

SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Winter 2022-2023

Our Mission:

Bringing philanthropy to life
for a stronger South Dakota.

SDCF Celebrates First 35 Years

November 11, 2022, marked the anniversary of the founding of the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF). It was 35 years earlier, in 1987, when Governor George Mickelson announced the creation of the SDCF to support charities and charitable people in meeting the needs of South Dakota. Throughout 2022, the SDCF celebrated the milestone.

In the beginning, the McKnight and 3M Foundations, in honor of South Dakota native and early 3M executive William McKnight, offered a challenge grant of \$5 million to start the foundation if South Dakota matched it. The state government and private donors met the challenge and established the SDCF with a \$10 million fund. Over 35 years, the Foundation and its donor partners have made more than \$250 million in grants to South Dakota charitable activities through more than 1,100 individual funds within the SDCF.

Several types of funds are represented in those many funds, but one stands out as, perhaps, the flagship program of the SDCF. The Community Savings Account program, through which SDCF supports and partners with local community foundations, has been a mainstay for more than two-thirds of the Foundation's lifetime. Established in 1997, the program was championed by Paul Christen, SDCF's first board chair, and Bernie Christenson, its founding executive director, who secured a \$500,000 grant from the Northwest Area Foundation. It was used to offer ten \$50,000 challenge



▲ SDCF board chair Doug Sharp addressed the anniversary program.



▲ Former SDCF President and current board member Bob Sutton spoke to the Pierre anniversary gathering.



▲ A gathering in Pierre celebrating SDCF's 35th anniversary brought together Foundation President & CEO Stephanie Judson and Linda Mickelson, wife of the late-Governor George Mickelson, who launched the organization.

grants to local communities who launched local foundations in partnership with SDCF.

Since that time, the SDCF has committed over \$1.5 million in challenge grants from the South Dakota Fund to CSAs across the state, and the CSA program has grown



▲ Sally Christenson (center), wife of the late-Bernie Christenson, first executive director of SDCF, was joined by Bernie's daughter Kathy Christenson and her husband, Bryan Walz.

to include more than 80 partner communities. In honor of the 35th anniversary, the current SDCF Board of Directors has committed to securing the annual challenge grant program through Vision 35 with a goal of establishing a \$3.5 million endowed fund, which will provide \$150,000 in challenge dollars annually.

South Dakota Fund Grants

From June 1 to November 30, 2022, the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF) awarded 18 South Dakota Fund grants totaling \$218,508. The South Dakota Fund makes grants in support of culture, economic development, education, health, human services, and financial literacy. SDCF accepts applications for the South Dakota Fund on a rolling basis throughout the year.



Simply Smiles, Inc.

SDCF awarded Simply Smiles, Inc. with an \$18,508 South Dakota Fund grant. Funds will provide partial support for the procurement and installation of a whole-site backup power generator for the Simply Smiles Children's Village foster care program on the Cheyenne River Reservation.



The Naomi Project

A \$10,000 South Dakota Fund grant to The Naomi Project was recently awarded. Funds will help them with expansion and outreach efforts to survivors of labor trafficking in rural communities where immigrant workers in restaurants, agriculture, and construction are more isolated and vulnerable.



Helpline Center

When someone in South Dakota dials the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, calls get routed to the Helpline Center. SDCF awarded \$15,000 to the Helpline Center to support marketing efforts associated with 988 being the new three-digit dialing number to reach the Lifeline.



Mitchell Area Safe House Foundation

SDCF awarded the Mitchell Area Safe House Foundation \$10,000 from the South Dakota Fund grant program. The funding will support interior needs as the Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota secures funding for their larger "Building A Safe Future" capital campaign.

Nonprofits across South Dakota continue to work to improve our communities. Your donations help us fund them well into the future. If you are interested in learning more about SDCF's continued grantmaking efforts or applying, please visit SDCommunityFoundation.org/Grants

Grantmaking Update

Beyond Idea Grant Program in Partnership with the Bush Foundation

The Beyond Idea Grant (BIG) Program encourages community-based nonprofit organizations to think creatively about how they might solve problems in South Dakota. Working with the Bush Foundation, SDCF announced this new initiative in January 2022 and opened the first round of applications later that year. Ultimately, 133 applicants requested over \$10 million in grant funding. In mid-December, the SDCF announced grant recipients for the first round. The BIG program will award \$1.2 million to nonprofits each year for the next five years. The SDCF will offer two rounds for BIG applicants in 2023. Please visit our website to learn more about the first round of recipients and application windows in 2023.

