

VISION WEST ND FOUNDATION CASE STATEMENT



The Vision West ND Foundation broadens opportunities for western North Dakota communities to improve value of place and establish long-term sustainability.

WHO WE ARE

The Vision West ND Foundation was created to build two primary funding sources to support the activities of the Vision West ND Consortium and the areas it serves. One fund is a project-oriented non-endowed account established so funds can be easily accessed for projects and operations. The other fund is a sustaining endowment established to use the interest this account earns to serve communities over the long term.



OUR HISTORY

Vision West ND began in 2012 as an association of counties, cities, planning agencies, institutions of higher education, and economic development agencies. We had significant organizational assistance from state and federal funding to develop a long-term sustainability plan. When the original HUD grant ended in 2015, the consortium members decided the work was not done simply because a regional plan had been developed. Instead, the work had just begun and the members set about establishing activities to put the regional plan into place. Despite various funding sources and participation from government agencies, Vision West ND has never been a government agency, nor is it government-controlled.

The education and research offered by Vision West ND have tackled a wide array of the most pressing issues for western North Dakota. We have webinars, power points, research papers, and data sets that are offered to the communities and counties for their planning efforts. We have partnered with multiple local, state, and federal agencies to gather information to educate our community members on economic diversification and sustainability.

As funding in the form of grants was reduced, memberships became important and it wasn't long before the consortium leadership realized we needed a funding arm to assist the consortium in forming collaborative partnerships and in bringing forth the education and research necessary to assure our quality of place remains intact over the long-term. The Vision West ND Foundation became a formal organization under the guidance and umbrella of the North Dakota Community Foundation in February 2017.

WHAT WE DO

The Vision West ND Foundation supports the work initiated by the Vision West ND consortium. The consortium brings together key stakeholders to develop collaborative relationships to positively impact western North Dakota. It is a network that shares information, experiences and resources. The Vision West ND Foundation will help bring stability to the consortium's operations so it can concentrate on the following primary areas of focus:

- **Economic Diversification:** Developing business retention and value-added agriculture and industry programs for small towns, including a long-term “buy local” campaign
- **Industrial Valuation:** Identifying solutions for *equitable tax valuation for centrally-assessed and locally-assessed* commercial and industrial sites in all counties.
- **Housing:** Advocacy for rehab of aging housing, conversion of market-value housing to affordable housing, and unmet workforce housing needs
- **Pipelines:** Development of a “one-stop” resource center for state agency resources, providing easier landowner access to answers related to pipeline issues
- **Child Care:** State advocacy for reconciled local and state regulations and identification of methods to reduce gaps in subsidies for families needing child care
- **EMS & Rural Health:** promotion of best practices for intra-county or regional emergency health systems; and addressing local needs identified in rural community health assessments
- **Transportation:** working on a plan with NDDOT and MHA Nation to provide ferry service connecting ND Hwy 8 as an alternative north-south route
- **Leadership:** training opportunities to develop sound future leadership for municipalities, counties, agencies, and organizations
- **Legacy:** promotion of community giving to local community foundations as a lasting legacy for community sustainability

Ultimately, we research, educate, communicate, train, convene and report on the most pressing issues and concerns of the citizens of western North Dakota.

Believe in the Vision!

WHY WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

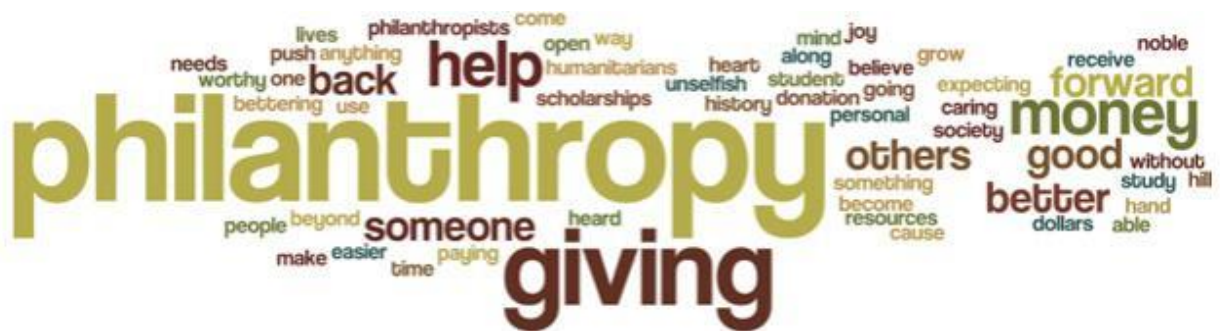
Vision West ND has historically been supported through a myriad of funding sources – grants, donations, fees for services. However, as we seek to increase our research and educational efforts, we will need additional funds to further support our programs and initiatives, continue to attract the best human talent for our efforts, grow our consortium, and further increase our impact in making western North Dakota one of the best places on earth to live, work and play.

