

Our Mission:

Bringing philanthropy to life for a stronger South Dakota.

Celebrating Excellence

Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and Lost&Found receive the Bush Prize: South Dakota

In celebration of nonprofit organizations driving innovative and impactful community work across the state, SDCF is proud to recognize Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) and Lost&Found with the 2023 Bush Prize: South Dakota.



▲ Black Hills Special Services Cooperative staff

BHSSC has been a leading partner for school districts across the state, assisting with special education services and programs that encourage family engagement in education. Every school community is unique. BHSSC works with each school to adapt programming and meet students and families where they are in order to improve student outcomes.

Lost&Found seeks to end suicide and has worked collaboratively with higher education institutions across the state to tailor data-driven prevention initiatives at each campus. In addition to internal practices that promote leadership and innovation internally, Lost&Found has made an impact through their collaborative efforts across South Dakota.



▲ Lost&Found staff and members of the Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce

The Bush Prize award celebrates organizations that are highly valued within their communities and have a track record of successful community problem solving. SDCF awarded the Bush Prize: South Dakota in partnership with the Bush Foundation.

Winning organizations may receive 25% of their previous year's expenses, up to \$500,000. Accordingly, BHSSC received \$500,000, and Lost&Found received \$185,000. As finalists for the 2023 award, Dakota Resources and LifeScape also received \$10,000. In total, SDCF received 48 applications.

"SDCF was honored to work with the Bush Foundation and our community selection panel to ultimately recognize BHSSC and Lost&Found with the Bush Prize: South Dakota," says Ginger Niemann, SDCF Senior Program Officer. "We celebrate their accomplishments and are eager to see them succeed well into the future."

SDCF will award the Bush Prize: South Dakota again in 2024.

Vision 35 Meets Goal

In fall 2022, during its 35th anniversary celebration, SDCF launched the Vision 35 campaign to raise \$3.5 million for an endowment. The fund will produce about \$150,000 annually and will provide challenge grants for South Dakota communities and nonprofits raising funds. SDCF is pleased to announce that, thanks to many generous supporters, the goal has been met!

Dozens of donors contributed to the campaign. Several

created named funds with donations of \$100,000 or more, including Avera Health, Bush Foundation, Gail & Delores Miller Charitable Fund and Scott and Julia Jones.

"I also want to thank the many current and former Board Members who supported the Vision 35 campaign," SDCF President & CEO Stephanie Judson noted. "Their commitment to our Community Savings Account program speaks to their commitment to SDCF and the communities and nonprofits we serve."

While the goal has been reached, gifts are still being accepted. **To make a gift to the Vision 35 Fund, visit SDCommunityFoundation.org or call 800.888.1842.**

South Dakota Fund Grants

From June 1, 2023, to November 30, 2023, SDCF awarded 28 South Dakota Fund grants totaling over \$337,000. The South Dakota Fund makes grants to nonprofits and charitable organizations across the state in support of culture, economic development, education, financial literacy, health and human services. SDCF accepts applications for South Dakota Fund grants on a rolling basis.



Watertown People Against Child Hunger

SDCF awarded a \$10,000 South Dakota Fund grant to Watertown People Against Child Hunger (PACH) to help with purchasing food for a backpack program. PACH works with school staff to provide complimentary snacks and meals to students who may need additional food resources over the weekends during the school year.



Historic Homestake Opera House Society

SDCF awarded a \$10,000 South Dakota Fund grant to the Historic Homestake Opera House to support education and outreach programs. Funding will help with community theater programs for adults and children and will also support a new program called "Arts for All." The program collaborates with area organizations to host programming at the opera house.



Habitat for Humanity of Clay and Yankton Counties

SDCF awarded a \$20,000 South Dakota Fund grant to Habitat for Humanity of Clay and Yankton Counties. Habitat's main purpose is to partner with low-income families to provide affordable housing solutions and has supported the construction of over 50 homes in the area. Funds from SDCF will help with their homeownership program.



Southeast Pierre Community Center

SDCF awarded a \$10,000 South Dakota Fund grant to Southeast Pierre Community Center (SPCC) to support their mission to provide services to community members. SPCC is the only entity in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area that provides a free meal every week. SPCC also distributes warm coats to families, offers senior nutrition meals and a summer backpack program run in partnership with Feeding South Dakota.

