



Northwest
Minnesota
FOUNDATION

Living values, Lasting impact



Impact Report / Fiscal Year 2022 July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Dear Neighbor,

We believe it takes courage to embrace the future.

Our work here at the Northwest Minnesota Foundation is guided by our four core values. These are vital, timeless principles that define our culture. These are our forever beliefs.

This year's Impact Report details our accomplishments and activities in fiscal year 2022 and includes stories that illustrate how we live out these core values.

- **STRATEGIC COLLABORATION:** We ask, "Who else can and should be involved here?" and use our ability as an unbiased organizer to bring the right parties to the table to address critical issues.
- **INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBILITY:** We are careful stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We approach every action asking, "What is the right thing to do here?"
- **BOLDLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** We promise to understand the challenges and opportunities in our region and to step into all situations with courage, empathy, and a focus on delivering impactful solutions.
- **COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION:** We commit to equity and inclusion for all in our region. We seek to ensure all programming and work involving the Foundation has been designed to be culturally supportive and effective for all.



By sharing stories that illustrate how we live these values out through our work, we believe that these core values will come alive.

Big change starts at the local level. We must work side by side with our neighbors to make a real and lasting impact on our region. Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

With gratitude,

Steven Anderson

Chair of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation Board of Directors

Strategic Collaboration

GOLD CHILDCARE CENTER

Multiple organizations have been supporting, assisting, and advising Fadumo Ahmed as she has worked toward opening Gold Childcare Center, a culturally supportive child care center planned for East Grand Forks.

Fadumo, who had been providing in-home child care, set out to open a center as a solution to meet an increasing need in the community. She has seen Somalian families struggle to find adequate child care due to language difficulties, cultural barriers, and insufficient flexibilities.

'Working together to achieve a goal'

"This project showcases how various agencies can work together to achieve a goal ... we must all work collectively as a team to connect all the dots."

- Tabi Steinmetz, NMF Program Officer



Read more about the Gold Childcare Center and Fadumo's efforts to address a growing need in East Grand Forks at www.nwmf.org

Integrity and Responsibility

RAPID RESPONSE FUNDING / CDFI

During COVID, the U.S. Department of Treasury created the Rapid Response program, open to certified CDFIs, including the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. NMF applied for and was awarded \$1 million in Rapid Response funds, to be expended over two years.

These funds provide exceptionally-low-interest loans to those from underrepresented communities and to business ventures in targeted geographic zones. George Coulombe, a land surveyor, was approved for a Rapid Response loan that allowed him to purchase his own equipment to grow his business, Coulombe Consulting.

George targets his work toward Native American reservations and smaller counties. Once on site, he works alongside local crews, teaching them skills that will benefit their local communities.

'The opportunities here are important'

"Our mission is to help our region as a whole, to build better lives for everyone in Northwest Minnesota, and there have been populations of this region that historically have been underserved. The opportunities here are important."

– Michael Neusser, VP for Operations



Read more about the Rapid Response program and how it benefitted George Coulombe at www.nwmf.org



Community Revitalization

BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Technical assistance = 1,480 hours of technical assistance provided to 86 borrowers
- Specialized services = Of those borrowers above, 35 received \$34,212 in technical assistance from specialized services

ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT

- Loans issued = 29
- Total loans amount = \$887,127

CHILD CARE FINANCE PROGRAM

- Loans issued = 14
- Total loans amount = \$70,000
- Child care slots retained = 40
- New child care slots created = 189

NW SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

- Clients served = 401
- Consulting hours = 3,485
- Bought/started businesses = 15
- Debt/equity investment raised = \$11.42 million

Commitment to Inclusion

RACIAL EQUITY ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

Sally Fineday is one of the members of the Racial Equity Accountability Project team, charged with examining and questioning the homeless response system with the goal of advancing racial equity and reducing racial disparities.

The Northwest Minnesota REAP team is part of a statewide initiative aimed at addressing inadequacies in the statewide homeless response system. Data from that system shows that, in Minnesota, people of color experience homelessness and housing instability at rates that are 7 to 8 times higher than their representation within the general population.



**Read more about the Racial
Equity Accountability Project at
www.nwmf.org**



'Why do we let this happen?'

"When we look specifically at our demographic data, we can clearly see that our non-white residents in our homeless response system are spending way more time on the priority list. They're not getting served as quickly as their white counterparts."

– Margret Treuer, NMF Program Officer

Financials

CONTRIBUTIONS & OTHER SUPPORTIVE REVENUES

- Endowment contributions = \$3,536,916
- Program revenues = \$8,649,230
- Other supportive revenues = \$214,007
- Total contributions and other supportive revenues = \$12,400,153

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE = (\$6,607,794)*

*unrealized losses of endowed assets

PROGRAMS & OTHER SUPPORTIVE EXPENSES

- Programs = \$8,087,642
- Administration = \$1,856,102
- Fundraising = \$273,509
- Total programs and other supportive expenses = \$10,217,253

TOTAL ASSETS = \$91,824,995

NET ASSETS = \$84,262,581

As of June 30, 2022

Discretionary Grants

Total grants = 266

Total grants amount = \$2,913,188

- Small Business Relief = \$2,225,000
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief (to child care providers, schools, and nonprofits) = \$111,600
- Children & Families = \$110,000
- Housing = \$49,467
- Homelessness = \$47,821
- Advocacy = 45,000
- Natural disaster relief = \$44,200
- Business awards and fellowships = \$35,000
- Other = \$53,500

Boldly Making a Difference

IMPACT FOR TOMORROW

With the goal of making a meaningful, lasting impact on the Park Rapids and Nevis area, Mark and Peggy Hewitt worked with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to hold an open grand round for nonprofits that are working to remove barriers for youth and families to achieve success.

The Hewitt Family Charitable Fund has granted \$240,000 since its inception in 2000, but the open grant round that was held last fall allowed the couple to truly target their giving in a powerful way, issuing \$83,000 in grants to seven nonprofits in Park Rapids and Nevis.



Philanthropy

TOTAL DONATIONS

- \$4,849,576

TOTAL COMPONENT FUND GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- \$1,737,253

NUMBER OF FUNDS

- 415

"There are lots of great people and organizations out there doing great things and we hope our funding allows them to continue to do their great work. Knowing that our efforts are truly making a difference inspires us to continue to expand our charitable giving."

Mark Hewitt
Hewitt Family Charitable Fund



Read more about the Hewitt Family Charitable Fund and its open grant round online at www.nwmf.org



New Funds

- Bemidji Area Take a Kid Fishing
- Bemidji Career Academies Scholarship Fund
- Bemidji Curling Club
- BGMR Backpack Program Fund
- Cease Family Charitable Fund
- Clearwater County Historical Society Fund
- Cody Holte Scholarship
- Firefly Center for Art and Wellbeing
- Foley Family Education Fund
- Gary Cares Fund
- Jim Stordahl Roseau Girls Hockey Scholarship Fund
- Mark Fodness Scholarship Fund
- Norman County Historical Society Fund
- Rick Hetteen Memorial Scholarship
- Roseau County Cancer Fund
- Thief River Falls Theater Fund
- Vernon W. and Ara M. Bursch Scholarship Fund
- Warroad Area Arts Endowment Fund



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Bemidji, MN 56601



We believe Northwest Minnesota offers boundless opportunities. Our strength is connecting people, places, and possibilities.

Please join us in an adventure to build better lives for everyone in our region. A gift to our general endowment or one of our 400+ local funds would be greatly valued.

Together, we'll work to empower our community and keep us headed in a positive direction.