



SIoux FALLS AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
• FOR GOOD • FOR EVER •

For GOOD for EVER

Sioux Falls Area
Community
Foundation
SUMMER
2008

In partnership with donors, Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation provides philanthropic leadership that assures the quality of life in our area, for good, for ever.

WHAT'S in this ISSUE

EDUCATION FOUNDATION SEEKS
NONPROFIT STATUS ...PAGE 3

SFACF SCHOLARSHIPS ...PAGE 8

RURAL CHURCH BLESSED WITH
\$1 MILLION GIFT ...PAGE 10

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SFACF LAUDS VOICES FOR CHILDREN ACHIEVEMENT

It's Susan Randall's job to see unlimited potential in little packages. As executive director of South Dakota Voices for Children, she advocates on behalf of our state's youngest citizens.

So, it wasn't surprising that Randall hit the ground running four years ago when the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation published *Sioux Falls Tomorrow II*. The ink wasn't dry on the 10-year plan for the community when Randall applied for and won a \$10,000 grant from SFACF's unrestricted COMMUNITY FUNDS.

Citing studies that reveal every dollar invested in early childhood education for low-income families ultimately saves the public seven dollars, Randall's group wanted to explore the relationship between a community's investment in preschool and its future economic success. Her proposal was tied to one of *SFT II*'s goals — "Give all children in the Sioux Falls area access to high-quality pre-kindergarten programming and childcare at all age levels."

Randall's results made her group a standout selection when SFACF leaders considered which grant recipient to honor with the first-ever "Community Spirit Award." Presented during the *City Blossom* event on May Day, the award also came with a surprise — a bonus grant of \$5,000 to continue the good work already begun.

"They took a relatively small amount of money and used it so wisely, they were able to leverage it into a \$1.6 million pilot program that means something magnificent for our community," says Mary Pat Sweetman, who served as chair of SFACF's Board of Directors while *City Blossom* and the award were in development.

With the SFACF grant, South Dakota Voices for Children convened a panel of nearly three dozen business and civic leaders. A year later, the group issued "Teach Them Well," a multiyear plan to improve access to quality preschool education.

Today, by pulling together resources from Forward Sioux Falls, Sioux Empire United Way, and the Governor's Futures Fund, Randall's nonprofit has helped "Teach Them Well" blossom into a joint



On May Day, SFACF recognized South Dakota Voices for Children for its work in turning an unrestricted COMMUNITY FUNDS grant into something incredible for the Sioux Falls area — a \$1.6 million initiative to offer quality, pre-kindergarten learning experiences to an additional 205 three- and four-year-olds in our community. Executive Director Susan Randall accepted the first-ever "Community Spirit Award" as part of the *City Blossom* celebration at Cherapa Place. L to R: SFACF Development Committee Chair Miles Beacom, Randall, and Mary Pat Sweetman, immediate past chair of SFACF's Board of Directors.

initiative called *Starting Strong*. The effort guarantees that 205 additional three- and four-year-olds in our area will have meaningful learning experiences over the next three years.

"Without that first study to lift up the issues, all the other steps would have been very, very difficult," Randall says. "Teach Them Well" validated this as an important direction. We tell our story around the state, showing how this community came together to address a need and create a plan."

SFACF's Grants Committee is always on alert for proposals like Randall's — ideas that have the potential to produce great community benefits. The Committee makes its awards every two months on a competitive basis. Proposals that address one or more of *Sioux Falls Tomorrow II*'s goals receive special consideration.

Like many projects that get a boost from COMMUNITY FUND grants, "Teach Them Well" was innovative, and innovative projects often take time to reach their full effect. In this case, the benefits will unwind over a full generation — a timeframe consistent with SFACF's "for good, for ever" commitment to building community.

"The most important question we ask ourselves in what we do here is this: What is really different today for children because of our work?" Randall says. "In Sioux Falls, the answer is that 205 kids have opportunities that will prepare them for what's ahead. They'll go to school ready to learn."

Print a copy of this newsletter at www.sfacf.org



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

CANDY HANSON



We're at a loss for words. *City Blossom's* success left us speechless. It's a time when saying "thank you," just doesn't cut it.

City Blossom will produce benefits that extend far beyond the more than \$200,000 in contributions raised. That's because the proceeds from *City Blossom* are dedicated to Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation's unrestricted COMMUNITY FUNDS. More than \$70,000 is available for immediate grantmaking. The remainder has been invested in an endowment that will fund worthy projects, for good, for ever.