Nonprofits Rise to the Challenge

SDCF's Nonprofit Savings Account grant program challenges nonprofits in South Dakota to build endowment funds, creating a sustainable revenue source for their organization for years to come. Successful applicants are challenged to raise an agreed-upon amount of money over two years - with SDCF contributing up to \$20,000 in matching dollars at a rate of \$1 for each \$4 raised. Three nonprofit organizations have recently accepted the challenge grant opportunity: **Leadership South Dakota, Herreid Area Housing Development, Inc., and Love INC. of the Black Hills.** Upon completing fundraising, each organization will receive \$20,000 in matching funds from the SDCF to create an endowment fund.

Herreid Area Housing Development, Inc.



LEADERSHIP
SOUTH DAKOTA



Black Hills



Leadership South Dakota jumped on the fundraising challenge and was presented with \$20,000 in matching dollars for their endowment fund in December 2022.

Leadership South Dakota's mission is to attract engaged citizens from across the state, then provide them with the background, unique experiences and insights necessary to assume leadership positions at the community, state, and national levels. With the establishment of their endowment fund, Leadership South Dakota has demonstrated their commitment to building a sustainable revenue stream to continue their good work well into the future. The SDCF congratulates **Leadership South Dakota** for meeting the challenge!

Learn more about the Nonprofit Savings Account grant program or donate to a nonprofit by visiting our website at SDCommunityFoundation.org/Grants

Community Members Announce Formation of Harding County Community Foundation

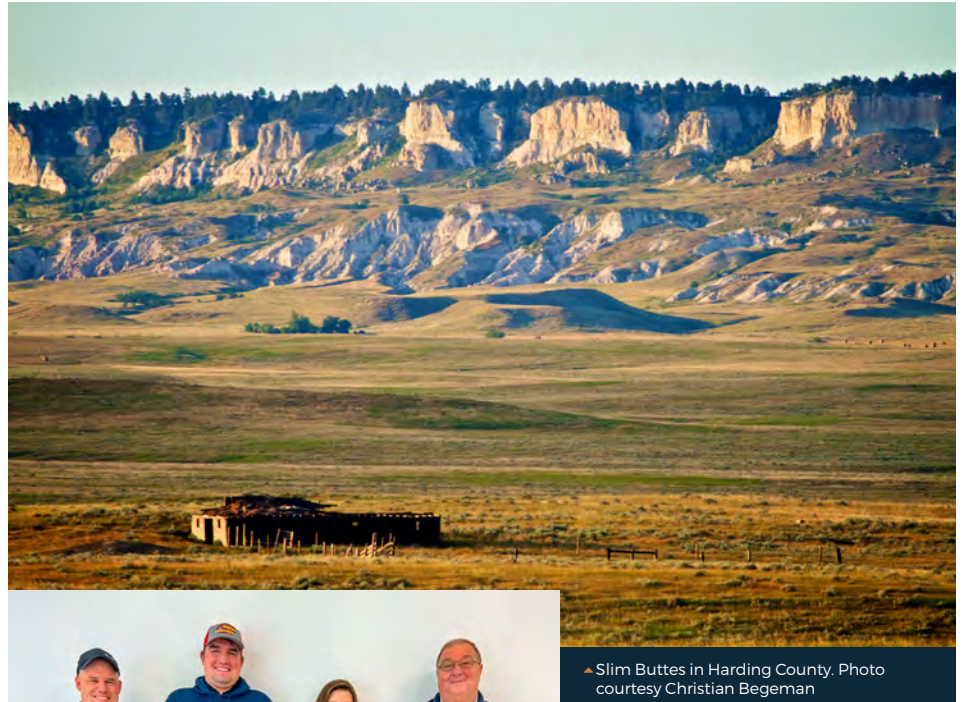
Because of the generosity of former residents Jim and Janice Clarkson, the Harding County Community Foundation was established in November 2022 with a generous \$100,000 challenge gift. The communities in the county will work to raise \$100,000, which will then be matched with an additional \$50,000 from the SDCF. The Harding County Community Foundation will be the 82nd community savings account (CSA) managed by the SDCF across the state of South Dakota.

