



RICHLAND WILKIN
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2023 Annual Report



Richland County and Wilkin County Courthouses

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the past year, it's a momentous time for the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation. We've navigated a few major transitions, celebrated successes, and continued our unwavering commitment to enhancing the communities we serve.



Firstly, we said goodbye to Jana Berndt, our part-time Development Director from 2021-2024. Jana's dedication and outstanding contributions have left an indelible mark on our organization. We are truly indebted to her for her tireless efforts and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

At the beginning of 2024, we were thrilled to welcome Scott Nicholson as our new full-time Development Director. Scott, a longtime Breckenridge resident, banker, and active community member, brings a wealth of financial experience as well as a passion for volunteerism and civic engagement. We are confident that he will lead us to new heights in fulfilling our mission.

In 2023, our fundraising efforts continued:

- We continued our theme of "entertainment with purpose" in our three Power of 100 events. These events showcased three incredible organizations each evening, highlighting the remarkable work being done in our communities.
- We were grateful to have partnered once again with Titan Machinery, who sponsored and planned another successful golf fundraiser to support our mission.
- We proudly implemented the Ag Partner program. A win-win for local farmers and the Richland-Wilkin Community Foundation.

Our mission, to "make this a better place to work, live, and raise our families," remains at the heart of everything we do. In total, we were able to award grants to 41 deserving grantees, totaling \$90,749.91. These grants have a profound impact, empowering organizations to make meaningful changes and improve the lives of those in our communities.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are filled with optimism and determination. With your continued support, we will continue to make a difference, creating stronger, more vibrant communities for all.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

Warm regards, Char Schuler (Board Chair)

The Richland Wilkin Community Foundation and its three separate funds are all component funds of the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF). NDCF was established in 1976 and provides marketing, fiscal, and administrative support to our local foundation as well as over 900 other funds in the state. www.NDCF.net.



Our Advisory Committee



RWCF Advisory Committee members: Back row, left to right: Kristen Hasbargen, Janet Yaggie, Rick Steckler, Nathan Berseth, Pamela Broderick; Front row, left to right: Alisa Mitskog-Yaggie, Char Schuler, Development Director Scott Nicholson, Tara Klostreich; Not pictured: Jana Pfingsten, Ryan Smith, Troy Thimjon

The Richland Wilkin Community Foundation is guided by an Advisory Committee of local residents who help promote the fund and recommend grant awards. Each member may serve a maximum of three, three-year terms, and then must leave the committee to ensure good community representation.

Char Schuler, Chair.....	NDSCS Faculty
Rick Steckler, Treasurer.....	Bell Bank, President
Alisa Mitskog-Yaggie.....	Business Owner/ND Legislator
Tara Klostreich.....	Daily News, Publisher
Ryan Smith.....	Edward Jones Financial Advisor
Pam Broderick.....	Sanford Health/Retired
Troy Thimjon.....	Farm Owner
Janet Yaggie.....	Farm Family and community volunteer
Jana Pfingsten.....	Marketing Executive
Nathan Berseth.....	Bell Bank Development Officer
Kristen Hasbargen.....	ND Health & Human Services

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Our Endowment Fund

The Richland Wilkin Community Foundation permanent endowment fund was established in 1984 by a group of area business owners. Originally called the Breckenridge/Wahpeton Community Foundation, the name changed in 2016 to better represent the area it serves. Donations and gifts to this fund are invested and a portion of the earnings is granted out every year to projects and programs that improve the quality of life for Richland and Wilkin County residents. Funds distributed from the permanent fund are designed to be reinvested locally through nonprofit organizations in the region.

The Elmer & Lucille Hoffert Fund was established in 2004 and is a sub-fund of the RWCF's endowed fund. Although it is a separate fund, it's grantable balance every year is awarded with RWCF grants.

Market value of our assets on 12/31/2023: \$670,412

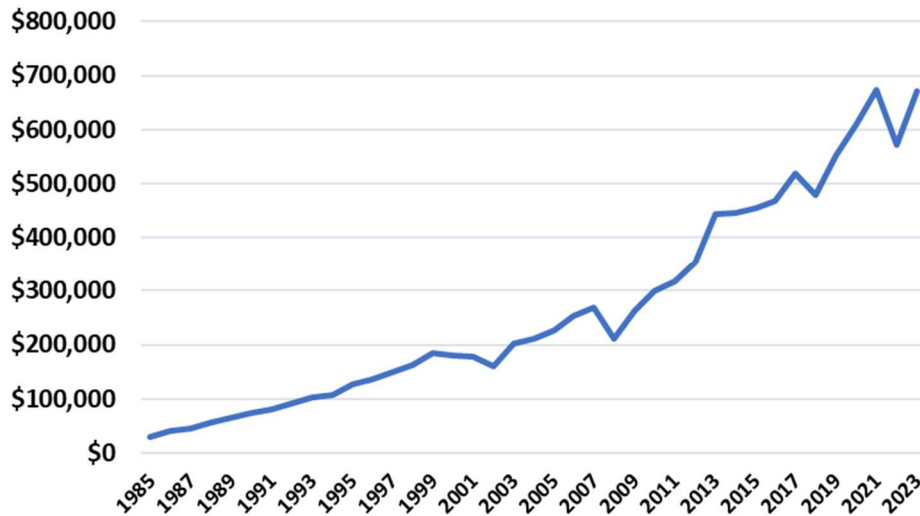
- Richland Wilkin Community Foundation Fund: \$620,791
- Elmer & Lucille Hoffert Fund: \$49,621

