

North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations



NDANO is the statewide membership association for the North Dakota nonprofit sector. Our members work in all mission areas, from human services and the environment to education and the arts, and represent all sizes, from small volunteer-run nonprofits to multi-million-dollar organizations, across the state.

For more information or to become a member, visit www.ndano.org.

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LET'S CONNECT!
#NDnonprofs26

NDANO

NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION
OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

NONPROFIT

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

2026

JUNE 3-4 • MINOT, ND

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241 Ink Productions
 1113 Sidney Road
 Washburn, ND 58577
 g241ink@gmail.com

Bank of North Dakota
 1200 Memorial Hwy
 Bismarck, ND 58504
 lrhill@nd.gov

Bedding Industries of America/Rize Home
 1401 Goldenwood Drive
 West Fargo, ND, 58078
 andrewtdoeling@icloud.com

Bloomerang
 9120 Otis Avenue
 Indianapolis, IN 46216
 natalie.clifford@bloomerang.com

Brady Martz and Associates
 2537 S University Avenue
 Fargo, ND 58103
 jeremy.ulmer@bradymartz.com

Bravera Bank
 401 N. Fourth Street
 Bismarck, ND 58501
 msenechal@bravera.bank

Bush Foundation
 101 Fifth Street E, Suite 2400
 St Paul, MN 55101
 lulrickson@bushfound.org

DAMN Plan Coaching
 1662 Westwind Road
 St. Cloud, MN 56303
 kim@damnplan.com

Digital Plains
 1131 Westrac Dr - STE 200
 Fargo, ND 58078
 kmortensen@digiplains.com

DonorDock
 6096 Bennett Ct S,
 Fargo, ND, 58104
 rburke@donordock.com

Health and Benefit Services
 308 Second St W
 Velva, ND 58790
 Jessica@healthandbenefitservices.com

Ivanhoe Development
 PO Box 669
 Fort Collins, CO 80522
 michele@ivanhoedevelopment.com

Larsen & Larsen Auction Company
 47208 257th Street
 Renner, SD 57055
 jonathan@larsenbenefitauctions.com

Lewis & Clark Development Group
 200 First Ave NW Ste.100
 Mandan, ND 58554
 nicole@lcdgroup.org

Levelheaded Bookkeeping
 PO Box 512
 Williston, ND 58802
 rebecca@levelheadedbookkeeping.com

Magic City Discovery Center
 1545 First St NW
 Minot, ND 58703
 MCDCEvents@magiccitydiscoverycenter.com

Mutual of America
 8300 Norman Center Drive, Ste 1290
 Bloomington, MN 55437
 Gerald.Bruzek@mutualofamerica.com

North Dakota Community Foundation
 PO Box 387
 Bismarck, ND 58502
 christi@NDCF.net

North Dakota Navigators
 500 University Avenue W
 Minot, ND 58707
 lisa.hale@minotstateu.edu

Old National Bank
 10710 Town Square Dr NE
 Blaine, MN
 Jen.Richardson@oldnational.com

Silicon Plains
 2219 E Main Avenue
 Bismarck, ND 58501
 mfink@siliconplains.net

Souris Basin Planning Council
 PO Box 2024
 Minot, ND 58703
 briselda@sourisbasin.org

Strengthen ND AmeriCorps
 101 Main Street
 Souris, ND 58783
 beth@strengthennd.com

Tellwell Story Co.
 1213 Northern Pacific Avenue
 Fargo, ND 58102
 max@wetellwell.com

University of Jamestown
 6000 College Lane
 Jamestown, ND 58401
 lhunt@uj.edu

University of Mary
 7500 University Drive
 Bismarck, ND 58504
 ajpeter@umary.edu

Valuable Visits
 1640 Burnt Boat Drive
 Bismarck, ND 58503
 jake@valuablevisits.com

Widmer Roel PC
 4220 31st Avenue S
 Fargo, ND 58104
 rmyhre@wr.cpa

2026 NONPROFIT AWARD WINNERS

WALT ODEGAARD LEADERSHIP AWARD: COIYA TOMPKINS INMAN



Tompkins Inman's leadership has made a profound and measurable impact across North Dakota, transforming not only the Community Violence Intervention Center but also the broader network of victim service providers statewide. Through her volunteer work with the ND

Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition, she has helped strengthen collaboration among organizations, elevate survivor voices and support efforts that contributed to historic increases in state funding, growing support from \$3.17 million in 2022 to nearly \$12 million in 2025 through the Department of Health & Human Services, with additional investment from the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation bringing the total closer to \$19 million. This collective work has strengthened services for more than 10,000 individuals annually across rural and urban communities, ensuring greater access to shelter, advocacy and prevention programs. Her influence also extends into schools and communities through innovative, district-wide prevention education, positioning North Dakota as a leader in long-term, systemic approaches to ending interpersonal violence.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AWARD: RYDELL CARS



Rydell Cars lives out its vision of "being so effective that they are able to be helpful to others" through meaningful, long-term support for local families and nonprofits in the Upper Red River Valley area. Through its Angels on Wheels program, the company has donated more than 20

vehicles and invested more than \$500,000 to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence, particularly in rural communities where transportation can be a major barrier to safety and services. These efforts, along with partnerships that provide gas cards, car seats and other resources, have expanded access to critical support through organizations like the CVIC. Beyond this program, Rydell has also raised more than \$1.2 million for area nonprofits through its annual benefit car and bike show, demonstrating a deep and sustained commitment to giving back. Its impact goes far beyond donations, helping survivors reach safety, access services and build a path forward for themselves and their families.

EMERGING LEADER AWARD: SHANI REISNOUR



Reisnour is a transformative leader whose impact is felt across North Dakota through her commitment to saving lives and strengthening communities. After the loss of her daughter, she founded Mya's Mission Foundation and built it into a powerful, mission-driven organization that expands access to overdose

prevention, treatment and recovery support. Through her leadership, she has broken down stigma around addiction and mental health, influenced first responder and veteran support systems and created pathways to care for those who might otherwise go without.

Her ability to unite sectors, mobilize resources and lead with both compassion and strategy has not only elevated her organization but also strengthened the entire recovery ecosystem statewide, making a lasting difference in communities across North Dakota.

LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS: SEN. SEAN CLEARY



Sen. Sean Cleary is a strong advocate for North Dakota's nonprofit sector, using his legislative leadership to remove barriers and strengthen community organizations. During the 2025 legislative session, he sponsored and supported key measures that reduced tax burdens on nonprofit fundraising, clarified

sales tax rules, and increased investment in childcare. Known for his collaborative and thoughtful approach, Sen. Cleary has helped guide legislation, support testimony efforts, and ensure nonprofit voices are heard. With a professional background that includes work in higher education and the nonprofit sector, he brings a practical understanding of the vital role nonprofits play in serving North Dakota communities.

REP. JON O. NELSON



Rep. Jon O. Nelson is a dedicated supporter of North Dakota's nonprofit sector, known for his steady leadership and commitment to collaboration. As a member of numerous nonprofit boards, he has worked to strengthen the state's nonprofit ecosystem by fostering dialogue, bridging divides and promoting solutions that repair harm

and build community. Throughout his legislative career, he has championed issues ranging from natural resources and water policy to education, while remaining mindful of elevating marginalized voices and strengthening state-tribal relationships. Rep. Nelson brings a thoughtful, inclusive approach to supporting nonprofits and the communities they serve.

WELCOME

Dear Nonprofit Leaders,

Welcome to the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations' (NDANO) 2026 ND Nonprofit Leadership Conference.

We are excited to be together in Minot, gathering for a conference focused on education and issues that impact the nonprofit sector. We are bringing together a wide range of participants to connect and exchange ideas with peers from across North Dakota and the wider region, and we hope that this will prove to be another rewarding occasion for all.

We thank all conference participants for joining us for the next few days and appreciate the support of our sponsors and exhibitors, along with the knowledge shared by our speakers.

Welcome!

NDANO Board of Directors and Staff

GET SOCIAL!

Join the conversation with NDANO and your fellow conference attendees on Facebook with our conference hashtag: **#NDnonprofs26**



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

8:45 a.m. **WELCOME** – 4-H Hall

Speaker: NDANO President: Patrick Kirby

9:00 a.m.

Welcome Keynote: Holding Space Without Losing Yourself – 4-H Hall

Speakers: Christy Miller, Souris Valley United Way, and Jill McDonald, Domestic Violence Crisis Center



Nonprofit leaders often carry the responsibility of supporting staff, managing organizational stress and responding to community needs, while their own well-being can be overlooked. This session is designed for executive directors and supervisors to explore the connection between leadership sustainability and overall organizational health. Participants will learn to recognize early signs of burnout, assess their own well-being and develop practical strategies to support sustainable leadership.



