



**JOHN T. VUCUREVICH  
FOUNDATION**

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

**2016**  
ANNUAL REPORT



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# John T. Vucurevich Foundation History

Founded in 1985, the John T. Vucurevich Foundation was fully funded by founder John T. Vucurevich in 2007 after his passing. John immigrated to the United States from Yugoslavia at the age of eight and settled in Lead, SD with his family. He attended public school until the 10th grade and then held a variety of jobs, owning several businesses and real estate investments. He found his true passion in banking after purchasing his first bank in 1951. John was a generous philanthropist to many different causes during his life and wished for his philanthropist spirit to live on after his death through the John T. Vucurevich Foundation.

After John's passing, the Foundation transitioned from a part-time endeavor housed in his corporate office to a large Foundation whose office is located at 2800 Jackson Boulevard, Rapid City, SD. The John T. Vucurevich Foundation will carry out John's philanthropic vision.



## Pioneer Award

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation was awarded the 2016 International Pioneer Award by the Grant Professionals Association. The Vucurevich Foundation was chosen for their innovative and creative aspect of grant making by taking a leadership role to bring about a culture of community partnership, instead of competition, that is taking shape here through several community-wide conversations, initiatives and collaborations through their Collaborations for Change funding strategy.

# Leadership Report

John Vucurevich was known to say, “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 believed a person was a success if he treated people the way he would want to be treated; he was fair, told the truth and was honest. His Foundation will utilize the values most important to him; honesty, integrity, loyalty and inclusiveness, in carrying out his philanthropic vision.

John’s legacy continued this year with the marketable securities portfolio, along with the banks located in Wisconsin, Iowa and South Dakota providing us with around 9% returns, allowing us to grant needed resources in our communities. The Foundation awarded nearly \$6 million to 45 organizations to help hundreds of people get a healthy start in life; get an education, job, skill or trade; or get a new start from a troubled path. We continued to fund in the areas of arts, education and health and human services and, in this edition of our Annual Report, we are highlighting programs in our cradle to career initiatives that have truly changed people’s lives.

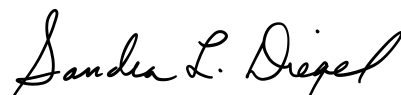
Extensive human resources of staff time were invested in a community initiative, Rapid City Collective Impact (RCCI) during 2016. Primary areas of work were affordable housing and homelessness, behavioral health and food security. Additionally, the first cadre of Emerging Leaders was born, designed to get the next generation of Rapid City leaders to become involved in and understand Collective Impact and community issues. The ultimate goal of RCCI is “Everyone working together to make a better city.” RCCI’s collaborative work will continue into 2017 and beyond.

The Foundation experienced another board transition this year with Jennifer Trucano taking over after Steve Flanery was term limited. Jennifer is an attorney and CEO of Rapid City Medical Center so she brings a unique perspective to our decision makers. We also experienced our first staff transition with the retirement of Carmen Hansen, Program Officer and Event Coordinator. Carmen passed the baton to Jessica Gromer who brings a healthcare and research background to our staff expertise. One of the new areas of work Jessica will be leading is reviewing the effectiveness of our grant-making.

In reflecting upon another magnificent year with the Foundation, we think of John’s favorite quote by Stephen Grellet, ‘I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness I can show...let me do it now. For I shall not pass this way again.’ We are so grateful for John’s generosity and his display of kindness in setting up his Foundation to ***make a piece of the world a brighter place.***



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



**Sandra Diegel,**  
President & CEO

# Board of Directors and Staff



**Pictured from left to right:** Shelly Adams, Paul Phelan, Jennifer Trucano, Tom Vucurevich, Eric Abrahamson, Steve Zellmer, Jessica Gromer, Dale Clement, Sandra Diegel

## Carmen Hansen Retires from the Program Officer Position

Carmen Hansen was honored at a retirement celebration in October of 2016. Carmen's dedicated service to John Vucurevich and his foundation spanned over 33 years. Carmen was the foundation's Program Officer and Event Coordinator. She will continue to plan and coordinate our annual Speaker Series... an Evening With. Carmen now has much more time to work in her garden, make quilts, improve her golf game, travel, and spend time with her family.



## 2016 Speaker Series An Evening With... Itzhak Perlman

John Vucurevich began the speaker series in 1993 to bring the unique opportunity to listen to foreign dignitaries and others with diverse view points on a multitude of topics directly to Rapid City. Ticket sales cover only a portion of the event with the remaining cost paid for by the John T. Vucurevich Foundation.