The South Dakota Fund grant program is competitive, and grants are awarded by the SDCF Board of Directors throughout the year. Please visit SDCF's website to learn more about grant recipients and the application process: SDCommunityFoundation.org/Grants

Grantmaking Update

Beyond Idea Grants

SDCF's Beyond Idea Grant (BIG) Program was designed to support community-based problem solving in South Dakota. Started in partnership with the Bush Foundation in 2022, the program recently announced its second round of recipients in 2023, awarding nearly \$570,000 to seven nonprofits in South Dakota. In 2023, SDCF has awarded nearly \$1.2 million to nonprofit organizations from the BIG program.

"Beyond Idea Grant recipients are working to address important community issues across the state," says Ginger Niemann, SDCF Senior Program Officer. "These investments reflect our commitment to empowering positive, community-led advancement in South Dakota."



▲ SDCF presented awards to seven nonprofits in Sioux Falls, including five BIG 2023 Round 1 recipients.

Through the BIG program, SDCF is looking for projects that demonstrate meaningful investment in South Dakota communities. Important considerations include how a project is community-based and whether the project idea will move their community forward.

"Codington County is so excited for the opportunities the Beyond Idea Grant will provide to our community," says Sara Foust, Codington County Welfare Office Director. "We can't wait to see what our community accomplishes in the next year with the support of this grant."

SDCF will award \$1.2 million from the BIG program in 2024.

Learn more about the BIG program recipients and how to apply here: SDCommunityFoundation.org/BIG

BIG RECIPIENTS: 2023 ROUND 2

CODINGTON COUNTY WELFARE
Watertown
\$100,000

HEALTH CONNECT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
Statewide
\$70,521

ELEVATE FOUNDATION INC.
Rapid City
\$98,057

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Spearfish
\$48,940

EUREKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO. INC.
Eureka
\$51,620

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION
Sioux Falls
\$100,000

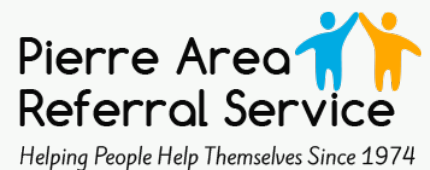
FORK REAL COMMUNITY CAFÉ, INC.
Rapid City
\$100,000

Nonprofits Complete Endowment Fundraising Challenge

SDCF's Nonprofit Savings Account (NSA) grant program challenges nonprofits in South Dakota to build endowment funds, creating a sustainable revenue source for their organizations for years to come. Successful applicants will receive \$1 from SDCF for every \$4 raised (1:4 match) -- up to \$20,000. In 2023, three organizations have completed fundraising to establish \$100,000 endowments with SDCF matching funds: Herreid Area Housing Development, Inc.; Northern Prairies Land Trust; and Pierre Area Referral Service (PARS).

As these funds grow, so does the amount that will go back to these organizations in perpetuity.

Learn more about this challenge grant opportunity and the benefit of endowment funds on our website: SDCommunityFoundation.org/Nonprofit-Savings-Accounts



Witten Couple Makes Contribution to the Tripp County Community Foundation

William and Joan (Sieler) Ferguson of Witten, SD, have generously donated \$100,000 in unrestricted funds to be administered by Tripp County Community Foundation (TCCF), a community savings account held with SDCF. This donation will establish a sub-fund of TCCF named the Michelle Paige Ferguson and Michael John Ferguson Memorial Fund.

Spendable funds will be used to support Tripp County nonprofits. The fund creates a lasting memorial for two of the Fergusons' children who left life too early, something Bill and Joan have thought about doing for some

time. Michael John Ferguson, of De Pere, WI, passed away unexpectedly at age 43 in 2011. Michelle Ferguson, Winner, SD, passed away at age 53 in 2017.

In 1976, after Bill's career as an electrical engineer, he, Joan and their children Michelle, Michael and Heather moved to the family farm near Witten. Michael graduated from Winner High School in 1985 and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. After graduation, he began his career at Honeywell Aerospace in Phoenix. In 1998, he began work for the Foth Companies in Green Bay, WI, where he worked until his death. He also took a short sabbatical to work on the family farm in Witten.

