

January 10, 2022

Lawrence County Commissioners  
90 Sherman Street  
Deadwood, SD 57732

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Beth Massa. I am the Regional Director for Foundation Relations for the South Dakota Community Foundation (SDCF) and work and reside in Rapid City. My role with the organization is to be the "boots on ground" staffer for Western South Dakota. I am proud and honored to work with donors, families, business organizations, nonprofits, and communities throughout this area of the state.

The SDCF, which will celebrate 35 years later in the year, was a product of Governor Mickelson's vision for our state and became a public, nonprofit corporation in 1987. The SDCF was established when the McKnight Foundation and the 3M Corporation issued a \$5 million challenge grant to the state of South Dakota in memory of South Dakota native William L. McKnight. The state of SD committed \$2 million to the project, and within twelve months, the SDCF raised the additional \$3 million from private donors to fulfill the challenge grant. The Foundation has grown from the initial \$10 million endowment into approximately \$700 million in total assets. We manage over 1100 funds, and this number continues to grow.

In 2012, leaders of the Wharf Resources company established an endowment fund with the South Dakota Community Foundation that would provide grantmaking resources to the local area. Each year, dollars from the fund are made available for the Coeur Wharf Sustainable Prosperity Fund to grant to local/area nonprofits. **Over \$540,000** has been granted to projects and programs. Some of the organizations that have received grants from this fund include:

- Junior Achievement of South Dakota
- Northern Hills Family Recreation Center
- Northern Hills Alliance for Children
- Lead/Deadwood School District
- Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
- South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity
- Black Hills State University
- Victims of Violence Intervention
- Black Hills Nordic Ski Club
- makeSPACE Spearfish
- Sturgis Police Athletic League
- Lead/Deadwood Arts Center
- Historic Homestake Opera House



- Deadwood History, Inc.
- Handley Recreation Center
- Homestake Visitors Center, Inc.
- Black Hills Mining Museum

Each year the Coeur Wharf Mine is in operation in Lead, a donation is made to the South Dakota Community Foundation for the Wharf Sustainable Prosperity Fund, and the amount of the proceeds each year is determined by the fair market value of the fund.

The geographic priority for grants for nonprofits is primarily in Lead, and secondarily the neighboring communities. The funding priorities are Education, Health, Community Development, and Arts and Culture. When there is a question about the nonprofit status (501c3), the Board knows they can call on me to research the organization from my end, ensuring they are in compliance with all IRS guidelines for grantmaking.

Like any funding organization, this fund has provided the ability for local nonprofits to establish and expand their programming, work on new projects, encourage collaboration amongst nonprofits, and help to solve issues and concerns in the community and beyond. The fund exists because of the operation of the Coeur Wharf Mine, and nonprofits in the area have opportunities for support that would not exist otherwise.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any additional questions about this fund at the South Dakota Community Foundation. Thank you for the great work you continue to do in Lawrence County.

Sincerely,



Beth Massa  
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