"Our entire advisory council is grateful for Jim and Janice's gift to the communities of Harding County," Billy Clanton, Harding County Community Foundation Advisory Council Member, said. "Keeping small communities thriving is no easy task. The Clarksons' donation combined with \$100,000 that we need to raise to match their donation, will help Harding County prosper for generations to come."

Funds raised will be invested with the SDCF and a percentage will be made available each year for local projects and programs. The CSA will have its own local advisory council to raise funds and make grant decisions. The funds raised will stay within Harding County to benefit various projects throughout the entire county.

When asked about their motivation behind establishing the endowment Jim Clarkson said, "Harding County has been good to both Janice and me. We felt this would be a way to give back to the place we called home nearly all of our lives."

Residents from throughout the county serve as advisory council members, including Billy Clanton, Kelli Doll, Sam Olson, Jim Erk, Tracy Brown, Sam Cordell and Sydney Turbiville. These members will make grant distributions



▲ Slim Buttes in Harding County. Photo courtesy Christian Begeman



▲ Members of the Harding County Community Foundation's Advisory Council include: (front row, left to right) Kelli Doll and Tracy Brown; (back row) Billy Clanton, Sam Olson, Sam Cordell, Jim Erk (not pictured is Sydney Turbiville).

to nonprofit organizations meeting the needs of the area. "After learning about all the great projects other South Dakota communities have done, I'm excited to see the long-term impact a community savings account will have in Harding County," said advisory council member Sam Cordell.

Advisory council member Billy Clanton said, "What I like most about a community savings account is its ability to cast a wide net, whether it be for healthcare, youth organizations

or public safety, there is always a need for a small community like Harding County. I expect it will have an immediate positive impact."

Community members can give cash, commodities, land, stocks and bonds, estate gifts and insurance proceeds. Any donations made to CSAs are

tax deductible. There are some unique ways to contribute to the fund. When Faith, South Dakota, raised money for its CSA several years ago, some residents' cattle sale proceeds were given to the Faith Area Community Foundation.

Anyone wishing to donate to the fund can visit: www.SDCommunityFoundation.org and enter "Harding County" in the search bar, or they can contact any one of the advisory council members.

Chad Locken

FACILITATING THE IMPACT CHARITABLE GIVING CAN HAVE LOCALLY

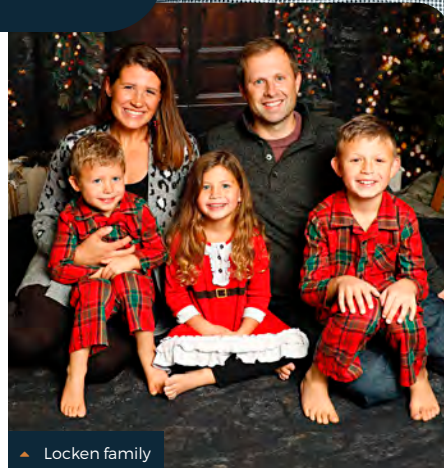
Chad Locken, an attorney in Aberdeen and native of neighboring Groton, has a strong connection to his small-town roots. After completing law school, he and his wife returned to the Aberdeen area where he began practicing law, and he and his family settled in Groton. In his practice, Chad specializes in estate planning and business law.

"I believe in rural America, and in that small town upbringing, you learn to take care of each other," he explains.

This belief and connection to community help guide him in advising his clients to include charitable giving in their estate planning. Chad is also a Key Club Member of the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF). This partnership has allowed him to open doors to the many ways his clients can ensure their donations make a difference for what they care about.

Chad is a strong advocate for charitable giving, and he feels that it is an important option to share with clients of any age when discussing estate planning. Many of his younger clients have planned charitable gifts, and he helps them navigate the intricacies of planning when they may have more unknowns than older clients.

"A lot of people in South Dakota are charitable by nature," he observes. "They just don't know where to start."