At *City Blossom*, we recognized South Dakota Voices for Children and the "great grant" SFACF made to fund their efforts to promote pre-kindergarten education. Experts predict that our \$10,000 investment may ultimately produce more than \$11 million in benefits to our community.

If that's hard to fathom, consider this. Lives are saved every day because foundations made innovative grants. Drive a highway in South Dakota on the darkest night and you'll be guided by white lines painted on the roadway's

shoulders. Dial 911 from any telephone in the country, and you'll reach emergency dispatchers who activate a safety net of police, fire and rescue, and medical professionals to respond. White shoulder lines and 911 systems have saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Both innovations trace their initial success to foundation grants!

Making an unrestricted gift is one of the most lasting and powerful ways a donor can give back to the Sioux Falls area. That's because here in Sioux Falls, SFACF's COMMUNITY FUNDS are the source of money that funds innovative pilot projects such as the one SD Voices for Children launched.

So, thank you — to Paul Schiller for the inspiration that grew into *City Blossom*, to Miles Beacom for leading our efforts, to co-chairs Koni Schiller and Matt Jensen, to the event captains, to the members of our board and development committee, and, especially, to our guests and to the donor family that matched our guests' contributions. The results of your philanthropy are beyond calculation and our words.

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DR. MIKE OLSON

Medicine is science, but practicing it artfully means building a trust with each patient. Those are the experiences that make family practice a calling for Dr. Mike Olson, who extends his interest in patients' lives through his work to better the community they share.

"It's truly cradle to the grave," Olson says of his specialty. "I'm delivering second-generation babies. The wonderful thing is that you develop relationships with people, and those relationships are ongoing."

Olson, who recently joined SFACF's Board of Directors, could just as easily be talking about the continuous care needed to foster thriving neighborhoods. He's drawn to innovative programs that improve quality-of-life issues for all who call the Sioux Falls area home — especially the displaced, the poor, the neglected, and the abused. Education is another area of

interest for Olson, who earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Augustana College before enrolling in medical school at the University of Minnesota.

Olson's entry to SFACF continues the work he began a decade ago as a board member for the Sioux Empire United Way. Olson quickly recognized how the two organizations complement each other to enrich the community. "It's a parallel universe of long-term versus short-term effects, but the two have similar goals," he says. "You have to have a lot of effort from many people to keep moving forward. It won't happen on its own."

Olson has served in other ways, too. As a U.S. Air Force physician, he spent 2 1/2 years in California. He and his wife, Deb, a lawyer by trade who now works in medical research, loved their time on the West Coast. But when Olson's military commitment was through in 1981, the young couple returned to Sioux Falls. Here, they raised their children — Katie, 25, and Andrew, 23 — both of whom chose their father's alma mater. Katie also is Olson's cycling partner, and the two often make the 19-mile loop on the city's bike trail system.

Olson calls Sioux Falls an "incredible" community and believes that SFACF is one of the reasons why. "We need to keep expanding awareness of what we're doing," he says. "It can be a slow process, but if we continue to educate people about the work we're doing, it only will grow. Not quite 25 years ago, people planted a seed and great things have grown from it. I hope to keep on planting new ones."

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Habits are hard to break, and sometimes, that's a good thing.

It certainly applies to Vance Goldammer, an attorney with Murphy, Goldammer & Prendergast. Goldammer has been hanging with the SFACF Board of Directors for the last 10 years. He began by filling an unexpired term and was eventually elected to two terms on his own. For the past eight years, Goldammer has served as the chair of SFACF's Legal Committee.

SFACF Chair Paul Schiller presented a keepsake to Goldammer at his final board meeting in May. In thanking him for the many contributions he's made to SFACF Schiller extracted a promise that Goldammer will continue to serve on the Legal and Extraordinary Gifts Committees.

Continuing in leadership roles in 2008-09 are Schiller as chair, Mary Tidwell as vice chair, Richard Van Demark as Secretary, and Jack Carmody, Jr. as Treasurer.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Gifts from Sustaining Members support SFACF's development activities, including special events and the publication of this newsletter. These gifts were received between April 2007 and May 2008.

Our efforts to build the charitable capital of our area are also supported by the Sioux Empire United Way and Sioux Empire Combined Federal Campaign.



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EDUCATION FOUNDATION BUILDS ON SUCCESS OF GRANTS PROGRAM

Carla Midden knows what it takes to spark imaginations and make a classroom run. The retired Washington High School principal taught middle school English and social studies for 17 years before moving to the high school classroom and, later, to school administration.

