This year, 16 public schools were provided funding to enhance the experiences of their students in the areas of career and technical education. The recipients are:

**Stanley High School, Stanley, ND**
Awarded a $3,000 grant to purchase additional sewing machines, video equipment so students can record and edit their own cooking shows, and to start reconstruction of the kitchen sinks and counters to uphold safety standards.

**May-Port CG, Mayville, ND**
Awarded a $3,809.75 grant to purchase five Kitchen Aid artisan mixers to be used in the Family and Consumer Science program for grades 6-12.

**Hope-Page Public School, Hope, ND**
Awarded a $2,500 grant to purchase new kitchen utensils and equipment for the kitchen; foldable tables for sewing machines; and iPads for instructional aids.

**Ellendale High School, Ellendale, ND**
Awarded a $5,000 grant to purchase a handicap accessible stove, and replace fixed desks with tables that are foldable and stackable to meet the varying needs within the FCS classroom.

**Carrington High School, Carrington, ND**
Awarded a $3,550 grant to improve the Foods lab area by purchasing four new ovens and one refrigerator.

**Shayne and West Fargo High, West Fargo, ND**
Awarded a $5,000 grant to secure curriculum materials to implement the national ProStart curriculum for Culinary Arts I & II, and to secure equipment to support Culinary Arts I & II activities.

**Watford City High School, Watford City, ND**
Awarded a $4,729 grant to replace cooking equipment from Teflon to aluminum cookware, purchase updated books and student activity guides, and Real Care babies.

**Thompson High School, Thompson, ND**
Awarded a $3,009.44 grant to add an additional kitchen lab in the classroom, including an ADA compliant range, and cooking utensils.

**Maddock Public School, Maddock, ND**
Awarded a $5,000 grant to update/replacement electric ranges.

**Midway High School, Inkster, ND**
Awarded a $4,971.64 grant to purchase three new Kitchen Aid stand mixers, update sewing machines, a mobile demonstration table with a Cuisinart Cast-Iron Single Burner, and a set of self-healing rotary cutter mats.

**Williston High School, Williston, ND**
Awarded a $4,996.90 grant to purchase tables, empathy belly, chefs hats, sheet pans, and a holding cabinet to provide equipment that more closely resembles what students would use in the workplace.

**North, South and Davies High Schools, Fargo, ND**
Awarded a $4,997 grant to implement new, Level I curriculum “Foundations of Restaurant Management & Culinary Arts.”

**Langdon Area High School, Langdon, ND**
Awarded a $2,380 grant to purchase three instructional modules, which include RealCare Demonstration Babies and the curriculum for each module. This will provide a total parenting experience to educate middle and high school students.
Message from the Executive Director
FROM WALL STREET TO MAIN STREET

Community foundations, including the FM Area Foundation, were created with a goal of improving the quality of life for the residents of a specific geographic area through grant making. Over our 57 year history, our generous donors have created more than 300 funds that have allowed us to distribute over $40 million in grants directed towards that goal.

But unmet needs still exist in our community—needs that sometimes simply cannot be addressed by the grant dollars we are able to deploy each year. To that end, we are seeking to follow the advice of the Bush Foundation to “Think Bigger, Think Differently.”

One means to address those growing needs is the creation of Mission Related Investments (MRI’s) not new to the world of philanthropy, but they are new to our community. As the name implies, they are investments of capital rather than grants. They involve both financial returns and the creation of a social good. As one source describes them, MRIs are an investment in Main Street, not just Wall Street.

In this newsletter, you will read about our first MRI to a local nonprofit that is helping to serve children and families in this area. We are enthusiastic about this opportunity, because we believe it will make a major difference in our community. Because MRIs are new to us, we are moving very cautiously. We have invested a small portion of our portfolio in this new venture. Our goal, however, is to create a $1 million pool to support a variety of local projects that we believe justify this type of investment.

To achieve this goal, we need your help. If you are interested in donating to this dedicated pool of dollars, to see your charitable donation recirculated over and over again within our community, we encourage you to contact us.

We are grateful to be the steward of your generosity, a partner in your kindness and a voice for community needs.

