

# 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

looking back  
at the first  
**10 years**  
of building  
on a legacy



JOHN T. VUCUREVICH  
FOUNDATION

*...to make a piece of the world a brighter place.*



a look at the past 10 years of  
making a piece of the world a brighter place...





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“We’ve come a long way since 2006 listening... learning... participating... convening... collaborating... leading... facilitating... partnering... impact...”

## 2015 Leadership Report

As 2015 was brought to a close, it’s hard to believe, our founder, John T. Vucurevich, has been gone 10 years. During his lifetime, John generously supported community causes, personally, and he wanted his giving to continue after his death.

Our communities have been blessed by his generosity through his Foundation with nearly \$37 million in grants awarded ranging from the smallest grants of \$350 to provide baby care products to health fair attendees to the largest grants of \$1 million to construct the new Community Health Center of the Black Hills and the Granite Sculpture project at Main Street Square in Rapid City, SD. We have evolved from a fledgling, part-time organization to a fully funded foundation that is an incredible asset to the Black Hills and Western South Dakota.

We’ve come a long way since 2006, **listening... learning... participating... convening...collaborating... leading... facilitating... partnering...impact...** Over the years, 50% of our funding has gone to the broad categories of health and human services; 36% to education and 9% to the arts. Much of our grant making is moving from re-active to pro-active, one-year to multi-year and crisis oriented to solution focused and collaborative. We continue to offer our annual speaker series “An Evening With...” and in 2015 we were pleased to host Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson who literally sold out the Rushmore Plaza Theatre in less than 10 minutes!

We take our governance responsibilities seriously. We have an active committee structure to monitor and oversee various aspects of the Foundation. Our investment portfolio to fund our grant making continues to be diversified with a mix of marketable securities and ownership of 5 community banks in

South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa. 2015 brought our first transition in Board leadership as Renee Parker and Judge Lawrence Piersol completed their term limits. New board members, Steven Zellmer and Dr. Eric Abrahamson were welcomed as their replacements bringing new skill sets and experiences to the team.

Considerable time was invested by us in 2015 being an integral part of the Rapid City Collective Impact Initiative. As we embarked on a year of learning about the various area non-profits, the people they serve and the level of connection and collaboration among the sector we are hopeful the Rapid City community will come together and collectively solve some of our toughest issues such as affordable housing, homelessness and concerns around mental health and addiction.

We hope you enjoy our 2015 Annual Report as we highlight the last 10 years of growth and impact of the John T. Vucurevich Foundation. We hope John would be proud of his continuing legacy and we dedicate this Report to him! It is our intention to continue to partner with area non-profits, educational institutions, government entities and other funders to help facilitate solutions and “make a piece of the world a brighter place.”



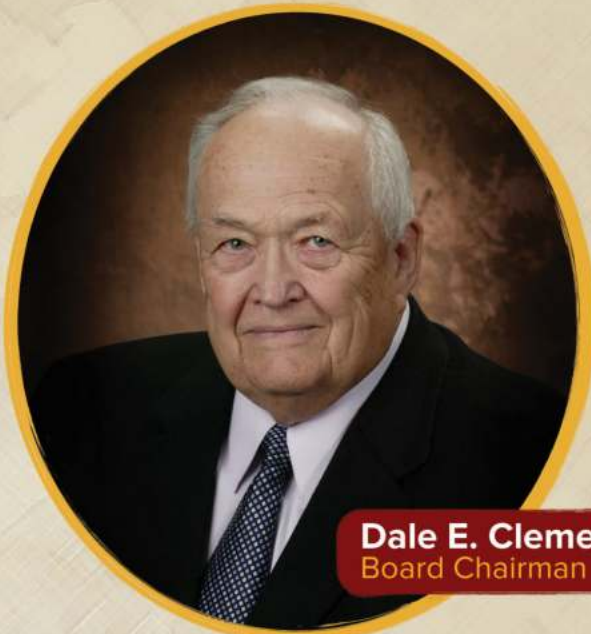
**Dr. Dale E. Clement,**  
Board Chairman