HOW WILL WE USE YOUR SUPPORT TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS

We will use your funds and donations to

1. **Sustain communities** through direct support to help create local value and quality of place.

2. **Provide educational and research-based resources**, such as our workplace, housing, and population projections for our region and our Main Street Success project, which provided planning data for downtown development.
3. **Maintain the GoLocal! ND** project facilitated to help communities understand the importance of local community engagement.
4. **Build collaboration** between local, state, and national experts to guide us in sustaining our economies during times of economic growth and downturn.
5. **Encourage philanthropy** and gift planning to empower financial institutions to come on board in our efforts.
6. **Provide gap funding** to build and deepen the services and businesses that can be provided in the communities.
7. **Legacy planning** to support those who love their community, have an idea how to benefit it, yet need some tools to help put that idea into place.



Of greatest importance is that any giving to the Vision West ND Foundation is not a replacement of tax-based services. The Foundation will use your funds to fill the gaps that government cannot provide.

WHAT ARE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF THE IMPACT OF VISION WEST

We know that potential donors want to know specifically how the organization they support impacts the world and makes it a better place. In our case, our world is western North Dakota and our work benefits the present and future generations that call this place home. They want to live in a place that values its citizens and offers opportunities for community engagement. We have some examples of how Vision West ND brings people together to accomplish just that.

- Child care is a huge issue throughout North Dakota, but no place has experienced such a shortage of child care options as has the energy-impacted areas of the state. As a result of Vision West ND’s facilitation of planning in local western North Dakota, several communities have become very creative in establishing child care centers. Wolf Pup Day Care in Watford City established itself as a charitable nonprofit organization and now provides child care services for up to 190 children. In Dunn County, a public-private partnership was established to provide child care in those communities. Public funds were used to open the center, which is operated privately. In Bowman, a child care center was opened through the gift of a benefactor. In Hazen, a cooperative

of businesses, school, and health center was formed to open a child care center for up to 80 children. Vision West ND provided early research and education to help break down perceived barriers to establishing child care centers.

- The original Stark County planning session that was facilitated by Vision West ND identified the need for quality recreation. A walking trail around Patterson Lake was identified as a quality of life need. The strategy outlined in the planning session resulted in an almost \$1 million grant to develop the path that is today used by multiple generations.
- Vision West ND and NDSU provided a massive amount of research to help individual counties have relevant population data to determine housing needs and workforce needs over a period of 25 years using scenarios with different oil prices and quantities of oil drilled. These studies have become the primary planning documents for most of our western counties.
- Sustainability in government has always been an issue for some cities and counties, but never as much as when the subdivisions had to start competing with the oilfield for jobs. Vision West ND conducted a workshop that offered a variety of methods in keeping the workforce engaged and providing a work atmosphere that suits all generations.
- Planning and zoning issues abounded with the onset of the Bakken. Even after the downturn, townships, counties and cities have had multiple planning and zoning questions and issues with planning and zoning enforcement. Vision West ND offered a workshop in 2012 with a follow-up in 2017 for political subdivisions to learn from professional planners how to set up their planning and zoning, using the best possible policies.
- Vision West ND launched the GoLocal! ND initiative to help mid-sized North Dakota communities bring dollars back to their communities. Starting with a “buy local” campaign, the project’s goal is to increase sales tax dollars in each of the participating communities through a “Shift 10%” campaign where residents, businesses, and government agencies are asked to shift 10% of their online or out-of-trade-area shopping back to their local communities.
- Vision West ND built a partnership with the North Dakota Community Foundation. Through its membership in Vision West ND, the NDCF is working with local communities to build or enhance their local community foundations as well as becoming the resource for the Vision West ND Foundation.

WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT US

There are literally thousands of worthy and deserving charities in the United States, and all would like your support. The Vision West ND Foundation fills a void in western North Dakota, as we are the only locally formed grassroots organization that brings together such a varied membership to identify opportunities and engage in problem-solving for the entire western third of North Dakota. We work hard to be objective, unbiased, and non-partisan. We are interdisciplinary, addressing the topics that are brought forth as the most important to the region.

