



NORTH DAKOTA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Sig Jagielski Leaves Gift to Grafton Community

Bismarck, ND - The North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) has announced a gift from the Sig Jagielski Trust to benefit the Grafton Community Endowment Fund. Per Jagielski's instructions, NDCF has received the remaining cash in the Trust, totaling over \$3,000, and a quarter-section of land north of Grafton.

The Grafton Community Endowment Fund is a permanent, component fund of NDCF. The fund's interest earnings are awarded as grants every year to projects and programs that improve the quality of life for Grafton residents. Last year, the fund awarded over \$15,000 in 10 different grants, including:

- \$3,000 to the Grafton Volunteer Fire Department for their Fire Hall Study,
- \$1,000 to Historic Elmwood for the House Paint & Repair Project,
- \$2,000 for the construction and establishment of the Angel of Hope Memorial Park
- \$667 to the Grafton ARTS for a wireless microphone system.

The members of the Grafton Community Endowment Fund Advisory Committee review grant applications every year and recommend grant awards. Current committee members include Russell Carignan, Bob Meyer, Patty Leighton, Amy Vollrath, Dawn Keeley, and Trina Papenfuss.

While the exact value of the land is unknown, it will increase the amount of money available for grants every year. The total value of the Grafton Community Endowment Fund and the Harry and Merle Stephenson Memorial Fund (which also benefits the Grafton area) was \$325,865 at the end of 2016.

Leaving a Legacy: About Sig Jagielski

Jagielski was well-known as a collector of artifacts during his later years and created "Jugville", a fictitious town that included several shops, a church, a saloon, and a school, all filled with collectibles. He also hosted a music program in Grafton for 43 years, playing polkas, Norwegian, and Polish music. He was known as "Uncle Sig" to locals.

Jagielski died in 2004 at the age of 93. Jugville and his large collection of artifacts were moved to the Walsh County Heritage Village in 2011. The Trust provided income to several relatives for a number of years before being terminated. Along with the gift to the Grafton Community Endowment Fund, Jagielski also left a quarter-section of land to the Walsh County Heritage Village to help pay for the upkeep of his collection.

"Sig has left an incredible gift to this area," said Kevin Dvorak, President & CEO of NDCF. "He not only took care of his family, he left a legacy for his community. It is our honor to carry out his wishes and ensure that his gift will benefit Grafton and the surrounding area forever."

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.

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