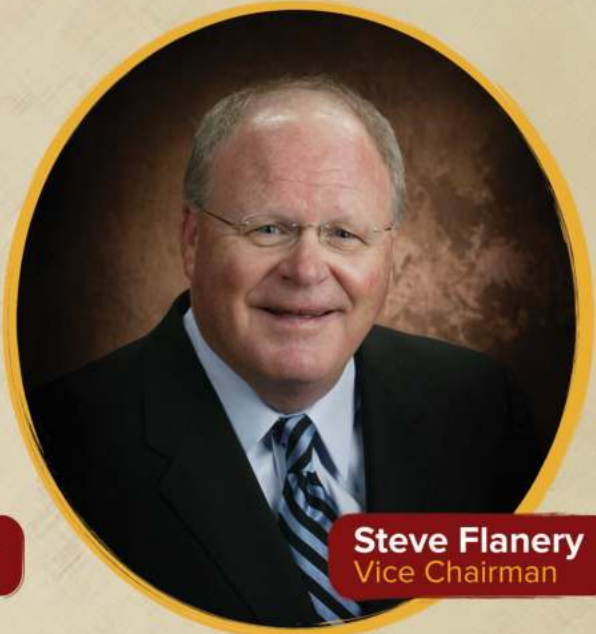
**Sandra Diegel,**  
President & CEO



# Board of Directors



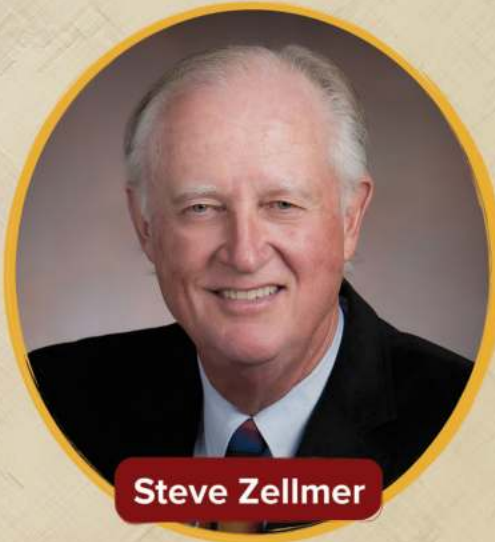
**Dale E. Clement**  
Board Chairman



**Steve Flanery**  
Vice Chairman



**Eric John Abrahamson**



**Steve Zellmer**



**Tom Vucurevich**

# Staff



**Sandra L. Diegel**  
President & CEO



**Paul Phelan**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Carmen Hansen**  
Program Officer  
Event Coordinator



**Shelly Adams**  
Administrative Assistant





“ I’m no better than  
and no less than  
anyone else.  
You don’t give  
until it hurts;  
you give until  
it feels good.”

John T. Vucurevich - Founder

## History and Vision

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation, a private independent foundation as described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, awarded its first grant in 1989 and became fully funded in 2007 following the death of its founder, John T. Vucurevich. John was born in Yugoslavia in 1912 and at the age of eight, immigrated to the United States and settled in Lead, SD where John attended public school until 10th grade. He worked in a variety of jobs and owned several businesses, but his real passion became banking after purchasing his first bank in 1951. He also owned numerous real estate investments throughout his lifetime. John was a generous philanthropist to a variety of causes during his life and he wanted his philanthropy continued through his Foundation after his death.

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation invests in Health and Human Services programming to help meet the staggering demand in Western South Dakota for the most essential of human needs for those who are least able to help themselves. Without access to the basics of food, housing, transportation and affordable and continuous physical, mental and behavior healthcare those most at risk in our community will not be able to live healthy and productive lives. Equally important is the need to advance the safety and well-being of our children through stable homes void of domestic and substance abuse. In order for people to achieve self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty, these fundamental needs must be addressed.

We also support innovative approaches to improving educational outcomes in the focus areas of school readiness and attendance, aligned out of school programs, grade level achievement, on-time high school graduation, work and life skills and access to higher education. A solid education is the catalyst for financial independence to achieving a living wage and self-realization.

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation also believes supporting the arts enhances the quality of life of individuals and of society as a whole. Research positively correlates arts education to school success factors, higher graduation rates and stronger achievement scores. Our support in the arts will help us promote the achievement of the broader goals of the Foundation through social and emotional development and civic engagement.

