



Northwest Minnesota Foundation RESOURCE

The Northwest Minnesota Foundation invests resources, facilitates collaboration and promotes philanthropy to make the region a better place to live and work.

SPRING 2019

Number 81

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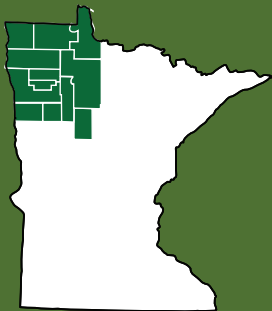
Michelle Paquin

Todd Beckel

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MAHNOMEN YOUTH PAY IT FORWARD

Everyone knows that today's youth are the future. Based on the compassion and talent that Mahnomen area youth have displayed, Northwest Minnesota's future is in good hands.

The Mahnomen Area Community Fund (MACF) held its first annual Pay It Forward fundraising event on the evening of April 24th, 2019. This event was an opportunity for the 2019 grant recipients to showcase the work they did in the community with the support of the Mahnomen Area Community Fund. The evening included a social hour, dinner, program, and award ceremony. Tina Starkey and Pete Haddeland were also recognized for their volunteer contributions to the Mahnomen community.

For the program portion of the evening, each group of grant recipients gave a PowerPoint presentation about their Pay It Forward project.

The Native American Youth Council received \$500 for their Mitten Tree

project. The youth that were involved collected mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves and made them available to any community members who were in need of warm clothes to get them through the harsh winter. The council also provided and served the meal at the event, which included roast beef, potatoes and gravy, wild rice, and cookies.


Students from St. Michael's School used their \$500 grant to put together "comfort bags." These bags, which include toys, snacks, and hygiene products, are a resource that local police and social workers can give to children who have to be removed from their homes due to child protective service needs.


A group of fifth- and sixth-grade students from Mahnomen Public School participated in a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) program. They received a \$500 grant to use what they learned in the program to put on demonstrations for preschoolers.

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Native American Youth Council members accept their \$333 grant award from the Mahnomen Area Community Fund

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Karen White
President

Hello NMF donors, partners, and friends,

On July 1st, I officially assumed my new role as president and CEO of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. We have had a busy spring. Between launching our new programs, staff changes, and a number of events throughout the region, my team has been working hard to implement our

new strategic plan. I invite you to read the stories we've highlighted in this issue of *Resource* to learn more.

At a celebration on June 24th, we honored Nancy Vyskocil and thanked her for her talents, energy, and inspired leadership throughout the last eleven years. With her guiding hand, the Northwest Minnesota Foundation thrived in spite of significant changes, including a new office building restored from a historic building, numerous staff retirements with a changeover of all but one staff member,

one complete turnover of the board of directors, and growth in assets from almost \$48 million to around \$78 million.

I benefitted immensely under Nancy's mentoring and leadership and I will miss her steady guidance. We wish her a long and happy retirement with lots of time with family and friends. Nancy leaves the foundation in a strong position with an incredible board of directors and an amazing team of employees.

My visits around the region included five lunch and learn events and fourteen community site visits in 2018. I continue to learn about and be amazed and inspired by the passion, energy, and hope of the people who give their time to build up their communities. I am both honored and humbled to partner with all of you to build better lives for those who call the region home.

NEW FUNDS

Middle River Legacy Fund

Provides financial support for qualified charitable and educational organizations, programs, projects, activities, maintenance and upkeep supporting the Middle River Legacy Center

Roseau Rams Hockey Association Scholarship

Provides scholarships to qualified students from ISD #682 (Roseau Public Schools) or its successors, who are pursuing postsecondary education through a college, university, trade school or other accredited nonprofit technical or vocational education/training program

Old Bemidji High School Remembered

Provides support for the reconstruction of the old Bemidji High School entryway arch at the north end of Minnesota Avenue in Bemidji

NEW NMF WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!

Our website got a makeover! In an effort to provide our constituents with the best possible online experience, we've been working hard to redesign and reorganize our website. The new site is now live.

Check it out today! www.nwmf.org

SAVE THE DATE! SEPT. 25, 2019

Community Pint Night at Bemidji Brewing



Join us on Wednesday, September 25th for Community Pint Night at Bemidji Brewing! \$1 from every beverage sold from 4:00-7:00 PM will be donated to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation endowment fund. We will have a free giveaway for the first 50 people through the door!