Your donation invests in solutions that are designed to confirm that we live in the best part of the country, if not the world.

In addition to the benefits donors receive by investing in worthwhile work, Vision West ND Foundation donors are recognized and acknowledged in the Foundation's reports, website, newsletters and other widely distributed materials.

HOW MUCH IS NEEDED TO FUND THE VISION WEST ND FOUNDATION GOALS

In order to accomplish our current and future goals, we have established two primary funding sources. One is a project-oriented, short-term account and the other is a sustaining endowment account. Our short term goals are two-fold:

1. **Project Fund:** Grow our non-endowed project account to 25% of one year's operating expenses, or \$25,000 in the first year.
2. **Sustaining Fund:** Grow our endowed fund to \$100,000 within two years and to \$500,000 in the mid-term to be able to serve our communities to the extent that is necessary to make a significant impact on long-term quality of place.

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR GOALS

Achieving our goals will require a multi-pronged effort. A number of partnerships are being explored including charitable gaming, gifts from the energy and agriculture industries, corporate giving, donations from individuals, and gifts from local community foundations. To accomplish this, we invite all entities to participate in ongoing solution-oriented discussion. We believe that when people want to give to a specific community project, they should donate to their local community foundations. If they want to help make the entire region of western North Dakota have sustainable value and quality of place, they should consider the Vision West ND Foundation.



HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT VISION WEST ND FOUNDATION

Charitable Gift Giving

Our legal title is **Vision West ND c/o NDCF ID# Tax ID 45-0336015** as a non-profit any gifts for project needs, or endowment are federally tax deductible. In addition, gifts to the ND endowment from ND income earning entities may qualify for ND 40% tax credit (some restrictions apply).

The IRS allows many different methods of giving to encourage donors to get involved with their favorite charities. Below are a few simple options.

CONFIDENTIAL LEGACY DISCUSSION

Please let us know if you wish to discuss confidentially how one of the following might work in your case. Any and all gifts should be reviewed with your financial professionals before making a final decision.

CURRENT GIFTS: Project Fund or Endowment

1. **Outright:** Gifts can be made in any amount. Gifts can be directed to areas of interest in the business (see funding list). Payment methods can include cash, check, secure online payment with a credit card. Check out our website for gift instructions – www.NDCF.net/give
2. **Memorials-In Honor Of:** There are two kinds of memorials. Outright gifts, which carry the name of a loved one, and those given to a memorial (endowed fund) of which only the interest is used. To set up a new fund, please contact us.
3. **Stock or Mutual Fund Gifts:** If you have appreciated stock or mutual funds, this might offer some extra tax savings. Transfers must be sent in-kind to our account (see our website for instructions).
4. **Gift In Kind:** There are many needs for practical items or services around the homes that serves Vision West ND -- copy paper, pencils, cleaning, snow removal, handyman work, van or automotive repairs, all offer opportunities for you or your business to support us.
5. **Tangible Personal Property:** Such things as coins, jewelry, copyrights, mineral rights, crops, and livestock all can be accepted.
6. **Real Estate:** If you are looking to transfer or sell land, real estate or income properties, now might be a good time to consider a part or complete gift of that asset to save taxes. Options may exist as well for receiving income for life in return and still get a tax deduction as a charitable gift. (See income gifts below)
7. **Mineral interests, Copy Rights, Patents:** All can be used for benefit the organization. Ask for more specifics to ensure you make the most impact with your gift.
8. **Paid up Insurance:** With some individuals, policies are paid-up and not needed anymore for the original purpose. These could make easy gifts with no impact on the checkbook.
9. **Retirement funds:** Sometimes a gift from a retirement fund is the best thing one may offer. Currently anyone 70 ½ years or older may also gift up to \$100,000 from an IRA if transferred directly from the agent to NDCF c/o Vision West ND. Ask us for more details about this giving type.

LIFE INCOME GIFTS

Charitable Gift Annuity: Offers you a partial charitable deduction. On a regular schedule, you would receive income in return for your gift calculated by a percentage based on your age. Rates range from 5% to 9% based on your age (there is some return of principal). The nice part of the gift plan is the fixed reliable income, but also it can protect the asset value from probate and estate taxes. They are simple to set up, and 100% of the assets are conservatively invested in a special restricted fund to ensure a secure payout of income. The remainder value becomes the gift to the charity.

