crisis. We are a trusted organization that has been serving northwest Minnesota since 1986.

Preparedness Planning

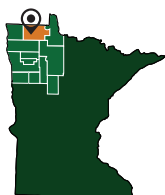


2012 Karlstad Fire

"The assistance provided by the foundation in the Karlstad fire was used to meet essential needs like food, clothing and shelter for those who were impacted. Funds were also used to help homeowners with cleanup costs when insurance was not sufficient. The Northwest Minnesota Foundation, being a local organization, has an excellent understanding of the needs facing our area communities and organizations. This understanding allows the foundation to act swiftly on projects which are being proposed to address area needs. Additionally, having the support of the foundation for various projects lends credibility to projects in the eyes of other funding sources, which is critical when other funding is necessary."

— **RANDY A. NORDIN**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.



2002 Roseau Flood

"The foundation was very helpful in setting up a charitable fund. The Roseau Flood Recovery Fund, which ultimately became the Roseau Community Fund, was able to accept donations from individuals and businesses seeking to support our flood recovery efforts.

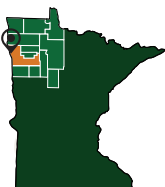
The flood recovery money was collected and held in the NMF fund. It was some of the first money provided to our local businesses to help them clean up and rebuild while we were waiting to receive other State and Federal assistance.

The foundation also provided structure and established a board for the management of these funds for the community.

We are so thankful to all the agencies that helped make our recovery possible, including the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. On behalf our community, thank you!"

— **JEFFREY D. PELOWSKI**

MAYOR OF ROSEAU



1997 East Grand Forks Flood

Northwest Minnesota Foundation partnered with the Blandin Foundation to conduct an inclusive, citizen-driven planning process that allowed people of all backgrounds to come together and agree on a common course for rebuilding their town.

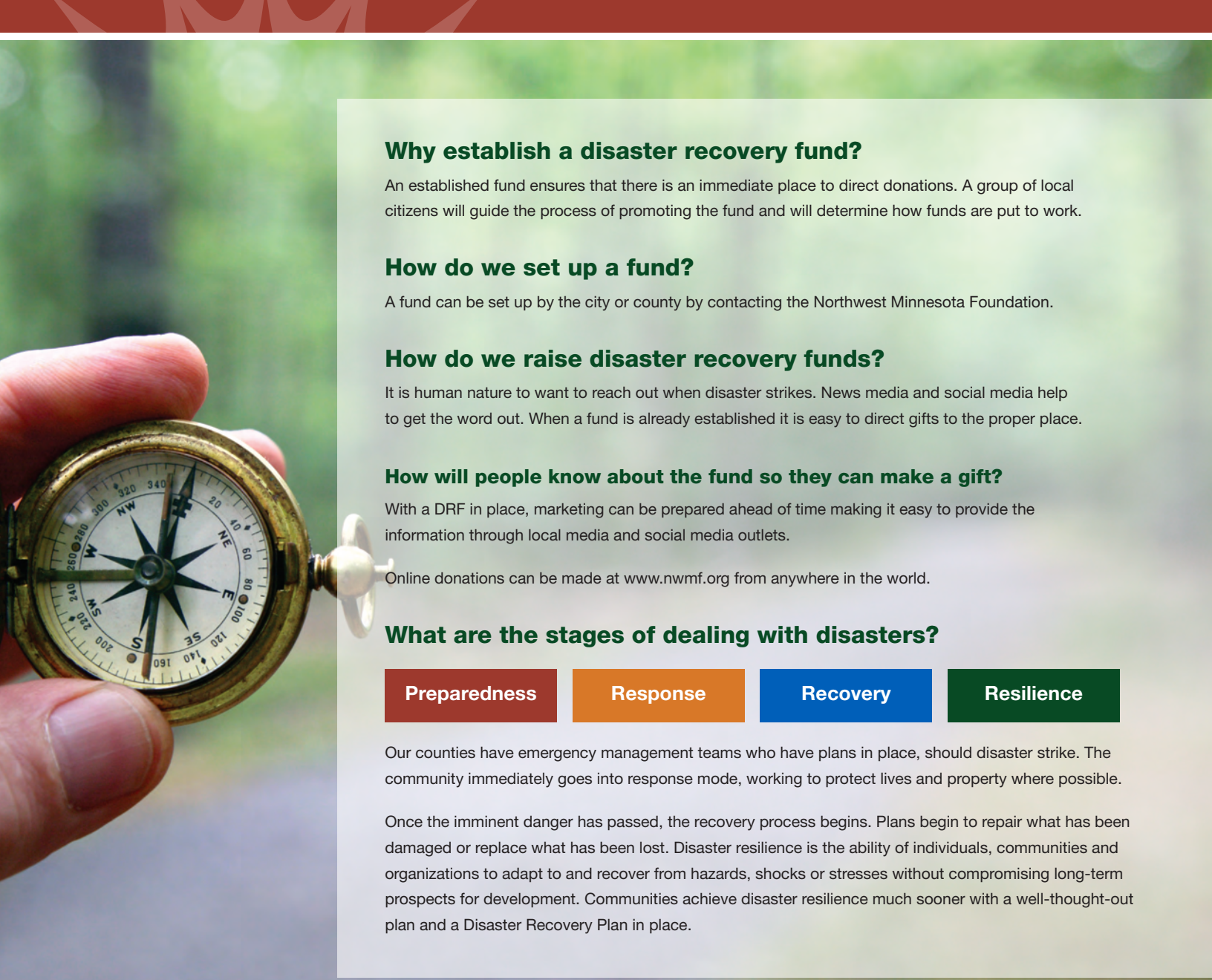
NMF also supported the mayor's office for the next three years, allowing him to work full-time on implementing the recovery plan. The ultimate result was a community more attractive to live and work in, with better infrastructure and more amenities than had been present before the flood.

"Sometimes we'd divide up into small groups, sometimes we were a whole town meeting, and all of us worked together, to make possible what we've created here. I'd like to call it the poster child of flood recovery."

— **MAYOR LYNNE STAUSS**



By Dave Saville (This image is from the FEMA Photo Library.) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons.



Why establish a disaster recovery fund?

An established fund ensures that there is an immediate place to direct donations. A group of local citizens will guide the process of promoting the fund and will determine how funds are put to work.

How do we set up a fund?

A fund can be set up by the city or county by contacting the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

How do we raise disaster recovery funds?

It is human nature to want to reach out when disaster strikes. News media and social media help to get the word out. When a fund is already established it is easy to direct gifts to the proper place.

How will people know about the fund so they can make a gift?

With a DRF in place, marketing can be prepared ahead of time making it easy to provide the information through local media and social media outlets.

Online donations can be made at www.nwmf.org from anywhere in the world.

What are the stages of dealing with disasters?

Preparedness

Response

Recovery

Resilience

Our counties have emergency management teams who have plans in place, should disaster strike. The community immediately goes into response mode, working to protect lives and property where possible.

Once the imminent danger has passed, the recovery process begins. Plans begin to repair what has been damaged or replace what has been lost. Disaster resilience is the ability of individuals, communities and organizations to adapt to and recover from hazards, shocks or stresses without compromising long-term prospects for development. Communities achieve disaster resilience much sooner with a well-thought-out plan and a Disaster Recovery Plan in place.



Establish a Plan for Your Community

You never know if or when disaster will strike. Take the steps to establish your Disaster Recovery Fund today, to ensure a safer tomorrow. Contact Dawn Ganje at dawng@nwmf.org or Ashley Johnson at ashleyj@nwmf.org. You can also visit www.nwmf.org for more information.