John’s Foundation will carry out his philanthropic vision utilizing his values of honesty, integrity, loyalty and inclusiveness. In order to assure John’s philanthropic intent is captured, Vantage Point Historical Services was commissioned in 2014 to develop an internal operating document so future leadership of John’s Foundation will have an understanding and history of past funding in both geographic and programmatic areas identified as priorities by John.







# 2006-2008

How do you begin fulfilling a legacy? The gift that John left was one of great magnitude and the first step was to create the foundation by which we would evolve. A full time, dedicated staff was hired and the offices moved from the United Corporation building to our current home at 2800 Jackson Blvd in Rapid City, SD.

Our Board and Staff completed our first Strategic Plan in the summer of 2007, developing our initial mission, vision and values. We used this time to establish core funding priorities and organizational policies and procedures based on **learning** from the Black Hills Community Needs Assessment, community **listening** sessions and philanthropy best practices.

With the foundation now developed, we **participated** on task forces and committees directly related to our causes of early childhood development, housing, mental health and addiction. We took an active leadership role and **convened** the Funder's Summit to **listen** to charitable leaders and foundation's about their funding interests and how to best leverage our resources to effectively bring change to our community.

With our vision in place, some of the first grants proudly issued included...



## Partnership Rapid City

One of our first large grants was an investment in Partnership Rapid City in 2007. The investment evolved from funding a drop-out prevention program... to assisting the Partnership in creating alliances between businesses to expand the walls of the classrooms and create learning experiences within the community through the Beyond the Books program... to providing authentic leadership opportunities for young people to have a voice on important issues through Teen UP.



## Scholarships

Higher education was important to John Vucurevich and he had a special place in his heart for nurses. The Foundation had funded scholarships for nursing programs for many years and we decided to increase the types and amounts of scholarships we gave to more workforce shortage areas beyond the nursing field and added additional universities, colleges and technical schools to accommodate these additional fields of interest.



## Historic Homestake Opera House

Originally completed in 1914, the Historic Homestake Opera House, was the heart of the mining town of Lead until a fire burned the structure in 1984. Since 1998, the Society has been raising funds to rehabilitate and restore the theatre for the cultural and educational benefit and improvement of Lead. A grant was made to assist in operations of this restoration in honor of Alex Vucurevich, John's brother, who spent many a day there as a young boy when the pool in the basement was operational.







# 2009-2011



## New Start Housing Collaborative

A **collaborative** housing initiative between Pennington County Health and Human Services, Cornerstone Mission and Behavior Management Systems uses the Housing First approach modeled after the Shelter Plus Care housing voucher program. Goal: Combine a stable home environment provided by the rental assistance matched with case management and supportive services allowing participants to gain control of their life and move towards self-sufficiency.



## Partners In Nursing (PIN)

Beginning in 2009, Partners in Nursing (PIN) was our first experience in **leading** a multi-partner and multi-year **collaborative**. This 3 -year **partnership** between Rapid City Regional Hospital, SDSU and USD West River Schools of Nursing was a two-pronged approach to prepare and retain nurses. This successful model of a neutral party leading a **collaboration** among potentially competing organizations was the impetus for our funding strategy, Collaborations for Change.



## Crisis Care Center

We **led** and **facilitated** the Black Hills Mental Health Substance Abuse Collaborative, a diverse group of over 40 community partners, who invested hundreds of hours to develop a community plan to improve awareness about and access to mental health and substance abuse services. One of the priorities established from the plan was to implement a 24-7 Crisis Care Center in Rapid City to assist people in mental health crisis access the right service at the right time.



## Performing Arts Center of Rapid City

We supported a public private **partnership** with The Rapid City Performing Arts Coalition which includes four Rapid City Performing Arts organizations, Rapid City Area Schools, and the City of Rapid City to transform a historic school building in downtown Rapid City to become the Performing Arts Center of Rapid City. Performances are presented in one of the Center's two venues: the 830-seat Historic Theater, or the more intimate 175 seat Studio Theater.



## Early Childhood Learning

After **participating** on a task force to research high quality early learning programs, we invested in Starting Strong Rapid City, a scholarship program for at risk 3 and 4 year old children who would be unable to afford pre-school; and Northern Hills Alliance for Children's First Step Childcare and Pre-school. Results indicate a 10-13 month gain in literacy and language for those children participating in the programs. Children who start early Start Strong!