Charitable Trusts: Offer great flexibility to benefit family members, special needs children, or a remaining spouse and still help charity. Gifts can be set up to provide variable or fixed rate income to serve the needs of you and your family. Trusts can also help reduce or eliminate the capital gains tax, provide a large charitable deduction, save estate taxes, and increase income from a non-income or low income producing asset. When income beneficiaries pass away, the remaining fund balance would go to the charitable remainder beneficiary.

ESTATE GIFTS: For project fund or Endowment

Assignment Gift: By designating Vision West ND as a beneficiary or co-beneficiary of your Retirement funds, insurance or bank account, you provide a nice gift when you are done with them. Many gifts like this only require a simple signature on a beneficiary form.

Bequests in Wills or Living Trusts: Are a simple way for you to establish memorials, or funds which will live on past your lifetime. We suggest a person leave a percentage bequest which then fluctuates with available assets. In some cases, when children or other family members are part of the plans, we suggest they consider our charity as an “extra” family member.

VISON WEST ND FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

Foundation Committee Officers:

Chair - Mr. Gontran (Buster) Langowski, Hazen ND Economic Developer

Vice-Chair - Ms. Sarah Tunge, Beulah Chamber of Commerce

Secretary – Ms. Debra Nelson, President DLN Consulting, Inc.

Treasurer – Ms. Melody Mileur, Williams County Communications Director

Foundation Committee Members:

Mr. Daryl Dukart – Rancher and Dunn County Commissioner

Mr. Steven Holen – McKenzie County Public School Superintendent

Ms. Jenny Gaaskjolen – BNC National Bank, Stanley Branch Manager

Mr. John Phillips – Beulah JDA Director

Dr. Thomas Mitzel – Dickinson State University President

CONTACTS

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CONTACT US

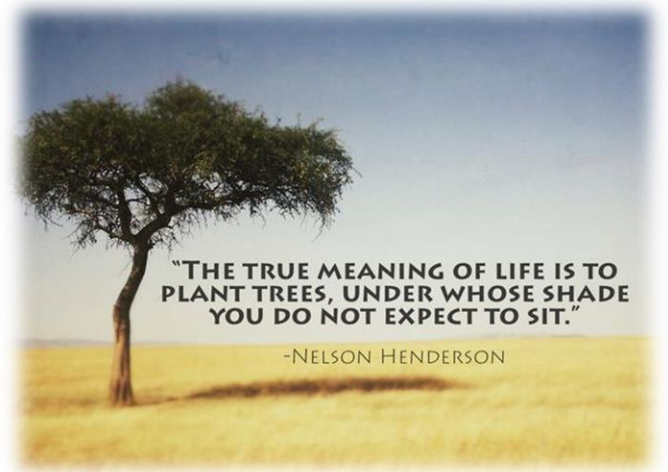
Vision West ND Foundation

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AFP Code of Ethical Principles and Standards

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES • Adopted 1964; amended Sept. 2007

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) exists to foster the development and growth of fundraising professionals and the profession, to promote high ethical behavior in the fundraising profession and to preserve and enhance philanthropy and volunteerism. Members of AFP are motivated by an inner drive to improve the quality of life through the causes they serve. They serve the ideal of philanthropy, are committed to the preservation and enhancement of volunteerism; and hold stewardship of these concepts as the overriding direction of their professional life. They recognize their responsibility to ensure that needed resources are vigorously and ethically sought and that the intent of the donor is honestly fulfilled. To these ends, AFP members, both individual and business, embrace certain values that they strive to uphold in performing their responsibilities for generating philanthropic support. AFP business members strive to promote and protect the work and mission of their client organizations.

AFP members both individual and business aspire to:

- practice their profession with integrity, honesty, truthfulness and adherence to the absolute obligation to safeguard the public trust
- act according to the highest goals and visions of their organizations, professions, clients and consciences
- put philanthropic mission above personal gain;
- inspire others through their own sense of dedication and high purpose
- improve their professional knowledge and skills, so that their performance will better serve others
- demonstrate concern for the interests and well-being of individuals affected by their actions
- value the privacy, freedom of choice and interests of all those affected by their actions
- foster cultural diversity and pluralistic values and treat all people with dignity and respect
- affirm, through personal giving, a commitment to philanthropy and its role in society
- adhere to the spirit as well as the letter of all applicable laws and regulations
- advocate within their organizations adherence to all applicable laws and regulations
- avoid even the appearance of any criminal offense or professional misconduct

- bring credit to the fundraising profession by their public demeanor
- encourage colleagues to embrace and practice these ethical principles and standards
- be aware of the codes of ethics promulgated by other professional organizations that serve philanthropy

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Furthermore, while striving to act according to the above values, AFP members, both individual and business, agree to abide (and to ensure, to the best of their ability, that all members of their staff abide) by the AFP standards. Violation of the standards may subject

the member to disciplinary sanctions, including expulsion, as provided in the AFP Ethics Enforcement Procedures.