Midden also knows how the constraints on school budgets limit the opportunities for teachers and students alike. That's why she's helped support the Sioux Falls Public Schools Education Foundation by raising money for its five, permanent SFACF endowments. Each year, an advisory committee separate from the Sioux Falls School Board recommends grants to enhance learning experiences and provide teachers with additional resources not covered by public tax dollars.

Now, Midden and other members are thinking bigger. With its oldest endowment nearing the 15-year mark, the Education Foundation is growing beyond SFACF and into an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Leaders say their new status will open the doors to expanded programming and the capacity to serve greater numbers of students. They'll continue to partner with SFACF in building the Education Foundation endowment.

"We've really been able to fill gaps where funding hasn't been there," says Education Foundation member Jeff Eckhoff. "The School District has to look at the overall budget for all the buildings and grade levels, and it's hard to come up with money to fit every program. These programs are able to be really innovative with ideas for the students in their classrooms and know they have an opportunity to make an immediate difference in children's lives."

Teachers' inspiration for enrichment activities far outpace the school's budget, member Jim Wiederrich says. His more than 25 years in corporate law makes him a natural to guide the Education Foundation through the nonprofit application process and into a new era.

"We might receive 15 to 20 applications in a year and be able to make two awards," he says. "We don't want these teachers to get frustrated and stop generating ideas. If we can make more awards, we think the world will get out and more people will be encouraged to support what we're doing."

Midden understands that in education, success begets success. When students gain confidence in their abilities, there's no limit to what they can achieve. "The thing we hear most often is that they wish there was more money so more students could benefit," she says of teachers who apply for Education Foundation grants. "We wish the same thing."

Members know it will be a challenge to raise operating funds. They envision annual recognition and awareness events run out of a nonprofit checkbook, with multi-year gifts from area businesses helping ease the transition. Still, it's critical that the Education Foundation keep its long-term focus and broad donor base.

"We can't lose those individual gifts of \$25 here or \$50 there," Midden says. "It's important for every single person in the community to feel that they're part of this for our students. We want to encourage parents and teachers and others to realize that by giving to the fund, we're all getting something out of it, too."

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Students at Longfellow Elementary School in Sioux Falls practice hand signs that represent letters or word chunks as they sound out unfamiliar words using the Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading system. The exercise was part of teacher Stephanie Wilson's "Rockin' Readers and Writers" program, funded in part with a grant from the Sioux Falls Public Schools Education Foundation at SFACE. L to R: (front row) Craig Ross, Saliya Ali, Abdrizak Ibar, (back row) Brandy Fahy, Olivia Emerson, and Joe Hiatt.

SFACF HAPPENINGS



Not even a May Day downpour and the sounding of tornado sirens could dampen spirits at the first-ever *City Blossom* event at Cherapa Place. Thanks to generous guests — such as Kristi Ernst, who attended with her husband, Todd, and Steve Metli — and an anonymous donor family who matched the night's proceeds dollar-for-dollar, *City Blossom* raised more than \$200,000 to benefit the unrestricted COMMUNITY FUNDS grantmaking program. Some guests rode out the storm in Cherapa's lobby, while others relocated to the underground parking garage and kept the party going with fruit, cheeses, and other appetizers served on trays by SFACF staff. To cap the evening, SFACF gave away six reproductions of two works created for the event and donated by photo-artist Paul Schiller: "Prairie Shadows," one of Schiller's photographs, and "Her Very Best Dress," a companion piece in pastel commissioned from Mary Groth.



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SFACF's spring scholarship awards ceremony included an award that honors Joe Foss, a World War II aviation legend, statesman, and volunteer leader who served the charities he held most dear. He also was a product of South Dakota schools, growing up in the Sioux Falls area and graduating from the University of South Dakota the same day he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Foss died on New Year's Day 2003, but his dedication to community and country lives on through recipients of his scholarship. Open to high school graduating seniors from throughout the state, the JOE FOSS "AN AMERICAN HERO" SCHOLARSHIP benefits students committed to the ideals Foss exemplified — leadership, honor, love for God and country, the courage to stand against adversity, and concern for others. Here, Foss selection panel member and *Friend of the Foundation* Larry Rütz poses with recipients, L to R: James Hartman, Emma Johnson, and Benjamin Meyer.

How to Give

Contributions to Funds in the Community Foundation

Yes, I'd like to make a gift to my community through the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.