One of the only household names in classical music today, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded by a classical musician. Beloved for his charm and humanity as well as his talent, he is treasured by audiences who respond not only to his remarkable artistry, but also to his irrepressible joy for music-making and communicating with music lovers around the world. Mr. Perlman has performed with every major orchestra and at venerable concert halls around the globe.

“One of the only household names in classical music today.”

# Cradle to Career Education

The John T. Vucurevich Foundation supports innovative approaches to improving educational outcomes in the focus areas of school readiness and attendance, aligned out of school time programs, grade level achievement, on-time high school graduation, work and life skills and access to higher education. We believe that a solid education is the catalyst for financial independence and self-realization.

Agencies that align with our educational strategies have also incorporated elements of the Prosperity Initiative into their work to join the effort in becoming a poverty informed community. A poverty informed community has a deeper understanding of the different life experiences of people living in poverty, and, collectively, can become part of the solution to breaking poverty's barriers.



*The following pages outline the agencies that the John T. Vucurevich Foundation has supported in the educational continuum.*





## YMCA Jump Start

The Jump Start Child Care Program provides child care for mothers and fathers attending school in the Rapid City Public School system. In addition to providing high quality care and education for children of young parents, the Jump Start staff provide parent and caregiver training and mentoring on proper care and nurturing of infants and toddlers.

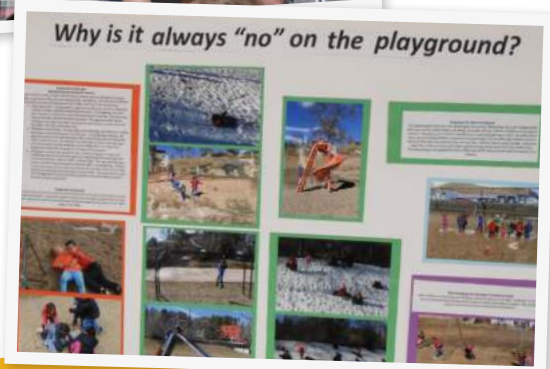


## Northern Hills Alliance for Children

The Northern Hills Alliance for Children is a quality, sustainable, reliable and caring organization that is progressive and safe. Partnerships with the community foster a trusting and nurturing environment in which children and families can grow for community prosperity. Their primary goal is to see that children entering kindergarten are well prepared and have their best chance at success.

## Early Childhood Connection's Starting Strong

Starting Strong Rapid City is a market based, voluntary, parent-driven community scholarship program for 3 and 4-year-old children from low income families. It provides scholarships for children so that they may obtain high-quality early education in order to enter school ready to learn. Parents of eligible children can choose a quality preschool from among approved programs that provide healthy meals and snacks, quality learning environments and highly qualified educators. Programs like Starting Strong provide the foundation for: school readiness, positive attitudes towards education, less need for remedial and special education services in schools, fewer problems with truancy and delinquency, higher graduation rates, higher earnings and successes later in life.



**The Starting Strong curriculum includes** consistent, high-quality training for the providers. Monthly provider network trainings support an avenue for feedback and consistency of program implementation.

Parent engagement activities comprise a very important piece of the early education of children. Parents were asked how far they expected their child to go in school. Upon entry to the program, zero parents indicated they expected their children would obtain a masters degree or higher. Almost forty five percent of the parents indicated they expected their children to have a masters degree or higher at the exit of the program, and all of them expected their children to get an education past high-school.



“Starting Strong has given my daughter a great foundation as she gets ready to start Kindergarten.”

- Parent



**Early Education pays huge dividends!** Studies show the return on investment for education is greatest during the preschool years. More than \$7 (and as much as \$17) in public funds are saved for every \$1 spent on high quality programs like Starting Strong. Research finds that when tested at ages 8, 10, and 14, children from disadvantaged backgrounds who were enrolled in quality pre-kindergarten programs achieved at higher levels than those who weren't. Former preschool students graduate from high school at significantly higher rates than non-participants and they earn more in later life.



# United Way's Campaign for Grade Level Reading

The Campaign is a collaborative effort by foundations, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. The Campaign focuses on an important predictor of school success and high school graduation - grade-level reading by the end of third grade.



Over **106** community partners collaborate on the Grade Level Reading effort.



Research shows that proficiency in reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn, and to master the more complex subject matter they encounter in the fourth-grade curriculum. Most students who fail to reach this critical milestone falter in the later grades and often drop out before earning a high school diploma. Yet two-thirds of U.S. fourth graders are not proficient readers, according to national reading assessment data. This disturbing statistic is made even worse by the fact that more than four out of every five low-income students miss this critical milestone.