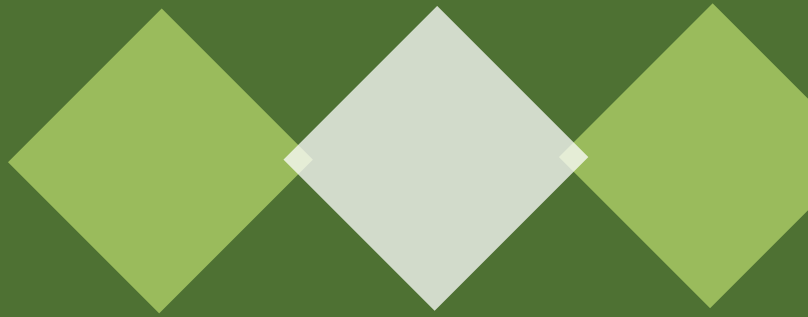
We hope to see you there!

BEMIDJITM BREWING

211 America Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

NMF STAFF CHANGES

The NMF team is growing and changing! We are excited to introduce you to our new staff, as well as update you with a few other organizational changes.



Vice President for Advocacy - NATE DORR

Nate has been with NMF since 2012. He has served in a number of roles, most recently as a senior program officer. As of July 1, he has been promoted to Vice President for Advocacy. His responsibilities include advocating for those we serve, leading the foundation's evaluation and assessment of impact, and fulfilling our commitment to equity throughout the region.



Program Specialist (Economic Development) - TABI STEINMETZ

Tabi joined NMF in May of 2017. She started out as an administrative assistant, and soon began to take on more responsibility by supporting the economic development team and their work. In July of 2019, she officially transitioned to a Program Specialist role. She is now trained to take on loan clients through the various lending programs at NMF.



Program Specialist (SBDC and IDEA Competition) - MIC MCCRORY

Mic joined the NMF development team in May of 2018. He is now a program specialist with the SBDC where he will work closely with SBDC clients throughout the region to support their small business needs.



Administrative Assistant - KAITLYN TUPPER

Kaitlyn began working as the administrative assistant with NMF as a temporary employee in May of 2019. Her skill set quickly became a valuable component to NMF's everyday operations, and she was offered a full-time position in July of 2019. She previously worked in banking and retail in Mankato where she also received her degree in Human Resources from Minnesota State University - Mankato.



Program Assistant (Economic Development) - EMMA SCHMIDT

Emma joined the NMF economic development team in July 2019. She previously worked as an intern with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and as a competitive team coach at the Grand Rapids Gymnastics Academy. She graduated from Bemidji State University with a degree in Business Administration with emphases in Management and Entrepreneurship in May 2019.

NMF RECEIVES STRONG RESPONSE TO NEW CHILD CARE PROGRAMS



Since its introduction in late 2018, the Child Care program at NMF has taken off! NMF staff have been busy collaborating with area partner organizations to address the region's critical child care needs.

In partnership with Peacemaker Resources, NMF launched the STEP UP training program for child care providers. STEP UP focuses on teaching child care providers new tools to improve children's social-emotional development. Providers learn about trauma-informed care, building resilience in children, enhancing social-emotional learning (SEL) skills, and the importance of self-care. A total of 55 licensed child care providers completed the program during the first three sessions, which also included a follow-up, on-site training with Peacemaker Resources specialists. The next three workshops are scheduled for October 12th in Mahanomen, November 23rd in Park Rapids, and January 25th in Bemidji. This program was made possible through a grant that NMF received from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation.

In addition to the STEP UP program, NMF has established a Child Care Grant program and a Child Care Finance program. These two funding opportunities were created to support providers who are just getting started and help established child care providers enhance their current businesses and care practices.

The Child Care Finance program has provided a total of \$189,600 in loans to 41 child care providers throughout the region. This funding has enabled providers to maintain 163 child care slots and has created an additional 305 slots for children who need care.