My gift is enclosed. Please contribute it to this SFACF fund—

- UNRESTRICTED COMMUNITY FUND ENDOWMENT
- YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAC) FUND
- EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
- Name of another SFACF Fund

This gift is made in honor of:

This gift is a memorial to:

Please send a gift card to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Your name _____ Your phone _____

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Tents for Boy Scouts, summer theater for kids, and supplies for fire and police departments were among the programs that got a boost from the Tea Area Community Fund recently. The Tea advisory board hosts an annual community breakfast to make grant awards to organizations that are meeting local needs. In all, members of the Tea area board gave away \$3,500 in mid-April. Pictured with members of Troop 99 is Sandy Cheney, a founding member and outgoing president of the Tea Area Community Fund.

SFACF Grant Application DUE DATES

Print copies of SFACF's grant application at www.sfacf.org.

SFACF COMMUNITY FUND
\$3,000 and up
August 15
October 17
December 12

\$3,000 or less
Accepted at any time

APPLICATIONS FOR:
C.J. "Del" and Alene Delbridge Family Endowment Fund
Available: June 15
Due: August 15

Effie C. Skaarud Animal Welfare and Appreciation Fund
Available: August 22
Due: October 10

Excellence in Education
Available: September 5
Due: October 31

Sioux Empire Fund for Hunger Relief
Available: October 3
Due: November 7

Print copies of SFACF's grant application at www.sfacf.org

SFACF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NEVER WALK ALONE

More than 100 students who benefit each year from SFACF scholarships understand that without the generosity of donor families and organizations, there'd be no awards to uplift them as they strive to further their educations. The high school and college students who gathered at this spring's Scholarship Reception got a gentle reminder of their connections to the people who helped create such opportunities.

"Remember that you didn't achieve all of your accomplishments alone," said featured speaker De Knudson, who encouraged award winners to thank family members, teachers, and donors alike. A community volunteer, former teacher, and current Chair of the Sioux Falls City Council, Knudson emphasized that the evening's recipients are our future leaders and charged each to take what they've learned and "show the world who you really are."

For Knudson, who shared advice that's aided her personally and professionally, that means trusting instincts, giving something back, honoring promises, and never taking life for granted. She ended her remarks with lyrics to "You'll Never Walk Alone," from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel" —

*Walk on through the rain,
Tho' your dreams be tossed and blown.
Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone,
You'll never walk alone!*

SFACF Board Chair Paul Schiller welcomed guests and served as the presentation's emcee, telling a brief story about each award. Board Vice Chair Mary Tidwell and President Candy Hanson, who handed out certificates, recognized the following students for their accomplishments:

ALTRUSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Jessica Grotewold

ANDY AWARD
Katie Gleich

THE AXA ADVISORS SIOUX EMPIRE SCHOLARSHIP
Kyle Stockland

BILL BARLOW "SECOND CHANCE" SCHOLARSHIP
Kandi Krausman

JEREMY BAUM "HOPE" SCHOLARSHIP
Stephanie Johnson

GLORIA RAE BECK SCHOLARSHIP
Eric Halbleib

VINCE BECK FIVE POINT SCHOLARSHIP
Molly Lems

FRED AND MARIE CHRISTOPHERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Karin Hanson
James Hartman
Ally VanderWeide

COGLEY-BUFFINGTON CERTIFIED PROPERTY AND CASUALTY UNDERWRITERS FUND
Travis Scholten

JIM AND PAT CROSTON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP
Morgan Caselli

DAKOTA GOLD STUDENT ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Corissa Bonte
Lukas Mueller
Kyle Sadler
Rebekkah Steinwand

DAVENPORT, EVANS, HURWITZ & SMITH SCHOLARSHIP
James Hartman
Sarah McMahon
Jacquelyn Miles
Kristina Roth
Michael Stapleton
Lindsey Swier
Matthew Ulmer
Sarah White

FOOL SOLDIER SCHOLARSHIP
Kella Dea
Bonnie LeBeau

JOE FOSS "AN AMERICAN HERO" SCHOLARSHIP
Sierra Goeden
Karin Hanson
James Hartman
Lorna Her Many Horses
Emma Johnson
Benjamin Meyer

HARRISON-JOSLYN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Taylor Kloster
Jenna Sogn

HOVIK FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Rebecka Bogue

INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF SIOUX FALLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Jessica Perez
Kristina Roth

GORDON INGWERSEN SCHOOL OF MINES & TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
Joshua Wipf