Michael was the go-to-guy, whether pulling friends or strangers out of snowbanks, taking charge of farming operations in emergencies or solving family computer problems. A dutiful son, generous brother, loving nephew, devoted uncle, loyal friend and a man of high principle, Michael's death from a heart attack at age 43 left a void in the lives of all who knew him.



▲ Barry Grossenburg (TCCF Board Member), Joan and William Ferguson, Dawn Covey (TCCF President), Jamie Farmen (SDCF)

◆ Michelle and Michael Ferguson

Michelle loved school and the East Coast,

and it was a tremendous change to move to the family farm in Witten. After graduating from Winner High School in 1982, she began college at South Dakota State University, but left college to work as a nanny in New York. Continuing her nanny work, she enrolled in Long Island University and earned an accounting degree in 1988. Next, she enrolled in Pace University Law School. Passing the New York bar exam on her first try, she began work at International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1430 Union. Michelle loved New York City.

In 2003, Michelle was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent surgery, which was partially successful, but her initial prognosis was short. Fortunately, she was selected for a stage two clinical trial for brain tumors at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital. She continued to

work during her long battle with the recurring tumor, undergoing periodic chemo treatments and frequent MRIs. She holds Sloan Kettering's record for the most MRIs given to one patient. Forced to quit her job, she returned to Winner in 2016 because she needed extra care. She passed away at Winner Regional Long Term Care Facility surrounded by her family.

In making the gift, Bill and Joan stated, "Tripp County has long been a patriotic and generous community with a strong commitment to youth development through schools, churches, fraternal and business organizations. Our daughter Michelle and our son Michael received solid foundations for learning and personal achievement in this community." They added, "We are pleased to support the Tripp County Community Foundation by establishing this fund. We encourage others to support the Foundation as well." TCCF gives its deepest gratitude to the Fergusons for their gift.

An added benefit to the Fergusons' gift is that it assists in meeting TCCF's fundraising challenge announced in September 2023. If TCCF raises \$200,000, it will receive \$100,000 from the Barry and Marilyn Grossenburg family, and SDCF will provide a \$50,000 challenge grant from the Lillibridge Family Community Fund. The total added to the permanent endowment with challenge funds will be \$350,000. If TCCF accomplishes this goal, it will increase the amount available for grantmaking by around \$15,000 annually.

Honoring Community *with the* Gene Abdallah Scholarship Fund

In his lifetime, Gene Abdallah (1936-2019) dedicated himself through and through to community service. For nearly 50 years, Gene served the public in multiple branches of government and nearly all branches of law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels.

Today, Gene's dedication to giving back and honoring his community continues even after his passing.

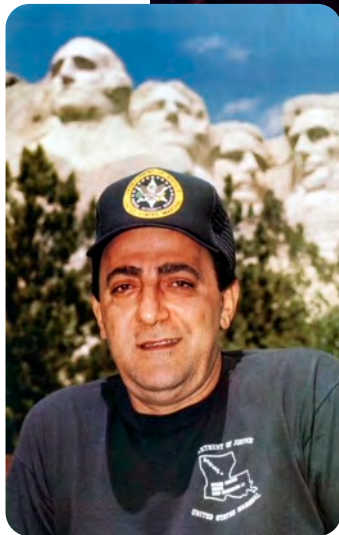
In 2019, the Gene Abdallah Scholarship Fund was established through SDCF to provide financial support to students interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

"When my dad passed, in lieu of sending flowers we asked people to donate to a law enforcement scholarship fund in my dad's name," explained Gene's son Scott Abdallah, the managing partner of Johnson, Janklow & Abdallah, LLP. "We didn't know what to expect but the outpouring of support was amazing, and we received donations from all over the state."

After the funeral, Scott and his family partnered with SDCF to officially establish the Gene Abdallah Scholarship Fund.

Jeff Veltkamp, SDCF Director of Development, sat down with Scott to talk about his passion for supporting law enforcement and his establishment of the Gene Abdallah Scholarship Fund in honor of his father.

"We have been so thankful for the support and guidance [SDCF] has provided us over the last four years. This scholarship fund has grown beyond our wildest dreams, and we owe a big



debt of gratitude to [SDCF]," said Scott.

He continued to explain that working with SDCF has taken the scholarship to a new level, making it easy for people to donate and support law enforcement. Scott's vision is to see this fund help as

many people as possible pursue a career in law enforcement who may otherwise not have the means to pursue higher education. This investment in a law enforcement career in turn helps the community as a whole become a safer place.