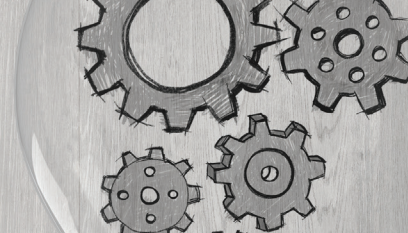
The Child Care Grant program has funded six projects. These projects fall under three priority areas: Child Care Availability and Quality, Early Childhood Education, and Workforce (encouraging high school students to pursue child care careers). The following groups and organizations received grant funding for their projects.

- **CHEDA (Crookston Housing and Economic Development Authority)** for opening a new nonprofit child care center (Regal Academy) for Crookston and the surrounding area
- **City of McIntosh** for expanding the program at The Clubhouse Childcare Center, which will be adding more infant slots
- **Peacemaker Resources** to extend their social-emotional curriculum through second grade in all Bemidji schools
- **Bemidji Early Childhood Collaborative** to bring "The Growing Brain" curriculum and a trainer to early childhood educators, parents, and child care providers to enhance social-emotional learning, kindergarten readiness, and parenting skills
- **Bagley Early Childhood Initiative** to hold family nights that encourage literacy, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), art, fitness, and health and nutrition for young families
- **Clearbrook-Gonvick School District** to introduce careers in early childhood through purchase of the Second Step social-emotional learning curriculum, creating the opportunity for National Honor Society and Student Council members to teach SEL lessons to Pre-K through third-grade students

A grand total of \$70,000 was invested through this first Child Care Grant round.

"We've been working hard to get our child care providers the resources they need in order to better serve families in our region," said Missy Okeson, NMF program officer. "Based on the number of providers we've worked with across our various program areas just in the past year, we must be doing something right!"

To learn more about our programs and collaborative efforts to improve child care, visit www.nwmf.org, hover over "Programs" and click "Child Care."



The 2018-2019 IDEA Competition winners and runners-up



Jaimee Meyer served as emcee for the 2019 IDEA Awards Banquet

The 2019 IDEA Competition saw another year of diverse business plans and entrepreneurs. The top five finalists all demonstrated innovation and ingenuity, and three of them rose to the top:

- **3RD PLACE (\$3,500): D3D - Todd and Melinda Sanwick, Fosston, and Bryson Oakes, Bemidji**

D3D has developed a new dental appliance that is being made and distributed in a way that has never been done before in the dental industry. The TMB Flipper will revolutionize the way “flippers,” or removable partial dentures, are manufactured and sold.

In addition to their cash prizes, these winners will receive valuable business coaching and consulting.

The runners-up were:

- **1ST PLACE (\$10,000): Elite Additive - Mike Block, Bemidji**

ELITE Additive provides professional automation technologies, 3D printing, and additive manufacturing services. They help companies adopt and integrate the necessary equipment to help them get into mainstream production. They also consult on the process from start to finish, such as part design and part printing.

- **2ND PLACE (\$5,000): Bullseye Variable Diameter Discharge - Gary Ward, Twin Valley**

Bullseye Variable Diameter Discharge is an elegant solution to centering grain in a storage bin. This product helps maximize storage capacity, reduces or eliminates shoveling, and is the first step in good storage management practices.

- **Silver Wings Coffee Company, Hokuf Family, Bemidji**
- **Lake of the Woods Brewing Company, Taras and Audry Manzie, Eric and Lindsay Nerland, Warroad**

These runners-up receive \$2,000 in cash.

D3D also took home the MN Cup Award, which includes an automatic entry into the MN Cup competition semifinal round. The MN Cup competition is the premier resource for early state entrepreneurs, supporting and accelerating the development of

breakthrough business ideas across Minnesota.

We invite you to learn more about the winners and their ideas by visiting the IDEA website at www.ideacompetition.org.

Do you have an idea for the next great business? Consider entering in the 2019-2020 IDEA Competition! Registration opens November 1st, 2019. Follow the IDEA Competition’s Facebook page for the latest updates.





WARROAD DEMONSTRATES THE POWER OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY

When you look up the definition of *community*, you'll find the following:

- a unified body of individuals: such as the people with common interests living in a particular area, or
- a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society.

The community of Warroad has gathered city leaders, business owners, and neighbors to envision what they want their community to look like both in the near future and for the generations to come. Warroad is one of two communities currently participating in NMF's Communities Thrive program. Through this process, they have identified priority areas (such as community education, wellness, arts, and culture), and all residents in Warroad have had the opportunity to share ideas for addressing these priorities.