JULIUS A. AND DOROTHY L. JACOBSEN SCHOLARSHIP
James Hartman
Brooke Jensen
Sarah McMahon
Mindi Novak
Sarah Questad
Mikaela Snedsrud

KIWANIS CLUBS OF SIOUX FALLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Jane Vipond

JAMES AND BERNICE KOPPERUD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Lexi Nesson

KATHERINE A. LARSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Benjamin Meyer

FRANK LINGO SCHOLARSHIP
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Tanner Sorlie

DALE LOKKE LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
Katie Honken

LINDSEY ANN MASTERTSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Briana Campbell

KIMBERLY ROSE MEANS - NATIVE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TRIBES SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Season Frank

SALLY BERTINA MEYER SCHOLARSHIP FUND
James Hartman
Lindsey Swier

OSMANN FAMILY NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP
Lindsay Birdsall
Christian McGhee

SIOUX FALLS AREA RETIRED TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP
Danielle Bolin

DELMAR AND ROSEMARY SKLUZAK SCHOLARSHIP
Melissa Kroupa

JAMES STENHOLTZ FUND
Lexi Nesson

WASHINGTON HIGH ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Blake Berke

VIOLA LINGO WATSON SCHOLARSHIP
Hannah Weise

WESTWARD HO COUNTRY CLUB HONOR GOLF SCHOLARSHIP
Callie Helms
Matthew Madson

LONDON WULF BVHS SCHOLARSHIP
Brianna Wetrosky

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The winners of the Howland Scholarship, Jan and Jerry Nicolay Scholarship, Duane Odland Scholarship, and Spirit of Sioux Falls Scholarship had not been selected as of press date.

Great Grants From Community Funds

Donors to SFACF unrestricted COMMUNITY FUND endowments make it possible for the Grants Committee to make awards to a variety of organizations every two months. These grants were made from March 2008 through April 2008.

DOWNTOWN SIOUX FALLS, INC., \$7,500

Promotes arts and culture in the Sioux Falls area by providing free public performances from local musicians on downtown streets. This grant was made possible by a gift from the Xcel Energy Foundation.

GIRL SCOUTS - DAKOTA HORIZONS COUNCIL, \$2,300

Provides girls ages 11-17 with opportunities to discover, connect, and take action through a year-long series of science-related activities to be presented during events at the troop, service unit, district, and council levels.

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA - NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, \$5,000

Raises awareness of day-to-day issues faced by those with physical limitations, through a July 27 event at Sertoma Park commemorating the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act. The celebration is free and open to the public.

SCULPTUREWALK 2008, \$3,250

Supports the outdoor exhibition in downtown Sioux Falls and at Falls Park. This grant was made possible by a gift from the South Dakota Arts Council.

SOUTH DAKOTA CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS - JOHN HARRIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, \$5,000

Supports the *Playground Without Limits*, a playground accessible to children of all abilities, so they and their peers can grow physically and emotionally together.

SOUTH DAKOTA HUMANITIES COUNCIL, \$5,000

Uplifts literary arts by sponsoring the Poetry Track at the Sixth Annual South Dakota Festival of Books, set for Sept. 26-28 in Sioux Falls.

SOUTH DAKOTA VOICES FOR CHILDREN, \$5,000

This grant is unrestricted and recognizes South Dakota Voices for Children as the first recipient of SFACF's *Community Spirit Award*. (See story on page one of this newsletter.)

THERAPEUTIC HEALING INSTITUTE, \$2,891

Empowers cancer patients in their healing process through purchase of equipment and other materials used in guided imagery/visualization, breath work, music therapy, reiki/energy work, mindful meditation, and reflexology.

THE WHOLENESS CENTER, \$950.40

Prepares staff to better serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with new techniques learned at the National Indian Child Welfare Act Conference in Minneapolis. Workers will bring their knowledge back to Moody County and tribal lands of the Flandreau Santee Sioux.

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FAITHFUL STEWARD PROVIDES FOR CHURCH'S FUTURE

SFACF HOSTS JULY FOURTH CONCERT

The region's largest fireworks display will take on a Big Apple feel this July Fourth.

Broadway vocalist Molly Sue McDonald will join the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra for the fourth annual SFACF "Patriotic Pops" concert at the W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds.

Renowned conductor and SDSO music director emeritus Henry Charles Smith will return to lead musicians and audience alike through a program of favorites such as "America the Beautiful" and the "1812 Overture."