RAPID CITY  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
CAMPAIGN FOR  
GRADE-LEVEL  
READING

3RD GRADE READING  
SUCCESS MATTERS

## According to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, **Children from low income families:**

- 2 times more likely to experience developmental delays
- 61% do not have children's books in their homes
- 12-14 months behind other children in reading and language skills by kindergarten
- 4 times more likely to be chronically absent from school
- Lose an average of 2 months of learning over the summer
- 2 to 2 ½ school years behind their peers by 3rd grade
- 13 times more likely to drop out of school
- Do not qualify for 90% of jobs
- Cost the US economy \$1.8 Billion in tax revenue

Although schools must be accountable for helping all children achieve, providing effective teaching for all children in every classroom every day, the Campaign is based on the belief that schools cannot succeed alone. Engaged communities mobilized to remove barriers, expand opportunities, and assist parents in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities to serve as full partners in the success of their children are needed to assure student success.

**STRIVE for Less Than 5**

5 Tardy  
5 Excused  
5 Unexcused = Less Likely to Graduate High School

**Grade-Level Reading**  
[www.unitedwayblackhills.org](http://www.unitedwayblackhills.org)

RAPID CITY SOUTH DAKOTA CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE-LEVEL READING  
NO GRADE READING SUCCESS MATTERS

JOHN T. VUCUREVICH FOUNDATION  
UNITED Way

The campaign's work is accordingly focused on helping communities and policymakers promote school readiness and quality teaching, tackle chronic absence, and improve summer learning, as well as engage parents as their children's first teachers.



# Big Brothers Big Sisters Adopt-a-Class

The Adopt-a-Class program is a part of the School Mentor Program with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills. The Adopt-a-Class program works to match each child with a mentor in a 1st grade classroom. The School Mentor Program is designed to help Littles reach their full potential at school but is not limited to the classroom. It's about friendship.



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
of the Black Hills



“He read to me twice, and both of his sisters, so he can finish one page of his reading log. You are doing a great job. Thank you.”

- Parent

# Out of School Programming

Prevention of learning loss outside of the school environment is another part of the strategy to help students stay on track. Out of school providers that implement literacy and math skills along with homework help are in alignment with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading goals.



**Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud**



**RURAL AMERICA INITIATIVES**



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
OF THE NORTHERN HILLS**

“They showed that they cared. When I was in the program it didn’t even feel like a program. It felt like home.”

- **Sabrina** - RAI Ateyapi Alumni

**girls  
inc.**

of Rapid City



## Western Dakota Technical Institute Student Success Coaches

The mission of the Student Success Coaches at WDT is to provide high-quality, integrated and responsive services to promote students' academic and personal success in support of retention and graduation goals. The Student Success Center will provide a collaborative and effective delivery of academic advising, tutoring, and other services to meet the needs of Western Dakota Tech students.



“The assistance they provide as resources to individual students is invaluable... They addressed the whole student.”

- **WDT Instructor**

## SDSU Wokunze Wicaske Alliance

The purpose of the Wokunze Wicaske Alliance is to attract and retain Native Americans to the state's nursing workforce through an inclusive alliance of tribal partners, community members and academic leaders. Mentors and talking circles are part of the alliance which recognizes the role that culture plays in supporting students.





## Post-Secondary Scholarships

John Vucurevich valued education and supported many higher educational institutions by providing grants for scholarships to students in many institutions. The schools listed on this page received scholarship dollars to go toward students in various programs.



“Receiving this award is a blessing and prayer answered.”

- **Adriana** - WDT Student



“This scholarship allowed me to stay in school and support a family.”

- **BH-RC** Student



“I travel a total of 3 hours a day, for 4-5 days a week to attend nursing school... every last cent is appreciated.”

- **Cori** - OLC Student



“I value my education greatly, as it has and will continue to have a huge impact in my life.”

- **Garret** - SDSM&T Student



SOUTH DAKOTA  
STATE UNIVERSITY

“I deeply appreciate your generosity.”

- **Willow** - SDSU Student



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

“My dream has been made easier thanks to you. Thank you so much.”

- **Michael** - USD Student

## Prosperity Initiative

Being a Poverty Informed Community is the heart of the Prosperity Initiative. The John T. Vucurevich Foundation seeks to invest 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. Together we can become a poverty informed community working from a common framework to help people achieve prosperity.

