

http://www.willistonherald.com/news/williston-area-community-foundation-established-by-north-dakota-community-foundation/article_e161994c-8f7a-11e4-b723-cf39f30c6aca.html

Williston-area community foundation established by North Dakota Community Foundation

By Zack Nelson Williston Herald Dec 28, 2014

WILLISTON—A new community foundation has recently been established by local residents through the North Dakota Community Foundation to improve the quality of life in Williston and the surrounding area.

“Other communities like Stanley and Tioga have had an endowment fund for years,” said Aaron Schmit, Williston resident through a press release. “I’m so pleased that Williston has one now, as well. We know there are a lot of needs in our community and this is a perfect way to address those needs, now and in the future.”

A community foundation is a permanent, flexible, general purpose charitable endowment fund. Earnings from the fund are given as grants to support projects and programs in the area, but the principle remains intact, continuing to provide income for generations to come.

Fifty-eight North Dakota communities of all sizes have established community endowment funds through the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF), including Pembina, Larimore, Casselton, Pierce County, Minot, McKenzie County, Killdeer, Mott, Bismarck-Mandan, and Ellendale. Some of the community endowment funds give out over \$50,000 in grants to local organizations every year to a variety of projects and programs in their area.

“Community foundations grow over time and become a significant source of grant money for area nonprofits,” said Williston resident Tate Cymbaluk in a press release. “I’m excited to have something like this in Williston. It will hopefully provide significant funding for some exciting and crucial projects.”

Several people have already made donations to the Williston Area Community Foundation. An advisory committee made up of local residents will be established to determine grant awards. NDCF provides professional management of the fund as well as administrative support to local committees.

Donations can be added to the fund at any time. The Williston Area Community Foundation is considered a qualified ND endowment fund and gifts to the fund that are over \$5,000 should qualify for the generous 40 percent North Dakota income tax credit.

“This foundation can make a real difference in our community,” said Schmit in a press release. “It is truly an investment in our future.”

For more information about the newly formed Williston Area Community Foundation, go to www.ndcf.net/Williston or contact local NDCF board member Aaron Schmit at 701- 572-3195. Those people interested in contributing to the fund can donate online at www.NDCF.net by clicking “Donate Now” and selecting “Williston Area Community Foundation” from the listing of funds, or can mail their check to NDCF, PO Box 387, Bismarck, ND 58502-0387.