10:15 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

From Fear to Funding: A Hands-On Bootcamp for Securing Transformative Major Gifts – *Norsk Jake Kubik, Valuable Visits*

It's time to stop theorizing and start doing. Join Jake Kubik from Valuable Visits for an intensive, roll-up-

your-sleeves bootcamp designed to give you the exact process, scripts, and confidence needed to secure major gifts. This isn't just another lecture; you will leave this session having done the real work of fundraising, including making live donor calls. Imagine knowing exactly who your best prospects are and what their capacity is to give. Picture yourself picking up the phone with a proven script, ready to handle any objection with ease. Think about the incredible relief and excitement you'll feel when you confidently make a specific, direct ask and receive a "yes" that will accelerate your mission for years to come.

Bush Fellowship and You – *Executive Suites Malcom Chapman and Adora Land, Bush Foundation*

In this interactive session with Malcom Chapman (BF'15) and Adora Land, grantmaking director at the Bush Foundation, you'll get a chance to learn more about the Bush Fellowship and spend time thinking about your own leadership path. The Bush Fellowship supports accomplished leaders with extraordinary track records who are ready to take their efforts to the next level for even greater impact. Whether you're exploring the fellowship or simply seeking to grow as a leader, we hope you'll join us.

Ask Us Anything: the Latest in Live Events – *4-H Hall Patrick Kirby, Do Good Better Consulting & Jonathan Larsen, Larsen & Larsen Auction Company*

Get your questions ready for an open, no-fluff conversation on what's happening right now in live events. This interactive session gives nonprofits a chance to ask practical questions, share challenges, and learn real-world strategies for planning engaging, successful in-person experiences.

11:15 a.m. BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

Noon KEYNOTE LUNCHEON – 4-H Hall

Keynote: Diversification of Funding Sources for Nonprofits

Michele Girard, Ivanhoe Development



In today's rapidly changing funding landscape, nonprofits must think creatively about how they sustain and grow their missions. During this engaging lunch keynote, Michele Girard of Ivanhoe Development will explore practical strategies for diversifying

nonprofit funding sources. This session will provide real-world examples and actionable ideas to help nonprofits strengthen financial stability, reduce risk and expand their long-term impact.

1:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Marketing Without a Marketing Department: Simple Engagement Strategies Any Nonprofit Can Use – Norsk
Emily Lindquist, Souris Valley United Way

Participants will explore ways to strengthen social media presence, build deeper donor relationships through simple personal touches, and make communications more engaging through curiosity-driven messaging and impact-focused storytelling. From organic social media campaigns to handwritten notes and interactive campaign activities, attendees will leave with practical ideas they can implement right away.

Nonprofit Collaboration Panel – 4-H Hall

Stephanie Blumhagen, FARRMS; Felicity Merritt, Souris Basin Planning Council; Briselda Hernandez, Souris Basin Planning Council; Facilitated by Patrick Kirby, Do Good Better Consulting

Collaboration is key to creating stronger communities and greater impact. Join nonprofit leaders as they discuss the value of partnerships, resource sharing, and working across organizations to better serve communities. This panel will offer practical insights and real-world examples of successful collaboration in action.

Why Fundraising Feels Harder than it Should

– Executive Suites

Matt Bitzagaio, DonorDock

If fundraising feels harder than it should, you're not imagining it – and you're not alone. The job didn't get easier; it got infinite. There's always more you could be doing than you can be doing, and the real burden isn't effort, it's the uncertainty of choosing what to focus on. In this session for nonprofit leaders, Matt Bitzagaio shares why fundraising feels heavier than it used to, and offers a simple framework – and a weekly rhythm – to help your team focus on what matters most and confidently leave the rest behind.

2:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Funding Diversification Bootcamp – 4-H Hall

Michele Girard, Ivanhoe Development

This working session moves from ideas to action, giving nonprofit leaders practical tools to build and strengthen diversified funding plans. Using Michele's interactive workbooks, participants will complete guided exercises, work through real-world examples, and leave with a draft strategy and clear next steps to reduce financial risk and support long-term mission growth. Come ready to roll up your sleeves and build a funding plan you can put to work right away.

Grant writing using AI – Norsk

Jen Lee, Legal Services of ND

Explore how artificial intelligence can be used to support and streamline the grant writing process. Participants will learn practical ways to use AI for brainstorming, drafting and refining grant proposals while maintaining authenticity and compliance. This session will also address ethical considerations and best practices for integrating AI tools into effective grant writing workflows.