McDonald, a soprano who's been featured on Minnesota Public Radio and its "A Prairie Home Companion," will perform selections including "Embraceable You" and "Bugler's Holiday." Previously, she's graced stages at venues including the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and Chicago's Goodman Theatre. Nationally, she's toured with Broadway programs highlighting the works of Lerner and Loewe — the writing team behind "My Fair Lady," "Paint Your Wagon," and "Camelot" — and starred in a coast-to-coast production titled "Songs of Berlin, Porter, and Gershwin." And while McDonald's appearances with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Kansas City Symphony showcased her vocal talents, she's also a violinist.

The outdoor performance will begin at 8:30 p.m. and is free to the public. Fireworks will follow immediately after the concert.

Arthur Moe never let the uncertainty of what lay ahead keep him from doing what needed doing in the here and now. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor two weeks before his 28th birthday, Moe knew his days as a hired hand had ended. He climbed aboard one of the first trains outbound from Sioux Falls, freshly drafted in the U.S. Army and ready to do his part.

After the war, Moe returned and worked for John Morrell & Company. Later, when his parents died, he stayed on at the family farm near Renner, determined to hold onto the land where he and his eight siblings had been raised.

West Nidaros Lutheran Church was doubtless one reason Moe's ties to the area were so strong. "Doing" for the church was a big part of his day-to-day life. To the end, he kept by his side the Bible given to him by his church family on the occasion of his confirmation. So, when it became clear to Moe that he wouldn't always be around to steward his church, he decided to provide for its future.

Nearly 80 years after Moe affirmed his Christian faith, he gave back to West Nidaros and its neighboring communities through a series of legacy gifts greater than he may have ever imagined. His estate first provided for his siblings, cousins, and nieces and nephews. Then came a separate bequest to provide for the upkeep of the one-third scale replica of the original Nidaros church he'd handcrafted over 15 years. Next, Moe remembered the charities and clubs that had touched his life, arranging for 40 additional gifts to groups in Baltic, Renner, Willow Creek, Dell Rapids, and Sioux Falls.

Finally, Moe requested that the remainder of his assets — ultimately totaling more than \$1 million — go to Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation, to create the ARTHUR O. MOE FUND, a permanent endowment benefiting West Nidaros.

The church's pastor, Rev. Patricia Lehrer, recalls being surprised only by the size of the endowment. "He didn't forget anyone in his will. If he was involved with a group, he left them a gift," she says. "He was so grateful for anything that anyone did for him."

Lehrer believes that Moe, a Norwegian bachelor who loved history and cared deeply about the character of the area, would be pleased with West Nidaros' direction. He was a member of the Future Visioning Task Force that came up with the plan for the church's latest expansion — a Family Life Center complete with a full kitchen, a gymnasium, modern classrooms, and a library.

Moe's excitement for West Nidaros' future didn't mean he could overcome his frugal nature or his worries about how the church would pay for the improvements. After figuring out the final tally, Moe told Lehrer that if West Nidaros held a fund raiser every day and brought in \$1,000 each day, it would be three and-a-half years before the addition would be completely paid for.



West Nidaros Lutheran Church, in rural Crooks, was the center of community for the late Arthur Moe. There, the Norwegian bachelor and 32-year-old John Morrell & Company employee taught Sunday School, launched a series called "Our Neighbor's Faith" to explore world religions, and served on a task force to plan for the church's future needs. But this one-third scale replica of the original Nidaros church, which Moe crafted by hand over 15 years, was his true labor of love. When he learned the cost to custom-order stained glass panels, he learned how to do the glasswork himself. The replica, dedicated in 1993, has hosted baptisms, confirmations, and weddings.

Resourceful and self-reliant, he didn't judge others who couldn't do for themselves. His sister, Doris Ernst, says Moe's memories of the Great Depression kept him ever-mindful of those less fortunate, and eager to help in whatever ways he could.

Moe died in early February 2007, a few months before the West Nidaros congregation broke ground on the church addition he helped plan. Lehrer considers it more than coincidence that the annual distributions from West Nidaros' new endowment would cover a good share of the yearly mortgage, if that's where the money most was needed.

"He never married, never had any children, but nearly 250 people showed up for his funeral," Lehrer notes. "That says a lot about the kind of person he was. He saw value in things that most other people wouldn't."

And he viewed his own longevity with a winking eye. When a guest at his 90th birthday party asked him to name the best part about living so long, he didn't hesitate to give a lightly candid answer: "No peer pressure."

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