Total Gifts to the RWCF in 2023: \$33,938

Total Grants Awarded in 2023: \$23,650

Asset Growth Since Inception

Balance as of December 31 of every year



Grants from our Endowment Fund in 2023



Spring 2023

- Richland Wilkin Emergency Food Pantry Inc..... \$2,500
- Valley Lake Boys Home \$1,700
- Someplace Safe..... \$1,600
- Fairmount Park Board \$1,500
- Chahinkapa Zoo Association \$1,500
- City of Breckenridge - Family Community Center..... \$1,500
- Rothsay Partners Living at Home \$1,500
- Walcott Lutheran Church \$1,000

Fall 2023

- City of Breckenridge - Family Community Center..... \$2,500
- Wyndmere Community Center Corp \$1,500
- United Methodist Church..... \$1,500
- Breckenridge Public Schools \$1,500
- SENDCAA..... \$1,350
- BIO Girls..... \$1,000
- Wilkin County Historical Society..... \$1,000
- ND State College of Science Alumni Foundation \$500

Total Awarded in 2023 \$23,650



RWCF Chair Char Schuler presents a grant check from the endowment fund to Joanna Etzler, Executive Director of the Valley Lake Boys Home at the spring grant round awards.

RWCF Annual Campaign Fund

The RWCF continues the important work of partnering with local employers to raise funds to meet the needs our local non-profit organizations. Building on the legacy of the former United Way, we continue to engage in an annual campaign that incorporates local employers and their employees who generously give through their company payroll. The RWCF in turn, will coordinate with the local non-profit network to distribute funds as effectively as possible. The local advisory committee is a cornerstone of the RWCF and is able to make decisions to best fit the ever-changing needs of our communities.

In 2023, RWCF again partnered with Titan Machinery in hosting an 18-hole golf scramble at the Bois De Sioux Golf Course. Golfers enjoyed beautiful weather while swinging their way to prizes and awards. Many corporate sponsors also contributed to make this a fun and successful event. Plans are already being made for the 2024 event - we hope you can join us!

The Agricultural Partnership program that was started in 2022, continues to be a resource for area farmers to be able to support our nonprofit community by gifting a portion of their harvest. By coordinating with the local elevators and tax professionals, RWCF is able to accept gifts of agricultural commodities, which has significant tax benefits to our producers.

Through all these fundraising efforts, RWCF's Annual Campaign Fund was able to grant over \$53,000 to local nonprofits!

Thank you to all of the individuals who contribute to our annual campaign. Whether you are an individual that makes a one-time gift, an employee that engages in recurring work-place giving, or one of our agricultural partners, we appreciate the contributions from each and every one of you!



Balance in our fund on 12/31/2023: \$116,320
Total Gifts to the RWCF Annual Campaign in 2023: \$75,002
Total Grants Awarded in 2023: \$53,400

Grants from our Annual Campaign in 2022



Spring 2023

- Three Rivers Crisis Center \$12,000
- Richland-Wilkin Kinship \$10,000
- Richland Wilkin Emergency Food Pantry Inc. \$3,500
- We Care Coalition \$1,500
- Wahpeton/Breckenridge Headwaters Music Festival..... \$1,500
- CAPLP - Lakes and Prairies Community Action \$1,000

Fall 2023

- Three Rivers Crisis Center \$12,000
- Richland Wilkin Emergency Food Pantry Inc. \$5,000
- We Care Coalition \$2,000
- Friends of the Leach Public Library \$1,000
- Richland Wilkin Historical Society \$1,000
- Red Door Art Gallery & Museum \$1,000
- CAPLP - Lakes and Prairies Community Action \$1,000
- A Place for Friends \$750
- Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency \$150

Total Awarded in 2023 \$53,400



RWCF Power of 100

The Richland Wilkin Power of 100 is a form of social giving. The community gathers for an event where three charities share their story. Participants are asked to donate \$100 or more per event. After enjoying food, beverages and entertainment, attendees vote for their favorite nonprofit. A portion of the money raised is invested in the RWCF endowment fund to generate future grant dollars for area nonprofits. The remaining money is divided up between the charities in attendance that night.