57 years, more than 300 funds created, over $40 million distributed in grants

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership works with and for low-income children, families and seniors throughout the area. They help people take the journey from barely surviving to fully thriving in our community by connecting them to opportunities, providing information and offering programs like Head Start and Family and Community Services.

“Access to high quality early childhood education is simply unattainable for too many families in our community. Long waiting lists and high costs prevent the most disadvantaged children from receiving a high-quality early childhood education,” said Lori Schwartz, Executive Director, Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership. “Given that the highest rate of return in early childhood education comes from investing in disadvantaged children ages birth to five, it’s time to invest in our future.”

With no room to expand in their main office, and yet, a growing need for the services they provide, Lakes & Prairies set out to purchase additional space for program operations, and located a commercial child care center at 861 Belsly Boulevard in Moorhead for sale. Around the same time they were looking to expand, Schwartz connected with FM Area Foundation Executive Director, Tim Beaton, who was exploring the potential of Mission Related Investments (MRI’s) in the F-M Area. They soon discovered their projects could fit together.

“Our board has been discussing how to selectively invest a portion of the assets that support our endowment into our community. This is a concept that has been used successfully by other community foundations across the nation. The goal is to achieve even more positive good than we can achieve with grants alone,” said Beaton.

“So based on the experience and recommendations of other community foundations, we are moving into this new effort very cautiously. We want to be careful with the return of our investments as well as a return on our investments. Ultimately, we would like the community to help us create a fund that will allow donors’ gifts to be invested locally and recycled forever,” said Beaton.

“If you are interested in learning more, call us at 701.234.0756 or email tim@areafoundation.org.

We are exploring the potential of Mission Related Investments (MRI’s) in the F-M Area. They soon discovered their projects could fit together.

“With the help of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation, Lakes & Prairies is working toward the goal of expanding our early childhood programs by opening a new center in south Moorhead.” Lori Schwartz, Executive Director, Lakes & Prairies.

After meetings between the Foundation and Lakes & Prairies, discussion with the board and a formal request to the impact investing committee, the Foundation made its first MRI to Lakes & Prairies for $100,000 to help complete the down payment for the purchase of the building in south Moorhead.

FUNDATION MAKES FIRST EVER MRI

Executive Director, Tim Beaton, said the ultimate goal is to create an MRI revolving loan pool to use for projects similar to this one.

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“We greatly appreciate the partnership we have with the FM Area Foundation on this project,” said Schwartz. “This facility is a perfect fit for our needs to expand our early childhood services in the community. With the addition of this space, we will have the ability to convert our Head Start classrooms to provide full-day programming and pursue opportunities for growth and expansion.”

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Agency purchases new building to expand program offerings

OTHER NEWS
Philanthropist of the Year
Congratulations to Mike and Peggy Buligner, advisors of the Mike and Peggy Buligner Family Fund, on being named Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northern Plains Chapter. Their charitable gifts and passion are making a difference across the state of North Dakota.
Your community foundation is ready to assist you, your family or your business in fulfilling your philanthropic dreams.

MISSION
To enrich our community by building partnerships, promoting philanthropy and serving as a trusted resource now and for future generations.

VISION
A community where everyone thrives.

Phone: 701.234.0756
areafoundation.org

PEOPLE & Purpose

Donor Story
SAND FUND
16 public schools were provided funding for the benefit of home economics and trade and industrial cooperative education departments.

Grantee Story
MRI FOR LAKES & PRAIRIES
The first ever MRI helps Lakes and Prairies Community Action Agency purchase a new building to house the growing need for services to low-income children, families, seniors throughout the area.

Letter From Tim
WALL STREET TO MAIN STREET
MRI’s - A new era of community philanthropy and investing IN our community. “Creating a more meaningful difference in the Cass Clay area.. and more giving options to you our donors.”

News & Events
NEW WEBSITE
In January, the FM Area Foundation launched a new website with you in mind. The site features new information for donors and professional advisors; a nonprofit event calendar; scholarship listing; ways to give now and later and much more. Visit areafoundation.org, today!