



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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North Dakota Community Foundation Receives National Recognition *Local Organization Accredited with Rigorous Philanthropic Standards*

Bismarck, North Dakota —The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) recently received accreditation with the nation’s highest standard for philanthropic excellence. National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations® establish legal, ethical, effective practices for community foundations everywhere. NDCF was the first community foundation in North Dakota to be accredited when the standards were first implemented and has maintained its accreditation continuously since 2006.



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“Meeting the National Standards benchmarks is a rigorous, comprehensive process,” said Randy Royster, Chair of the Community Foundations National Standards Board. “This accreditation is a significant accomplishment that indicates NDCF demonstrates a commitment to transparency, quality, integrity and accountability as it carries out its mission.”

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations® program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. With over 500 community foundations already accredited nationwide, the program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

“This is critically important to our donors,” said Kevin Dvorak, NDCF President & CEO. “When people make a charitable bequest or establish a fund, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and, in some cases, provide lifetime income to a loved one. The National Standards accreditation says our house is in order.”

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NDCF works to improve the quality of life for North Dakota's citizens through charitable giving. It has awarded over \$65 million in grants since its inception in 1976. Grantees have included local park boards, senior citizen centers, schools, community clinics, and arts programs in communities all across the state.

NDCF offers a range of charitable funds, allowing donors to support an individual organization, provide flexible support for their local community, or recommend individual grants. In addition to affirming the organization's philanthropic services, the accreditation validates NDCF's grantmaking practices for the nonprofit community.

"Grantmaking is a lot like investing," said Michael Killoran, Chair of NDCF's Board of Directors. "We need to assess risks, weigh potential gains, diversify assets, monitor performance and operate fairly. With our National Standards accreditation, you can be assured that we're doing just that."

National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations® is the first program of its kind for charitable foundations in the United States.

The North Dakota Community Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under IRS code 501(c)(3) and North Dakota law, provides professional management of over \$70 million in assets for the benefit of North Dakota citizens and their communities. It currently manages over 600 funds, including 64 different community endowment funds within the state of North Dakota. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for North Dakota's citizens through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board is a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations and is responsible for the quality, value and integrity of compliance with National Standards. For more information on the National Standards Board, visit its website at www.cfstandards.org.

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