Look back, Look forward
Dear Neighbor,

More than 35 years ago, as Minnesota endured the farm crisis and confronted the impacts on industries such as mining, manufacturing, and agriculture, the Twin Cities-based McKnight Foundation invested substantial funds into rural Minnesota to launch the six Minnesota Initiative Foundations, each serving a defined rural region of the state. McKnight envisioned a regional strategy that would stimulate local giving and encourage local responsibility, believing that the people of rural Minnesota were best positioned to make funding decisions for themselves and their neighbors.

This belief continues to drive us today.

The Northwest Minnesota Foundation board and staff firmly believe that big change starts at the local level. To make long-lasting impacts on our communities, we must continue working side by side with our neighbors. Our region offers boundless opportunities, and our strength here at NMF is connecting people, places, and possibilities to build better lives for everyone throughout Northwest Minnesota.

It is my honor to share with you our annual Impact Report, which details our work in fiscal year 2021 while highlighting personal impacts. We are proud of our accomplishments, but we fully recognize that none of it is possible without the passion and partnership of you, our neighbors. Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Steven Anderson
Chair of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation Board of Directors

Looking back, looking forward

As we connect our past to our future, we shine a spotlight on our founding executive director, Ruth Edevold, and the early years of what was then the Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund. More than 35 years ago, our work began with an initial $2.1 million grant from the McKnight Foundation. This past August, we eclipsed $100 million in assets. While we embark on the future with optimism and excitement, we remain extremely proud of our past.

Read more about Ruth and the integral role she played in the development of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation at nwmf.org
THE CRISIS: The face of child care has changed

Through a partnership between NMF and First Children’s Finance, communities throughout Northwest Minnesota get expert help in assessing and addressing local child care challenges. After an intense, five-year process, the City of Warren is poised this spring to celebrate the groundbreaking of an expanded nonprofit child care center that will more than double the number of children that can be cared for there.

“\textit{We look at child care just like water and sewer. Nobody else will do it because you don’t make money, so that’s when the city has to go pick it up.}”

—Shannon Mortenson, Warren city administrator

Bemidji man aims to start food truck to offer felon-friendly employment

THE PROBLEM-SOLVER: Offering a fresh start

When Daniel Barrientez Jr. was released from prison, he pledged to never go back. But, even after graduating college, he found it nearly impossible to obtain quality employment due to his criminal record. Now, having been awarded a two-year fellowship, Daniel plans to open a food truck business to provide felon-friendly employment opportunities.

“I just kind of thought, I did my time, I’d get a job, and start my life over again. I paid my debt. But once I got out, I realized it’s nothing like that.”

—Daniel Barrientez Jr., social entrepreneur
THE VISIONARY: Her legacy continues

Hired in 1986 as the first executive director of what was then the Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund, Ruth Edevold led our organization with passion and purpose for more than 13 years. Ruth’s vision—and her drive—laid the groundwork upon which our work is built. Her impact continues to resonate today, as her family is re-energizing the NMF general endowment in her memory.

Read more about Ruth Edevold online at nwmf.org

“After all these years, we are so proud to see her work live on.”
—Jeanne Edevold Larson, Ruth’s daughter

Fund honoring founding executive director to be reinvested in NMF general endowment

Ruth Edevold, at left, is pictured with Arnold Lund and Kathy (Craddock) Tande in 1993, when Arnold was recognized for his major contribution to the Lake of the Woods Industrial Development Fund.

Economic Development

ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT
- Total loans: 27
- Total loan amount: $248,446*
*Includes the Child Care Finance Program outlined below.

CHILD CARE FINANCE PROGRAM
- Total loans: 20
- Total loan amount: $135,000
- Child care slots retained: 75
- New child care slots created: 133

BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- 1,500 hours of technical assistance provided to approximately 150 borrowers, funded by SBA
- 10 of those borrowers received $8,200 in technical assistance from specialized services, funded by the Small Business Administration
- Through hosting the Northwest Small Business Development Center, approximately 450 small businesses received over 4,000 hours of direct business consulting
### Fiscal Year 2021 Financials

**Revenue & Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Revenue</td>
<td>$7,017,546</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>14,486,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Contributions</td>
<td>795,082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>199,512</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,498,956</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1,409,862</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>234,334</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,615,039</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The excess revenue over expenses is reinvested into endowed assets to benefit future generations.*

### Grants

- Total Grants: $4,044,972
- Small Business Relief: $2,590,000
- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (to child care providers): $302,000
- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (to schools and nonprofits): $107,500
- COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance: $218,500
- Northwest Minnesota Emergency Disaster Recovery: $429,000
- Child Care: $50,000
- Children & Families: $29,288
- Housing: $25,000
- Homelessness: $188,684
- IDEA Competition: $11,000
- Initiator Fellowship: $20,000
- Advocacy: $74,000

### New Funds

- Richard Hebert Family Foundation Fund
- Sons of Norway—Vinland Lodge 1-193 Scholarship Fund
- Northwest Minnesota Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund
- Conrad and Merece Lubarski Champions Education Fund
- Downtown Crookston Development Partnership
- Stephen-Argyle Storm Scholarship Fund
- Roseau Fire Department Scholarship Fund
- Western Norman Community Fund
- Jim Stordahl Roseau Football Scholarship Fund

### Philanthropic Services

**TOTAL DONATIONS**

$1,744,276

**TOTAL COMPONENT FUND GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

$1,043,981

**NUMBER OF FUNDS**

384
Hello neighbors!

Our focus remains in Northwest Minnesota. Side-by-side with local leaders and community members, we work to address today’s challenges and build tomorrow’s best future.

Visit us online: nwmf.org

Give us a call: 218-759-2057

Beltrami County
Clearwater County
Hubbard County
Kittson County
Lake of the Woods County
Mahnomen County
Marshall County
Norman County
Pennington County
Polk County
Red Lake County
Red Lake Nation
Roseau County
White Earth Nation