The Warroad Area Community Fund (WACF) recently announced their 2019 grant award recipients. A total of \$152,275 was awarded to 22 local groups and organizations. Additionally, NMF awarded \$50,000 to seven projects through the Communities Thrive program.

The WACF held a joint reception with NMF at the Warroad Senior Living Center on June 19th to celebrate this year's grant recipients. Brenda Baumann and Mark Bertilrud, WACF advisory committee members, presented the WACF grant awards and Nate Dorr, NMF vice president for advocacy, presented the NMF Communities Thrive awards. Below you will find a list of projects that were funded.

"This year we gave out more grant awards than we've ever done in the past," said Brenda. "We live in an amazing community. This money has been raised by area donors and is now going directly back to support projects that enhance the quality of life for all Warroad residents."

The partnership between NMF and the entire Warroad community shows how much can be accomplished when resources, great ideas, and passionate individuals come together. A grant total of \$202,275 was invested to provide infrastructure enhancements, community festivals and cultural events, educational opportunities for residents of all ages, and support for sports and music programs.

To learn more about NMF's work with community philanthropy and the Communities Thrive program, visit www.nwmf.org. To make a gift to a fund in your community, click on *Ways to Give* and select *Funds by County*. WACF is listed under Roseau county.

WARROAD GRANT RECIPIENTS

Warroad Area Community Fund - \$152,275

- ◆ Double Sharp Strings Club
- ◆ Keys for Kids—community concerts
- ◆ Weekend Food for Children
- ◆ Lao Traditional Dance and Art Program
- ◆ Movies in the Park
- ◆ Laketrails Northern MN Youth Camperships
- ◆ Folk School Warroad—launch
- ◆ Warroad Softball—complex fencing
- ◆ Warroad Market and October Festival
- ◆ Warroad Lookout Tower
- ◆ Warroad Heritage Center—enriching community service

Warroad Education Fund

- ◆ Building for the Future



Brenda Baumann announcing the 2019 grant recipients on behalf of the Warroad Area Community Fund

- ◆ West African Music and Culture Artist Residence
- ◆ Warroad Special Education—flexible seating
- ◆ Skater Tots

Gaylord Gunderson Fund

- ◆ CTE Refurbish and Renew
- ◆ Quilting for the Future
- ◆ Warroad Public Schools—school garden
- ◆ Hands-on History and Science Interdisciplinary Labs

- ◆ Warroad Elementary—special ed flexible seating

Warroad Point Restoration Fund

- ◆ Warroad Point Lookout Tower

Warroad Swim Program

- ◆ Warroad Public Schools—indoor pool

Communities Thrive Program - \$50,000

- ◆ City of Warroad—new benches downtown
- ◆ City of Warroad—safe harbor planning project

- ◆ Lao Assistance Center—healthy living and youth activities
- ◆ Warroad Elementary School—Gaga ball pit
- ◆ Warroad Community Partners—Best of Warroad map
- ◆ Warroad Community Partners—October Festival
- ◆ Warroad Community Partners—Folk School Warroad startup

Mahnomen Youth, continued from cover

One student used cardboard to create arcade games like pinball and air hockey.

This opportunity allowed youth to work together as peers and see what it takes to organize a community service project. They also had to practice their public speaking skills to get ready for the event.

“These kids are really impressive,” said Pete Haddeland, president of United Valley Bank in Mahnomen. “You could see their faces light up as they were showing off the hard work they’ve done with their peers.” Haddeland also

serves on the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) board of directors and on the MACF advisory committee.

Dawn Ganje, senior development officer at NMF, said, “Including youth in philanthropic activity is a meaningful way to engage young people in their communities. It’s evident that these Mahnomen area youth know what their community needs are and they were able to come up with ideas on how to serve their peers.”

Each group that presented was awarded an additional \$333 from the funds that were raised at the event. The groups

can use the money to continue their current projects or come up with new initiatives that “pay it forward” in the Mahnomen community. MACF plans on continuing their fundraising efforts and providing more grant dollars to invest in community projects.

If you’d like to make a gift to support MACF, visit www.nwmf.org and click on Ways to Give and then click on Funds by County. MACF is listed under Mahnomen County.



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