Stay Interviews – Executive Suites

Christy Dauer, ND Women's Business Center

Explore how organizations can proactively engage employees to understand what keeps them motivated and what might cause them to leave. Participants will learn how to conduct effective stay interviews that build trust, improve communication and strengthen workplace culture.

3:15 p.m. BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS – 4-H Hall

3:45 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Cyber Security and Data Protection – Norsk

Zac Paulson, Advanced Business Methods

Nonprofits hold a lot of highly important data about their donors, clients, volunteers, and general organizational info that no one would want held hostage or put on public display. With all that risk, how do you protect that data and have good cybersecurity without breaking the bank, or locking things down so much that no one can get anything done? This session will cover the practical cybersecurity every organization should have and give you an action plan and checklist to build off of as your nonprofit grows, evolves, and embraces technology more and more. Don't worry, you don't need to understand tech to learn from this session, just bring something to take notes, be prepared to ask questions, and a desire to protect the organization you serve.

AI & Nonprofits: Ethical + Practical Strategies for

Storytelling – Executive Suites

Max Kringen, Tellwell Story Co.

Most nonprofit comms people are solo in their role. One marketing person. One communications director. No peer down the hall to think out loud with. This session makes the case that AI belongs in your storytelling workflow, and draws a clear line around where it doesn't. You'll leave with a framework for prompting that actually thinks with you (Geoff Woods' CRIT model, applied to nonprofit work), a live walkthrough of how Max uses Claude Projects and LittleBird to run his day, and a working ethics line you can take back to your team on Monday.

Bank of Community Trust – 4-H Hall

Rob Keller, NDPIO

Nonprofit credibility is built long before a crisis hits. This session will provide attendees with a critical, actionable framework. You'll learn how everyday actions, from a receptionist's tone to a director's public statement, shape an agency's credibility. We offer practical strategies to build, protect, and strengthen this "trust account" so your organization can operate with resilience and respond effectively when it matters most.

5 – 8 p.m.

SOCIAL: MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER:

– 1545 First St NW, Minot

Event Sponsor: DonorDock & Visit Minot

Join us for a social event at the Magic City Discovery Center, where attendees can connect, unwind, and explore a hands-on interactive space designed for curiosity and fun. It's a great opportunity to network with fellow professionals in a relaxed setting while experiencing one of Minot's most engaging destinations.



8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST & NDANO ANNUAL MEETING – 4-H Hall

8:45 a.m.

Morning Keynote: Latest in National Nonprofit News

– 4-H Hall

Diane Yentel, National Council of Nonprofits



Stay informed on the issues shaping the nonprofit sector nationwide. In this session, Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Council of Nonprofits, will share the latest developments affecting nonprofit organizations across the country. From federal policy updates to emerging trends impacting funding, advocacy, and nonprofit operations, Yentel will provide a clear overview of what nonprofit leaders need

to know right now. Attendees will gain insight into how national decisions and conversations may affect their organizations and the communities they serve.

10:00 a.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS

NCN Townhall – 4-H Hall

Diane Yentel, National Council of Nonprofits

Attendees will gain insights into key policy updates, emerging challenges and opportunities impacting the sector. This interactive session provides a space for questions, dialogue, and connection to strengthen the nonprofit community.

When Governance Feels Off: Realigning Boards with the Leadership Alignment Method™ – Norsk

Melanie Gaebe, Shift Happens Consulting

Even strong boards can drift. Meetings become report-heavy, roles blur and strategy gets lost in operations. This workshop introduces the Leadership Alignment Method™ to help diagnose governance maturity and restore clear board alignment. Participants will identify common governance pitfalls, clarify fiduciary roles and distinguish oversight from management. Using a practical maturity model, attendees will assess their current state and leave with 1-3 actionable steps to strengthen focus, alignment, and strategic governance.

11:15 a.m.

Stronger Together: Community Roundtable – 4-H Hall

Facilitated by Ann Crews Melton and the Consensus Council

The political landscape and nonprofit support are shifting under our feet. As a sector, what are our biggest needs? Challenges? Most ambitious ideas? Funders, what do you most want to know? Everyone can contribute to this interactive roundtable, with facilitated table conversations to share struggles, identify needs, and explore how we create a united voice for sector advocacy and growth.

12:30 p.m. ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON – 4-H Hall



NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2026