

Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation
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Photo by Rev. Tony Grossenburg

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

WSDCF Grant Assists CSS to Lift Single Parents out of Poverty



Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation and Hannah Ceremuga both believe that relationships matter.

Hannah is a social worker and mentor for the Uplifting Parents Program (Program UP) at Catholic Social Services, a longtime grant recipient of WSDCF funds. This year, CSS received \$35,000 in general operating support from

WSDCF for Program UP and other services, including adoption, counseling and disaster relief.

Program UP is a two-generation anti-poverty program that helps lower-income single parents attain an education, college degree or job training so they can find employment and support their families. UP clients are carefully selected and receive scholarships, monthly stipends, parenting classes, financial counseling, peer support and wrap-around mentoring services for themselves and their children. But the heart of the program is the powerful relationships that develop between a mentor like Hannah and her clients.

"We are working primarily with young moms who are trying so incredibly hard to make a better life for their family. When many of our UP participants start in the program, they can feel alone and overwhelmed by life," said Natalie Lecy, director of CSS's Family Services Department and Program UP.

Typically, mentors spend at least 10 hours per month helping single parent families navigate social services for childcare, transportation and other needs and avoid the pitfalls and problems that might derail their success in school. Mentors use text messages, phone calls or just meeting for a cup of coffee to build and maintain personal relationships. Hannah recently found herself adding labor and delivery coach to her mentoring toolbox for Program UP.

One young Program UP client, who is enrolled at an area university, was expecting her first baby in August. With a limited support system in the community, she didn't have anyone to go with her to the hospital when she went into labor a bit earlier than planned (the father was out of town and her mother was not scheduled to fly in until that very night.)

"Alone and scared, she texted Hannah who, being the superstar mentor that she is, didn't hesitate to go up to the hospital on a Saturday and spend the entire day with her UP client while she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl," Lecy said. Fortunately, the young woman's mother arrived at the hospital just in time to see her granddaughter born.

"It was one of the most beautiful and humbling experiences of my life," Hannah said.

The relationships that form between mentor and mentee are exceptional, and often equally powerful for both, Lecy said. "This is just one example of the unique experiences we have with our participants in this program."

Since it began in 2014, Program UP has served 38 single moms and their 71 minor children. There are currently 16 women and their families in the program. Another 17 have graduated and are either successfully

employed in their chosen field or are pursuing advanced degrees. Graduates have earned degrees in nursing, education and social work. One is a certified public account and others work in the medical field, including an emergency medical technician.

With generous support from WSDCF, this young mom hopes to join a growing list of successful Program UP graduates. "She is incredibly smart, incredibly talented and has endless potential," Lecy said.



Program UP participants



Program UP participants



SAVE THE DATE

Bishop's Hunt

For Seminarians

October 3-4, 2017

Stukel's Upland Adventures

Gregory

Estate Planning Seminars
To be held in your area soon
 Contact Tim Henderson
thenderson@diorc.org
 or 605-343-3541

The Foundation is making an effort to identify financial professionals to begin focused estate planning seminars and consultations. Foundation Advocate Teams will be composed of priests and professionals. Please prayerfully consider participating in this endeavor.

GIFTS OF THE CHARLES F. STEUERWALD ESTATE AND THE CATHERINE STEUERWALD FAMILY TRUST

In December 1994, Catherine (Kay) Steuerwald stated her intentions to bequeath a portion of her trust to the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation. Charles carried out her wishes and \$100,000 will be used exclusively for the payment of retirement benefits to retired priests from the Diocese of Rapid City. The principal of those funds remains intact and the income used to provide retirement benefits to the priests.

Additionally, WSDCF received the assets from Steuerwald Estate, a gift of 838 acres of land near Wolsey, South

Dakota. In March 2017 it was auctioned and two tracts of land were sold. The final tract of 336 acres was also negotiated and finalized with prospective buyers as well as the other benefactor, Rapid City Regional Hospital.

The Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation realized approximately \$1,397,960 from the sale of this land. The principal of those funds will be held in an endowment and the unrestricted income will be used as designated by the executive board.

Executive Board Members

Tony Berendse (VP)	Rapid City
Dodie Brown	Rapid City
Patrick Goetzinger	Rapid City
Bishop Gruss	Rapid City
Rev. John Heying	Buffalo
Bonnie Hilt (S)	Rapid City
Timothy Johns	Lead
Greg Jorgensen	Winner
Harvey Krautschun (T)	Spearfish
Greg Schweiss	Rapid City
Rev. Bryan Sorensen	Timber Lake
Rev. Ed Vanorny	Rapid City
Msgr. Michael Woster (P)	Spearfish



On Friday, June 9th, tournament participants cast aside a little heat and wind to enjoy fishing and fellowship during the 5th Annual Bishop's Fishing Tournament.

