A new scholarship fund at the FM Area Foundation was recently established by employees at Microsoft to help students pursue an education in computer science or a related computer science intensive discipline. The name of the new fund is the Microsoft Scholarship Fund.

Jodi McGregor, Employee Engagement and Communications Manager at Microsoft, said as the technology industry experiences growth every day, students will continue to create the greatest impact on where Microsoft is going next. She added it is important for employees to support education in this field to inspire students who will be entering the workforce and may become future Microsoft employees.

Microsoft’s roots in the Fargo Moorhead community’s computer science industry stem back to the 1990’s when Great Plains Software was founded in this region.

“Microsoft wants to continue to encourage students in our area to pursue studies in computer science related disciplines by recognizing students who demonstrate a passion for technology, academic excellence, and leadership while working to push the software industry forward, just as Great Plains, and now Microsoft, have done for more than 30 years,” McGregor said.

The criteria for the scholarship aligns with Microsoft’s mission to empower others to achieve more and is specifically targeted to help students in our region. The selection committee will be made up of a diverse group of Microsoft employees who will recommend four applicants to the Foundation they feel will benefit from the opportunity and excel in their field. Several scholarships will be awarded annually in the amount of $5,000 per recipient.

“For students interested in computer science or other technology related degrees, the skills you’ll develop will be imperative to various careers. This scholarship is a great opportunity to apply for and help advance your education and career growth,” McGregor said.

This is the second scholarship fund created by Microsoft at the community foundation.
ROBERT J. AND SALLY ARTZ MEMORIAL FUND

Providing a large gift to Catholic Development Foundation

Earlier this year, the Catholic Development Foundation received a gift for $129,389 from the Robert J. and Sally Artz Memorial Fund.

Sally and Bob Artz created this charitable fund at the FM Area Foundation to support Catholic organizations in the area and funded it through their life insurance policy.

The Artzs were married in 1952 in Aberdeen, S.D. They moved to Fargo in 1968 when Bob assumed direct management of Kota Kraft, which later merged with Artz Camera Supply to become Monarch Photo, Inc. For more than 40 years, Sally taught children in English, speech therapy, and learning disabilities in Yankton, S.D.; Aberdeen, S.D.; and Moorhead, Minn.

Family was important to both Bob and Sally, and they enjoyed being with their children traveling and spending time at their lake house in Minnesota.

We’re honored to steward their generous gift and share in their legacy. Leaving a gift in your will is simple and can have a lasting impact. If you’d like to learn how you can leave a legacy, please contact Greg Dehli at gdehli@areafoundation.org.

Message from the Executive Director

STRATEGIC BEGINNINGS

The first few months of 2018 have flown by, and we are excited to continue to serve this great and generous community with you!

In 2017, our Board of Directors and staff set out to refresh our strategic plan. The future is bright for the foundation and our community thanks to generous donors, innovative partners and dedicated grantees. Our board members and staff worked collaboratively to come up with a plan that honors the Foundation’s history and core values, as well as allows us to respond to changing donor and community needs.

In January, we transitioned to a new database system, which may not sound like something of particular interest, but the new system will allow our fundholders access into a donor portal to view the balance of their fund(s), make grant recommendations (for donor advised funds), view fund activity, browse a grant catalogue for ideas of organizations and projects to give to, and more.

Our work in the community would not be possible without you. Thank you for your support, and if you have any questions about giving back or leaving a legacy, please don’t hesitate to contact us!

tired@areafoundation.org | 701.234.0756

STUDENTS GAIN IMPORTANT SKILLS AT TROLLWOOD PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL

Trollwood Performing Arts School, located at Bluestem Center for the Arts, is a unique arts organization that meets three important community needs:

1. High quality arts education for students between the ages of six and 20.
2. Exceptional entertainment for the community and surrounding areas.
3. A site for community events of many varieties.

For the last forty years, Trollwood has been a home away from home for hundreds of students each summer. Students gain new skills, new friends and increased confidence in themselves and their potential.

The program places a high priority on nature, with students spending a large part of their time outdoors, finding inspiration and creativity in the world around them.

“With twelve educational and leadership programs throughout the year, Trollwood has helped thousands of students gain skills in collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity. Thanks to the FM Area Foundation grant, we were able to provide scholarships for ten students who would not otherwise be able to attend,” said Kathy Anderson, Executive Director of Trollwood.

A story from the staff at Trollwood:

A new student participating in Trollwood Academy classes and the Mainstage Musical was very dedicated. He has struggled with mental health and had to push himself on the stage.

“Trollwood taught me how to be a very genuine, compassionate person.”

“Thanks to the FM Area Foundation grant, we were able to provide scholarships for ten students who would not otherwise be able to attend.”

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OTHER NEWS

FMF PARTICIPATES IN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR NEW LIVEINFARGO.COM

LiveInFargo.com is a new website that’s helping grow and support our region, and is a project of the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Regional Workforce Partnership. The FM Area Foundation is a member of the steering committee, which has developed a five-year strategic plan that addresses ways to cultivate and develop local talent, attract new talent, build a path toward financial stability for those who need it, and encourage innovation to maximize our use of human capital. Visit liveinfargo.com.
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

Donor Story

MICROSOFT SCHOLARSHIP FUND
A new scholarship fund, provided by employees at Microsoft, will help students pursue an education in computer science or a related computer science intensive discipline.

Grantee Story

TROLLWOOD PREFORMING ARTS
Thousands of students each year gain skills in collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity. With the grant Trollwood received, now even more students can gain important skills and spend time in nature.

Letter From Tim

STRATEGIC BEGINNINGS
Our new strategic plan honors the Foundation’s history and core values, as well as allows us to respond to changing donor and community needs. Our new database system also provides more access and options for fundholders.

News & Events

COMMUNITY GRANT ROUNDS & SCHOLARSHIPS NOW OPEN
Do you know of a high school senior or college student looking for scholarships to help pay for their education? We have more than 50 scholarship funds created by generous donors to provide financial assistance for students.

FM Area Foundation is also now accepting applications for the Community Grant Rounds!