“I knew students living in the crisis of poverty struggled, but I was much more equipped to assist them once I became more poverty informed... It’s not just the poor who are affected by poverty. It’s the entire community”

- **Mary Ann** - Prosperity Coach



Prosperity  
Initiative

INSPIRING SUCCESS FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

In 2014, Catholic Social Services, in partnership with Love Inc., were chosen to be the backbone organization to lead the initiative. Additional Prosperity Coaches were trained in October 2015 and again in October 2016. The navigator/mentor program, called Pathways to Prosperity, was implemented in March 2016. Over 30 community education presentations on “Poverty 101” or root causes of poverty have been given to 442 attendees from a variety of non-profit, government and business organizations.

## Emerging Leaders Fellowship Program

The Emerging Leaders Fellowship was designed to get the next generation of Rapid City leaders to become involved in and understand the principles of collective impact along with the most pressing issues of the community.

Two main areas of focus included community engagement and learning and service labs. The community engagement piece included conducting focus groups and gathering qualitative data about the issues and barriers in the community. A total of 241 Rapid City citizens were interviewed by the cadre. This data has served as a guide for RCCI when determining the needs of the community.



**RAPID CITY**  
**COLLECTIVE**  
**IMPACT**



“Being an Emerging Leader has introduced me to new, wonderful people, has reinforced my belief that people desire to help, and has made me feel more connected to Rapid City than I have ever felt in all of my community work.”

- **Jennifer** - 2016 Fellow

# 2016 Grants Awarded

## ARTS

**\$40,550**

**Destination Rapid City** \$8,550

For graffiti-resistant vinyl printed with local, original artwork to cover utility box wraps in downtown Rapid City

**Rapid City Arts Council** \$30,000

Collaborate with Native POP: People of the Plains to present a Native Art Market and Cultural Celebration at Main Street Square in Rapid City

**Rushmore Music Camp** \$2,000

Scholarships for students attending Rushmore Music Camp

## EDUCATION

**\$2,374,377**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Black Hills** \$220,000

Expansion of the Adopt A Class Program in conjunction with the Campaign for Grade Level Reading

**Black Hills State University** \$2,500

STEM Summer Camp Scholarships

**Boys & Girls Club of Rosebud** \$165,000

General operations and programming

**Boys and Girls Club of the Black Hills** \$50,000

Security improvements to Hot Springs and Lead/Deadwood facilities, pre-school tuition and programming

**Boys and Girls Club of the** \$250,000

**Greater Chippewa Valley**

Renovations to the nutrition program area in the Mary Markquart Center in Eau Claire, WI

**Dakota State University** \$15,000

Center for Theoretical Underground Physics (CETUP)

**Friends of South Dakota Public Broadcasting** \$10,000

Science outreach events at Neutrino Day

**Literacy Council of the Black Hills** \$30,000

Tutoring adults in basic reading and writing skills, as well as English language learning

**Northern Hills Alliance for Children** \$548,000

First Start Child Care and Pre-school Center in Deadwood

**Rapid City Club for Boys** \$100,000

General operations and programming

**South Dakota State University &** \$5,222

**University of South Dakota**

International Nursing Research Conference scholarships

**Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDT)** \$668,764

Student Success Coach Initiative in conjunction with the Prosperity Initiative

**Western Resources for Independent Living** \$6,900

Youth Transitions, a summer program for disabled youth

**YMCA of Rapid City** \$202,991

Jump Start Child Care Program, for mothers and fathers attending school in the Rapid City Public School system

**Youth and Family Services** \$100,000

General operations and programming

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**\$2,054,800**

**Abbot House, Inc.** \$100,000  
Support to purchase a home in Rapid City for Bridges, a foster care program

**Action for the Betterment of Our Community (ABC)** \$200,000  
Juvenile diversion and substance abuse services in the Belle Fourche and Lead/Deadwood schools.

**Cornerstone Rescue Mission** \$50,000  
General operating

**Crisis Care Center Behavior Management Systems** \$500,000  
24-hour Crisis Care Center for the Black Hills Human Services Collaborative

**Feeding South Dakota** \$50,000  
Black Hills School Back Pack Program to supply food on the weekend for children in need

**Fourth Circuit DUI Court** \$10,000  
Assist participants and their families with miscellaneous expenses and educational services for the team and the participants

**Hope Center** \$72,000  
Operating support for the 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

**Love, Inc.** \$125,000  
Matching grant to help launch THRIVE - an outdoor adventure resale store and a furniture and home décor resale shop, a social enterprise

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** \$120,000  
Leadership, development and capacity building in western South Dakota

**New Start Housing Collaborative** \$550,000  
Housing, case management and supportive services for the chronically homeless

**Northern Hills Training Center** \$6,300  
Physical therapy equipment

**Passages Women's Transitional Living** \$65,000  
Residential re-entry support program in Rapid City providing services to women coming out of incarceration