It takes numerous volunteers and contributions to make this event successful: fishing registrations, donating items for auction, purchasing auction items and raffle tickets, and by giving prayerful support to our seminarians.

This year there are seven young men

discerning priesthood and one new seminarian who will begin study this fall. Four of these men will be studying at the theology (graduate) level this fall. With this blessing comes the reality of the cost of their college education, which is even higher for those in post-graduate studies. This event raised nearly \$9,000 for seminarian education. Thank you to the Diocese of Rapid City for making this event a success!



Todd VanderMay and Robert Kinyon



St John the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre



Seminarians: Todd VanderMay, Robert Kinyon, Mark Wesolick and Adam Johnson



Bishop Robert Gruss



Merrill and Karen Olson



Mark Wesolick



Fish Fry Dinner at Padre Hall

Annual Bishop's Golf Classic - Parish Team Defends their Title

More than 100 golfers enjoyed the 4th Annual Bishop's Golf Classic while raising funds for the Western SD Catholic Foundation, Catholic Social Services, and the Rapid City Catholic School System. Arrowhead Country Club hosted a great day of golf, a memorable day of weather, and a fantastic day of fellowship for golfers throughout the Diocese and beyond.

Defending their title in the parish team portion of the tournament was St. Anthony of Padua – Draper. Draper was represented by Larry Ball, Drew Vanard, Tyler Rankin, and Bob Rankin to claim the traveling trophy and prize money for their parish by shooting a 62. Sincere thanks goes out to all the golfers and sponsors who were part of this successful event.



From Left to Right: Drew Venard, Bob Rankin, Bishop Gruss, Tyler Rankin, and Larry Ball

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Fourteen-year-old Stephen Gebes claims to be the luckiest fisherman in his family.

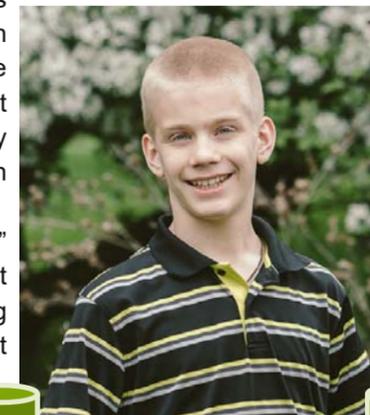
Ranching chores prevented Stephen from proving that claim during the 2017 Bishop's Fishing Tournament, held June 9 on Lake Oahe and hosted by St. John's Church in Ft. Pierre and the Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation. But the enterprising teen did land \$250 in raffle ticket sales for the tournament. The fishing tourney raised nearly \$9,000 to fund seminarian education in the diocese.

"I am hoping we can go next year," Stephen said of the fishing tourney. "We didn't have the extra money to pay the fishing tournament fees and it's one of the busiest times of the year, with haying and planting, so my dad doesn't have the extra time."

Stephen and his seven siblings recently lived on his grandparents' ranch about 20 miles north of Philip, but the family is moving to Sturgis. They are homeschooled by their parents, Darren and Karen Gebes. The family moved to South Dakota last year from North Dakota. They attended St. Mary's Catholic Church at Milesville as well as the Latin-rite congregation at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Rapid City. "Our church family in Milesville is so kind and thoughtful to my family," Stephen said. "Father Gary (Oreshski) is a very enthusiastic and humble priest. He inspires me to be more

Christ-like."

Stephen's older brother, Blase, is considering a vocation to the priesthood and Stephen is discerning a religious calling, too. "I would like to be a lay brother or a monk in a monastery where I can do physical work, for example: blacksmithing, woodcarving, or masonry."



STEPHEN'S BIG HEART FOR SEMINARIANS

At the moment, though, his hobbies are fishing, (ice fishing, too) treasure hunting for antiques, tinkering with wood and riding horses. "I like collecting many things, but my favorites are old bottles, coins, knives, and antiques," he said.

Karen Gebes was impressed by her son's initiative in raising funds for seminarians. "He saw the flyer on the bulletin board at church and asked Father Gary if he could get him some tickets to sell. He did that

100 percent on his own. I didn't know he had even talked to Father until I was handed the tickets at Mass one day," she said.

Armed with some previous 4-H raffle experience, Stephen said he decided to "use my God-given gifts as a salesperson to help the church." He had so much fun, he plans to sell tickets again next year.

The Fishing Tournament Committee was encouraged by Stephen's enthusiasm. The young man was an inspiring example of stewardship with the way he took it on himself to show support to the seminarians.