Another event that continues in Gene's honor is the Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner and Children's Charity Fundraiser in Sioux Falls. The Law

Enforcement Appreciation Dinner was established 42 years ago by Gene as a way for local business and community leaders to come together and honor law enforcement officers throughout South Dakota. Today, Scott co-chairs the event, carrying the torch his father lit.

"Quite frankly, this is the largest event of its kind in the nation. There isn't anything else quite like it out there," said Scott.

The event has raised millions of dollars for children's charities in the name of law enforcement in addition to the awareness it brings to the profession. Each year at the dinner, one law enforcement officer receives the William J. Janklow Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award.

"This event is a reflection of how much our community loves law enforcement, and it makes me proud to live in this state," shared Scott.

SDCF Elects Officers, Adds Board Members

SDCF held board member elections at the Fall 2023 Board Meeting in Sioux Falls. Scott Jones of Pierre was elected to a two-year term as Board Chair. Other officers elected include Vice Chair Dennis Daugaard of Dell Rapids, Treasurer Karl Adam of Pierre and Secretary Stephanie Judson, SDCF President & CEO, of Pierre.

SDCF welcomed three new members: Carla Gatzke of Brookings and Cynthia Mickelson and Greg Sands, both of Sioux Falls. (See below for brief profiles of the new members.) Members Scott Jones of Pierre, DeMaris Nesheim of Hill City, Matt Cronin of Gettysburg and Bob Sutton of Sioux Falls will each serve an additional three-year term.

The board also recognized outgoing board members Kathy Gunderson of North Sioux City, Deanna Lien of Rapid City and Keith Moore of Sioux Falls.



CARLA GATZKE serves as Vice President for Human Resources for Daktronics, Inc., in Brookings, where she has worked 40 years and also serves as its Corporate Secretary. She chairs the board for the Brookings Behavioral Health and Wellness Mental Health Center and is a member of the Brookings City Human Rights Commission. She also serves on the Governor's Workforce Development Council and the Governor's Economic Advisory Council. She holds a B.S. in electrical engineering from South Dakota State University and a M.B.A. from Drake University.



CYNTHIA MICKELSON received undergraduate and law degrees from the University of South Dakota. She practiced law at Cutler, Donahoe & Mickelson, LLP, taught government at the University of Sioux Falls, helped form Mickelson and Company, LLC, and has been a grant writer. She served on the Sioux Falls School Board 2017-2023, including as president. The experience led her to help start Promising Futures Fund to provide additional funding for students in Title I schools. She and her husband Mark have three sons.



GREG SANDS serves as CEO for Sands Wall Systems, the largest drywall contractor in the state, which he started in 1995. He credits his recovery from addiction for many blessings and has served on the board of directors for Glory House, a Sioux Falls halfway house, including as president, for many years and as well as on numerous boards and committees focusing on addiction treatment services. He and his wife Pam were benefactors for the Sands Freedom Center, a treatment center, as well as many other programs focused on addiction and wellness.

SDCF Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - OFFICERS

Scott Jones Chair
Dennis Daugaard Vice Chair
Karl Adam Treasurer
Stephanie Judson SDCF President & CEO, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Dennis Batteen	DeMaris Nesheim
Mark Buche	Casey Peterson
Marci Christensen-Burdick	Donald L. Roby
Matt Cronin	Shawn Rost
Linda Erickson	Greg Sands
Carla Gatzke	Hani Shafai
Marilyn Grossenburg	Doug Sharp
Marilyn Hoyt	Bob Sutton
Cynthia Mickelson	

STAFF

Denise Bowman Administrative Assistant
Clay Cudmore Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Jamie Farnen Community Development Coordinator & Marketing Manager
Patrick Gallagher Community Development Coordinator
Dawn Gordon Grant Program Assistant
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

AFFILIATE PARTNERS

Deni Martin Build Dakota Program Manager
Elli Haerter Freedom Scholarship Program Coordinator
Brandy Drew Scholarship Program Specialist

NEW STAFF

Dawn Gordon joined SDCF in 2023. As Grant Program Assistant in the Pierre office, Dawn coordinates and implements administrative processes related to grantmaking, supplies technical support to grant applicants, and provides administrative and communication support to the Program staff.



Dawn Gordon