# 2012-2014



## Main Street Square – Granite Sculpture Project

We **partnered** with Destination Rapid City to help fund the Main Street Square Granite Sculpture Project – Passage of Wind and Water. The granite pieces along Main Street are designated the “Badlands Tapestry Garden” with a wind theme. The granite pieces along Sixth Street are the “Black Hills Tapestry Garden” with a water theme. The Passage of Wind and Water augments Rapid City as a rich, accessible and welcoming arts and culture community.



## Arts Rapid City

We **convened** a coalition of arts leaders and stakeholders called the Future of the Arts in Rapid City Collaborative to **facilitate** a discussion about how to enhance and build audiences for area arts organizations and individual artists. ArtsRapidCity.org was developed to use technology to create a one-stop place for all things art and be the go to source of current information on events.



## Community Health Center of the Black Hills

As part of our commitment to providing access to affordable healthcare, we supported the construction of a 28,000 square foot facility for the Community Health Center of the Black Hills to expand medical, dental, pharmacy, lab and x-ray for the nearly 14,000 residents they serve. Established in 1992, the health center has increased its **impact** in the community from one medical provider in one clinic to over a dozen medical and dental providers who provide a sliding fee to those unable to pay the entire fee for service.



## Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud

The Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud is the only daily youth serving program on the reservation and was in danger of closing their doors. This organization has increased its **impact** with rapidly growing membership and new programs. They empower youth to live out their dreams through consistent mentoring relationships, and a focus on three priority outcomes: academic success, good character, and healthy lifestyles.



## Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a key predictor of high school graduation and career success. We **partnered** with United Way of the Black Hills to be the backbone organization for the Rapid City **collaborative** to **convene** and **facilitate** community partners to align literacy efforts with area providers and schools to focus on the three pillars of school readiness, attendance and summer learning loss. The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a national collaborative effort by funders, nonprofits, government and business.







# 2015



## Rapid City Collective Impact

Collective Impact is a community supported initiative with a long-term commitment to a common agenda for solving specific social problems. RCCI will catalyze and harness the talent, skill, and perspective of citizens, businesses, nonprofits and government for creating **collaborative** ways where everyone contributes to improve life and living in Rapid City. JTVF was actively involved in the year of **learning** through leadership roles on the Board and Guiding Council as well as funding the Cadre of Emerging Leaders.



## Prosperity Initiative

JTVF seeks to broaden its **impact** by investing in community programs and partners that align **collaborative** approaches to move people who aspire to break the cycle of poverty through a continuum of success from cradle to career. After **leading** this work in 2014 we **partnered** with Catholic Social Services and Love Inc. in 2015 to be the backbone organization to train Prosperity Coaches, specialty mentors and the general public to become a poverty informed community.



## Teach for America

Teach for America - South Dakota has made and continues to make a substantial **impact** with Native students in South Dakota. 58 corps members and over 60 alumni are working with fierce determination alongside their **partners** to transform the educational landscape in 10 schools across 4 reservations reaching over 3,000 students. We first began investing in Teach for America - South Dakota in 2011 and we re-committed to them in 2015.



## Literacy Council of the Black Hills

We identified the need for tutoring adults in basic reading and writing skills, especially in areas where English was not the primary language. We **learned** through our investment in the Campaign for Grade Level Reading many parents of the children we reach also need help with literacy. Aligning our resources in this way **impacts** the entire family.



## Neil deGrasse Tyson | as part of "An Evening With"

Our commitment to bringing world class speakers to the Black Hills brought Neil deGrasse Tyson, in October 2015, to a sold-out crowd! Neil deGrasse Tyson is an astrophysicist, cosmologist, author and one of the most recognized science communicators. Tyson is currently the Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the Rose Center for Earth and Space in New York. As the Director of the Hayden Planetarium, Tyson conducts research in astrophysics and brings the universe down to Earth.







