



# Beyond the Check – Our 30th Anniversary Endowment Challenge

## Building a Legacy: Investing in Nonprofit Sustainability

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, the Community Foundation of Dunn County has a unique opportunity to expand our impact and strengthen local nonprofits for generations to come.

Our Finance Committee proposes allocating \$75,000 to launch a **Nonprofit Endowment Challenge**, offering **15 nonprofits, churches, or schools** a **\$5,000 matching grant** to establish their own agency endowment fund with the Foundation.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Endowments provide long-term stability for nonprofits, ensuring they have a permanent source of income to sustain their mission. By seeding these funds, we empower organizations to:

- Build financial security beyond annual fundraising.
- Strengthen their capacity to serve the community.
- Engage their donors in creating lasting impact.

This initiative would **double the number of nonprofits** with agency endowments at the Foundation—**growing from 15 to 30**, aligning with our **30th anniversary milestone**.

### HOW IT WORKS

- We will allocate \$75,000 to fund 15 matching grants of \$5,000 each.
- Nonprofits, churches, and schools will apply on a rolling basis to receive matching dollars.
- Organizations will be required to raise \$5,000 from their supporters to secure the match, ensuring broad community buy-in.
- The Foundation will provide resources and guidance to help participating organizations launch their endowment campaigns.

## PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- An application process will be established, ensuring alignment with our mission.
- Existing agency fundholders will not be eligible, as this program is designed to bring new nonprofits into our endowment family.
- The program will be marketed widely to maximize participation and long-term impact.

## WHY NOW?

- **A bold move for our 30th anniversary**—a milestone worthy of a transformational investment.
- **Encourages sustainability**—helping nonprofits plan for the future.
- **Deepens relationships**—expanding our network of mission-driven partners.

## NEXT STEPS

We seek the Board's approval to move forward with this initiative and finalize the application process, marketing plan, and fund distribution guidelines. With the Board's support, we can launch this program and begin accepting applications immediately.

This is more than a matching program—it's a legacy-building opportunity for our entire community. Let's ensure Dunn County nonprofits thrive for the next 30 years and beyond.

## CAMPAIGN THEME – LOOKING BEYOND

**Beyond This Year** – Emphasizes moving from short-term fundraising to **long-term sustainability**.

**Beyond the Budget** – Helps nonprofits **secure permanent funding** rather than relying on annual fundraising.

**Beyond the Now** – Encourages thinking **long-term, beyond immediate needs**.

**Beyond the Campaign** – Helps nonprofits move past **one-time appeals to lasting funding**.

**Beyond the Check** – Encourages nonprofits to **think beyond one-time gifts to permanent support**.

**Beyond the Ask** – Focuses on **fundraising that leads to sustainability**.