**Pennington County DUI & Drug Courts** \$25,000  
Assist participants and their families with ancillary services to encourage and reinforce positive behavior while participating in the program

**Pennington County Health & Human Services** \$50,000  
Discretionary funds for individual's miscellaneous expenses where no other resource is available

**Volunteers of America** \$35,000  
For Mommy's Closet, providing basic life necessities to families with children up to age five including housing, food, diapers, and clothing

**Western South Dakota Senior Services** \$26,500  
Matching grant for a vehicle to deliver hot, nutritious meals to seniors

**Working Against Violence, Inc. (WAVI)** \$70,000  
General operations of Project SAFE, children's programs and community education efforts

## OTHER

**\$1,457,480**

**Black Hills Area Community Foundation** \$1,076,900

- \$76,900 General operations
- \$1,000,000 Affordable housing fund intended to spur development of supportive and affordable housing in Rapid City

**Black Hills Knowledge Network** \$86,000

Capacity building to expand evaluation services for the Rapid City region and Rapid City Collective Impact

**Helpline Center** \$123,180

- \$8,180 for promotion of the VITA and AARP free income tax preparation service for the 2016 tax year in the Black Hills, in partnership with AARP
- \$60,000 for 211 operations in the Black Hills
- \$55,000 for the Volunteer Connections Program to maintain a volunteer database in Rapid City for volunteer coordination

**Mniluzahan Okolakiciyapi Ambassadors (MOA)** \$56,400

Operating support for a cohort of leaders in Rapid City addressing relationships between our Native and non-Native American communities and to develop a pilot group for youth MOA

**Native Youth Leadership Alliance (NYLA)** \$35,000

South Dakota Fellow Leadership Development and Community Initiatives

**Neighborhood Housing Services of the Black Hills** \$30,000

Pathways Home Program, a Native American homebuyer education curriculum

**Rapid City Library** \$5,000

To host the Foundation Center's online database. The library will provide staff to receive requests from non-profits for reports of funders via the directory and will also assist with grant writing training for the non-profit organizations in the area

**Rushmore Consumer Credit Resource Center** \$10,000

Provide credit, debit and housing counseling for members of the National Guard and US Air Force personnel in Western South Dakota and scholarships for Credit When Credit is Due and Make Your Move books

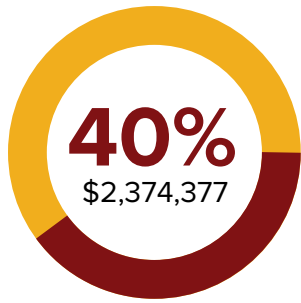
**Steve Flanery Honorarium** \$25,000

- \$5,000 Black Hills Area Community Foundation
- \$5,000 Performing Arts Center of Rapid City
- \$5,000 Cornerstone Rescue Mission
- \$5,000 Rapid City Club for Boys Foundation
- \$5,000 Youth & Family Services Foundation

**Stickney Volunteer Fire Department** \$10,000

- \$10,000 First Responder Program

**2016 GRAND TOTAL \$5,927,207**



In 2016, the John T. Vucurevich Foundation directed 40% of its funding toward the education sector. This reflects the commitment to embrace and support the cradle to career continuum toward achieving a living wage and beyond.

## 2016 Grants Awarded - \$5,927,207

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
Current Assets	\$408,416	\$287,469	\$348,758	\$291,274
Investments	\$128,323,400	\$124,114,902	\$123,763,771	\$121,645,941
Property and Equipment	\$46,399	\$64,400	\$85,404	\$98,793
Investments Held In Trust	\$871,759	\$853,851	\$926,165	\$902,584
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$129,649,974	\$125,320,622	\$125,124,098	\$122,938,592
<b>Liabilities And Net Assets</b>				
Current Liabilities	\$2,984,966	\$1,829,856	\$2,028,123	\$2,013,500
Other Liabilities	\$1,875,935	\$2,419,911	\$3,116,629	\$2,228,568
Net Assets	\$124,789,073	\$121,070,855	\$119,979,346	\$118,696,524
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	\$129,649,974	\$125,320,622	\$125,124,098	\$122,938,592
<b>REVENUES</b>	\$10,641,141	\$5,660,099	\$7,611,694	\$14,457,746
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$6,922,923	\$4,568,590	\$6,328,872	\$5,847,827
<b>INCREASE DECREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	\$3,718,218	\$1,091,509	\$1,282,822	\$8,609,919
<b>NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$121,070,855	\$119,979,346	\$118,696,524	\$110,086,605
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	\$124,789,073	\$121,070,855	\$119,979,346	\$118,696,524



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