# 2015 Grants Awarded

<b>Black Hills Area Community Foundation</b>	\$78,000	<b>Dakota State University</b>	\$15,000
General operating support		Center for Theoretical Underground Physics (CETUP), a summer program where theorists and experimentalists work to serve as a collaboration point for scientists from the around the world interested in theoretical and experimental aspects of underground science to address the most exciting questions in particle and nuclear physics, astrophysics, geosciences, and geomicrobiology at the Sanford Underground Lab in Lead	
<b>Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity</b>	\$88,000		
To help complete accessibility features of their Volunteer Training Facility			
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Club of Rosebud</b>	\$60,000		
After school and summer programming			
<b>Camp Thunderbird South Dakota</b>	\$10,000	<b>Family Connection, Inc.</b>	\$10,000
Summer camp serving third through middle school age children on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations		To expand their Children's Connections Program, working with children who have a parent or close relative in prison	
<b>Catholic Social Services</b>	\$319,707	<b>Family Services Center</b>	\$50,000
To coordinate the Prosperity Coach Network and a community mentoring program in partnership with Love Inc. to help Rapid City become a poverty informed community		Lawrence County Evening Reporting Center	
<b>Cheyenne River Youth Project</b>	\$100,000	<b>Feeding South Dakota</b>	\$54,000
Youth and family service programming		Black Hills School Back Pack Program	
<b>Children's Home Society</b>	\$33,980	<b>Friends of South Dakota</b>	\$22,869
To pilot the "What If" Card Project, an interactive teaching tool that can help assess a child's understanding of a situation as well as the adult on a variety of topics through their Youth Advocacy Center in western South Dakota		<b>Public Broadcasting</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science outreach events at Neutrino Day, a project of the Sanford Underground Research Facility, in Lead, SD and for educational projects at the Lakota Nation Invitational to be held in Rapid City mid December</li> <li>• Create a "Basic Elements of Drawing" DVD with Dick Termes for SDPB Digital Learning Library</li> </ul>	
<b>City of Lead</b>	\$10,000	<b>Gathering of People, Wind &amp; Water</b>	\$9,000
Assist in the development of a playground in Lead, SD		Native Art Market and Cultural Celebration at Main Street Square in Rapid City	
<b>Clarke County Hospital</b>	\$25,000	<b>Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons</b>	\$27,500
Renovations/addition project at the hospital		For the Girl Scout STEM (It's Your Planet Love It) Program in nontraditional settings on Pine Ridge Reservation and Rapid City	
<b>Cornerstone Rescue Mission</b>	\$100,000		
General operating support for the men's shelter			



# 2015 Grants Awarded

<p><b>Good Shepherd Clinic</b> \$8,550 Start-up equipment and supplies for an emergency dental care program in Spearfish</p>	<p><b>Northern Hills Family Recreation Center</b> \$200,000 Renovations to the Handley Rec Center in Lead, SD</p>
<p><b>Helpline Center</b> \$69,475</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the VITA and AARP free income tax preparation service for the 2015 tax year</li> <li>• Provide 211 services 24/7 to callers, to educate the community about the 211 service, and to maintain and update the 211 database in the Black Hills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Partnership With Native Americans</b> \$30,000 For the Four Directions Leadership Program, a training for emerging leaders in their partner agencies in South Dakota</p>
<p><b>Hope Center</b> \$102,000 Drop-in Day Center in Rapid City for those living in poverty and the homeless, providing advocacy services and Lifelong learning classes, a telephone/message center, mailing center, and a space for individual storage</p>	<p><b>Pennington County DUI Court</b> \$20,000 Assist participants and their families with ancillary services to encourage and reinforce positive behavior while participating in the program</p>
<p><b>Horizons Health Care</b> \$86,943 To implement a data backup plan for their community health and dental clinics throughout South Dakota</p>	<p><b>Pennington County Sheriff's Office</b> \$3,500 Pennington County Chaplain Program (local ministers/priests donate their time to provide counseling and support for both law enforcement and victims)</p>
<p><b>Literacy Council of the Black Hills</b> \$30,000 Hire staff to help coordinate efforts and support volunteers due to the increase in community need for tutoring adults in basic reading and writing skills, as well as English language learning</p>	<p><b>Rapid City Area School District</b> \$121,500 Credit Recovery Program at Central High School</p>
<p><b>Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA)</b> \$5,000 Summer Camp Program for children enrolled in MDA</p>	<p><b>Rapid City Arts Council</b> \$97,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For their teen and young adults arts education program</li> <li>• To partner with regional arts organizations in 2016 on the American's for the Arts (AFTA) Arts and Economic Prosperity V Study</li> <li>• For Arts Rapid City to continue to build and incubate a shared services module for the local creative sector, which includes maintaining the operations and growth of ArtsRapidCity.org, and priorities identified by the Future of the Arts Collaborative</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)</b> \$30,000 To implement NAMI programs in the Black Hills area and surrounding reservation communities</p>	<p><b>Rapid City Club for Boys</b> \$100,000 After school programming for boys ages 6 to 17</p>
<p><b>Northern Hills Drug Court</b> \$15,000 Assist participants/families with basic needs, training for the team, incentives for participants, as well as supplies for drug court graduation ceremonies.</p>	