Although the fundraising piece for these nonprofit organizations is important, it's not the main reason for the events. What is more crucial: exposing area residents to the many different nonprofit organizations that are serving people in Richland and Wilkin County and explaining the role of the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation in addressing the varied needs of the area.



Grants from our Power of 100 Fund



February "Mardi Gras" event

- Richland Wilkin Emergency Food Pantry.....\$1,500
- City of Breckenridge - Family Community Center.....\$1,000
- Chahinkapa Zoo Association\$600

May "Spring Fling" event

- Colfax Park Board\$3,000
- Breckenridge Public School\$1,200
- Wilkin County Agricultural Society\$1,000

October "Spooky Social" event

- St. Mary's School\$3,000
- Jessy's Toy Box\$1,200
- Wahpeton Parks and Recreation (Special Olympics).....\$1,200

Total Awarded to Charities in 2023.....\$13,700

Total Invested in Endowment Fund in 2023.....\$2,788

Total Awarded to RWCF Annual Campaign in 2023\$6,506

Total Impact of RWCF Power of 100 in 2023\$22,994



Special thanks to Frank Stanko of the Wahpeton Daily News for some of these great photos!

Supporting Our Funds

There are many different ways to support the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation . . . which one works best for you?

- Set up a **recurring monthly donation** that fits your budget, charged to your credit card. Just \$20 a month supports our communities in amazing ways!
- Become a member of our **Power of 100** club and have some fun when you give.
- **Transfer Stock** - transferring ownership of long-term appreciated securities directly to our fund, instead of liquidating the asset, can help maximize both your tax benefit and the overall amount available to RWCF
- **Donate agricultural commodities** - you can deduct the cost of production but don't claim the income from the sale since it's a donation.
- Make a gift to one of our funds **in memory of a loved one**.
- Make our foundation the **beneficiary (or partial beneficiary)** of your life insurance policy, 401K, or IRA.

If you have questions or would like information (or illustrations) about any of these options, please contact Scott Nicholson at 701-892-2007. Or consult your tax advisor about your particular situation.

Thank you!

OSPTI (Orthopedic & Sports Physical Therapy, Inc.) chose the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation to be the beneficiary of their Soup Day in 2023! OSPTI donated \$1,400 to our foundation from their free-will offering. And the soup was DELICIOUS!



Leave Your Legacy in Richland/Wilkin!

Making a lasting difference in our communities or for future generations may be easier than you realize. With very simple language in your will or trust, you can help the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation (RWCF) continue to support important projects and programs in our area forever.

Gifts to the RWCF endowment fund are carefully invested by our partner foundation - the North Dakota Community Foundation - to generate a permanent source of charitable income.

If you have children or other relatives, you can leave a portion of your estate to them and a percentage to RWCF. Doing so provides for your heirs while honoring your charitable values.

If you would like to include the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation in your will, here is some sample language to consider:

"I give and bequeath to the North Dakota Community Foundation (Tax ID Number 45-0336015), a qualified charitable organization under IRS 501(c)(3), located in Bismarck, North Dakota, _____ (a percentage of the estate, specific dollar amount, or remainder of estate) for the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation, a permanent component of the North Dakota Community Foundation."

** Be sure to contact your legal advisor.*

"What a man does for himself dies with him. What he does for his community lives long after he is gone." - Theodore Roosevelt

For more information . . .

If you have any questions about charitable giving, the North Dakota 40% income tax credit, or the various RWCF funds, please contact Scott Nicholson or talk to a member of the RCWF Advisory Committee. There is no obligation and we are happy to help.

More information can also be found on our Facebook page or on our website: www.NDCF.net/RichlandWilkin.

Scott@NDCF.net * 701-892-2007 * PO Box 905, Wahpeton, ND 58075



Our Impact...

“Thanks to the ongoing support of the Richland Wilkin Community Foundation, Kinship has been able to place mentors in the lives of 564 youth like Rylan.

Rylan’s mom felt it would be great for him to have support and positive role modeling because they don’t have a strong local support system. Rylan has gained self-esteem, social-emotional skills, and overall improvement of making safer, healthier, and wiser choices through the positive feedback, encouragement, learning opportunities, connections and experiences his mentor and Kinship provide. His mom stated, “I couldn’t even say enough good things...The whole experience has been an eye opener. [Jim] always wonders how he can come alongside us in any way. He started out as a mentor, but he is family to us now.”



Kinship is the ONLY youth mentoring organization serving our community; without it, 134 current youth, many experiencing a multitude of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), would be lacking mentor support. Most of our kids lack a strong natural support system & healthy outlet to help navigate life’s tribulations. Kinship’s mission is to improve lives by establishing quality relationships between youth and caring mentors for the purpose of promoting stability, support, friendship, & community.



THANK YOU for supporting this important work in our area!”

- Marie Miller, Kinship of Richland and Wilkin Counties