Locken family

This is why Chad loves guiding his clients to SDCF. "With many options for establishing a charitable fund, a client can be specific or broad-based when planning their giving," he said. "Donors can benefit a town, nonprofit or field of interest such as education through endowments with SDCF. It's a simple starting point and is enough to get the ball rolling."

"People want to leave a legacy," states Chad. He knows from personal experience how special that can be. His parents helped fund the local swimming pool in Groton. When he takes his kids there during the summer, they can see a plaque acknowledging their grandparents' gift. This brings Chad's passion for supporting neighbors and communities and the power of philanthropy in South Dakota full circle - back home.



Chad Locken

"When you give to the South Dakota Community Foundation, you're giving to an organization that is based in South Dakota and is helping South Dakotans."

SDCF Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - OFFICERS

Doug Sharp Chair
Scott Jones Vice Chair
Stephanie Judson SDCF President & CEO, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Karl Adam	Marilyn Hoyt
Dennis Batteen	Deanna Lien
Mark Buche	Keith Moore
Marci Christensen-Burdick	DeMaris Nesheim
Matt Cronin	Casey Peterson
Dennis Daugaard	Donald L. Roby
Linda Erickson	Shawn Rost
Marilyn Grossenburg	Hani Shafai
Kathy Gunderson	Bob Sutton

STAFF

Denise Bowman	Administrative Assistant
Clay Cudmore	Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Jamie Farmen	Community Development Coordinator & Marketing Manager
Pat Gallagher	Community Development Coordinator
John T. Hanson	Senior Accountant
Shelly Jund	Executive Assistant to the President & CEO
Beth Massa	Director for Foundation Relations
Kelly Nelson	Scholarship Coordinator
Ginger Niemann	Senior Program Officer
Crystal Ortbahn	Grant Program Coordinator
Jennifer Schuetzle	Accounting Clerk
Cassie Stoesser	Controller
Jeff Veltkamp	Director of Development
Karly Winter	Operations & Compliance Manager

AFFILIATE PARTNERS

Deni Amundson	Build Dakota Program Manager
Elli Haerter	Freedom Scholarship Program Coordinator

Bringing Philanthropy to Life: New Players

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHANGES

The SDCF Board of Directors elected three new members at its October 2022 meeting and said farewell to three members. Marci Christensen-Burdick, Linda Erickson and Donald L. Roby joined the board as of January 2023, while Dr. Charles Hart, Maree Larson, and Stanley Porch departed.



MARCI CHRISTENSEN-BURDICK

Marci retired in 2018 after a 48-year career in broadcasting that started in radio in Rapid City.

After rising to station general manager, she joined Schurz Communications, ultimately becoming Senior Vice President of the Electronic Division. She has earned numerous national and regional awards and was the first woman president of three national broadcasting organizations. She is also chair of the South Dakota Hall of Fame Board. She and her husband John live in Rapid City. They have four children and seven granddaughters.



LINDA ERICKSON

A Faulkton native, Linda attended Northern State University where she met her future husband, Jeff. After receiving an

elementary education degree from Black Hills State University, she taught in several communities, including education coordinator at the Redlin Art Center in Watertown. Currently, she serves on several nonprofit boards and is actively involved with family businesses. Linda and her family have set up charitable funds with the SDCF. She and Jeff, a former SDCF Board Chair, have been married 44 years and have four adult children and twelve grandchildren.



DONALD L. ROBY

A 1980 Watertown High School graduate, Don earned a computer science degree from South Dakota School of

Mines and Technology in 1984. He is a partner in R&R Investments, LLC, a holding company that has ownership interests in small companies. He serves on the South Dakota Transportation Commission and the board of trustees for Mount Marty University. He was elected to two terms as an alderman on the Watertown City Council and has served on the boards for several nonprofit organizations. Don and his wife Kelly have three children.

NEW STAFF

SDCF is excited to welcome the following new staff members.



DENI AMUNDSON
Build Dakota
Program Manager



DENISE BOWMAN
Administrative Assistant



ELLI HAERTER
Freedom Scholarship
Program Coordinator



JOHN T. HANSON
Senior Accountant



CRYSTAL ORTBahn
Grant Program Coordinator