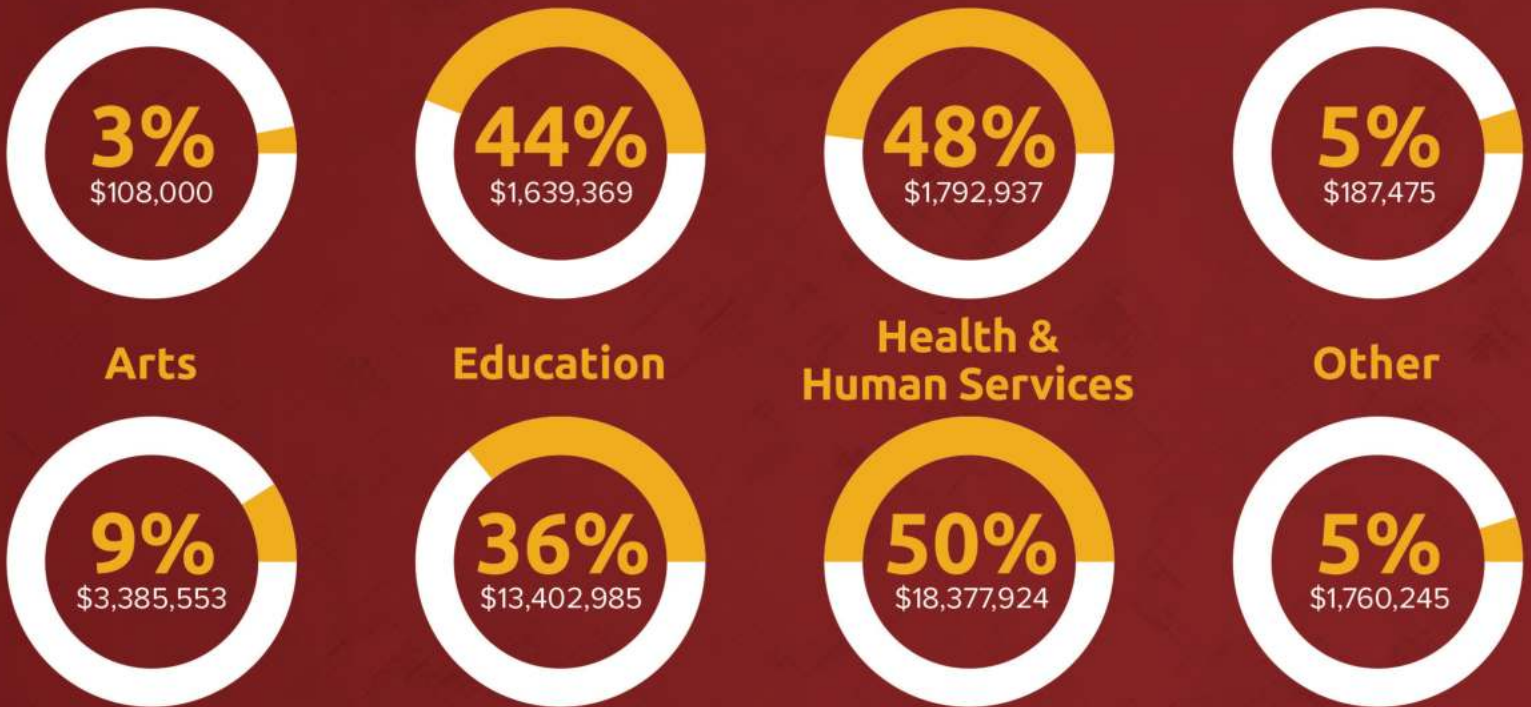


# 2015 Grants Awarded

<b>Rapid City Library Foundation</b>	\$50,000	<b>University Center Rapid City</b>	\$125,000
Equipment and inside customization of the Mobile Library Transport unit designed to take learning opportunities “out” to the community		Scholarships for students not eligible for traditional scholarships	
<b>Realtors for Kids</b>	\$10,000	<b>Volunteers of America</b>	\$40,000
Providing financial assistance to children with medical needs throughout the Northern Black Hills		For Mommy’s Closet providing basic life necessities to families with children up to age five including housing, food, diapers, and clothing	
<b>Renee Parker Honorarium</b>	\$25,000	<b>Wellspring</b>	\$120,000
United Way of the Black Hills		Purchase vehicles to transport youth.	
<b>Rushmore Music Camp</b>	\$2,000	<b>Western Resources for Independent Living</b>	\$50,000
Scholarships for students attending Rushmore Music Camp		Purchase a wheel chair accessible, twelve passenger van for the Adult Day Center in Rapid City	
<b>South Dakota Community Foundation</b>	\$5,000	<b>Working Against Violence, Inc.</b>	\$116,000
Research and development of a Day of Giving in South Dakota		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrades to the security system</li> <li>• General operations to support their increased focus on community outreach and education efforts, children’s programming and Project SAFE domestic and sexual violence programming</li> </ul>	
<b>South Dakota Network Against Family Violence and Sexual Abuse</b>	\$27,757	<b>Youth and Family Services</b>	\$100,000
To identify the unmet needs of child victims of crime in South Dakota through a statewide survey		Girls, Inc. Program for after school programming for girls ages 6 to 17 in Rapid City	
<b>South Dakota School of Mines and Technology</b>	\$125,000	<b>2015 Grand Total</b>	\$3,727,781
Culture and Attitude Scholarship & Mentoring Program for Women			