MEMBER OBLIGATIONS

1. Members shall not engage in activities that harm the members' organizations, clients or profession.
2. Members shall not engage in activities that conflict with their fiduciary, ethical and legal obligations to their organizations, clients or profession.
3. Members shall effectively disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest; such disclosure does not preclude or imply ethical impropriety.

4. Members shall not exploit any relationship with a donor, prospect, volunteer, client or employee for the benefit of the members or the members' organizations.

5. Members shall comply with all applicable local, state, provincial and federal civil and criminal laws.

6. Members recognize their individual boundaries of competence and are forthcoming and truthful about their professional experience and qualifications

and will represent their achievements accurately and without exaggeration.

7. Members shall present and supply products and/or services honestly and without misrepresentation and will clearly identify the details of those

products, such as availability of the products and/or services and other factors that may affect the suitability of the products and/or services for

donors, clients or nonprofit organizations.

8. Members shall establish the nature and purpose of any contractual relationship at the outset and will be responsive and available to organizations and their employing organizations before, during and after any sale of materials and/or services. Members will comply with all fair and reasonable obligations created by the contract.

9. Members shall refrain from knowingly infringing the intellectual property rights of other parties at all times. Members shall address and rectify any in advertent infringement that may occur.

10. Members shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged information relating to the provider/client relationships.

11. Members shall refrain from any activity designed to disparage competitors untruthfully.

SOLICITATION AND USE OF PHILANTHROPIC FUNDS

12. Members shall take care to ensure that all solicitation and communication materials are accurate and correctly reflect their organizations' mission and use of solicited funds.

13. Members shall take care to ensure that donors receive informed, accurate and ethical advice about the value and tax implications of contributions.

14. Members shall take care to ensure that contributions are used in accordance with donors' intentions.

15. Members shall take care to ensure proper stewardship of all revenue sources, including timely reports on the use and management of such

funds.

16. Members shall obtain explicit consent by donors before altering the conditions of financial transactions.

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

17. Members shall not disclose privileged or confidential information to unauthorized parties.

18. Members shall adhere to the principle that all donor and prospect information created by, or on behalf of, an organization or a client is the property of that organization or client and shall not be transferred or utilized except on behalf of that organization or client.

19. Members shall give donors and clients the opportunity to have their names removed from lists that are sold to, rented to or exchanged with other organizations.

20. Members shall, when stating fundraising results, use accurate and consistent accounting methods that conform to the appropriate guidelines adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)* for the type of organization involved. (* In countries outside of the United States, comparable authority should be utilized.)

COMPENSATION AND CONTRACTS

21. Members shall not accept compensation or enter into a contract that is based on a percentage of contributions; nor shall members accept finder's fees or contingent fees. Business members must refrain from receiving compensation from third parties derived from products or services for client without disclosing that third-party compensation to the client

(for example, volume rebates from vendors to business members).

22. Members may accept performance-based compensation, such as bonuses, provided such bonuses are in accord with prevailing practices within the members' own organizations and are not based on a percentage of contributions.

23. Members shall neither offer nor accept payments or special considerations for the purpose of influencing the selection of products or services.

24. Members shall not pay finder's fees, commissions or percentage compensation based on contributions, and shall take care to discourage their organizations from making such payments.

25. Any member receiving funds on behalf of a donor or client must meet the legal requirements for the disbursement of those funds. Any interest or income earned on the funds should be fully disclosed.

A Donor Bill of Rights

PHILANTHROPY is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To ensure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the not-for-profit organizations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

I.

To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.

II.

To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.

III.

To have access to the organization's most recent financial statements.

IV.

To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.

V.

To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.

VI.

To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

VII.

To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organizations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.

VIII.

To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.

IX.

To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organization may intend to share.

X.

To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

DEVELOPED BY

Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)

Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP)

Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)

Giving Institute: Leading Consultants to Non-Profits

ENDORSED BY

(in formation)

Independent Sector

National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC)

National Committee on Planned Giving (NCPG)

Council for Resource Development (CRD)

United Way of America