<b>Teach for America - South Dakota</b>	\$500,000		
Continue the growth of corps members in South Dakota Teach for America			
<b>Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation</b>	\$500,000		
Matching funds to provide wraparound services for a construction training grant in the Porcupine District on the Pine Ridge Reservation			



## 2015 Grants Awarded - \$3,727,781 *(illustrated below)*



## 2006-2015 Grants Awarded - \$36,926,707 *(illustrated above)*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>Assets</b>				
Current Assets	\$287,469	\$348,758	\$291,274	\$257,052
Investments	\$124,114,902	\$123,763,771	\$121,645,941	\$112,158,844
Property and Equipment	\$64,400	\$85,404	\$98,793	\$123,631
Investments Held In Trust	\$853,851	\$926,165	\$902,584	\$750,148
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$125,320,622</b>	<b>\$125,124,098</b>	<b>\$122,938,592</b>	<b>\$113,289,675</b>
<b>Liabilities And Net Assets</b>				
Current Liabilities	\$1,829,856	\$2,028,123	\$2,013,500	\$1,026,120
Other Liabilities	\$2,419,911	\$3,116,629	\$2,228,568	\$2,176,950
Net Assets	\$121,070,855	\$119,979,346	\$118,696,524	\$110,086,605
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$125,320,622</b>	<b>\$125,124,098</b>	<b>\$122,938,592</b>	<b>\$113,289,675</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>\$5,660,099</b>	<b>\$7,611,694</b>	<b>\$14,457,746</b>	<b>\$11,001,796</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,568,590</b>	<b>\$6,328,872</b>	<b>\$5,847,827</b>	<b>\$4,019,673</b>
<b>INCREASE DECREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,091,509</b>	<b>\$1,282,822</b>	<b>\$8,609,919</b>	<b>\$6,982,123</b>
<b>NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$119,979,346</b>	<b>\$118,696,524</b>	<b>\$110,086,605</b>	<b>\$103,104,482</b>
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$121,070,855</b>	<b>\$119,979,346</b>	<b>\$118,696,524</b>	<b>\$110,086,605</b>





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