



NDAD

helping others to help themselves

Summer 2019

Insider

NDAD'S MISSION:

Enhance the quality of lives
of individuals facing health challenges.

Neil Emin

NDAD's help 'miraculous'

Neil Emin can't believe how efficiently NDAD responded when he faced an abrupt, critical gap in expensive medication for his life-threatening familial hypercholesterolemia disorder.

The genetic condition elevates bad cholesterol levels and dramatically increases the risk of heart attacks or strokes. Emin already had suffered one stroke about five years ago.

"It was amazing! I mean, it was miraculous," the 44-year-old Fargoan recalled of NDAD's assistance. "You guys were generous. You gave me something that was out of my reach."

In late 2018, Emin's pharmaceutical scholarship was canceled, despite earlier assurances that wouldn't happen. Along with some lifestyle changes, the medication pens had helped drop his cholesterol levels to under 100 mg per deciliter of blood when they once reached a dangerous 680. Neil needed the Social Security Administration to formally deny assistance for him before he would requalify for prescription aid, the pharmaceutical company told him. Still, weeks passed with no denial; he was out of meds.

Seemingly out of options, Neil contacted NDAD's Fargo office with all his paperwork filled and ready. Working with NDAD's client representative Kim Zeeb was "phenomenal," he said. In a week, NDAD approved him for a month's worth of meds, giving him the time he needed to renew the scholarship. ■



Accessible vans for loan

Minot, Grand Forks offices help fill short-term mobility needs

■ ‘Never heard of program like that’

Leticia Munoz could hardly believe it: an accessible van, available for loan, to transport her ailing mom in Minot to a medical appointment and necessary errands in her wheelchair.

The loan from charitable nonprofit NDAD was free, too, save for filling the van’s tank with gas and making sure it’s clean before returning it.

“Impressive,” Leticia recalled thinking. “Never heard of a program like that” back in Phoenix, Ariz., where she and her daughter, 27, who has spina bifida and also uses a wheelchair, lived before coming to Minot.

Munoz borrowed NDAD’s Minot accessible van multiple times for a day or two to transport both her mother and daughter. During that time,

“*Thank you for providing a handicapped accessible van for Maxine’s 99-year-old husband, Ken, so he could attend her funeral in Minot.... Words can’t express how greatly it was appreciated!*”

Maxine Johnson family

they also borrowed durable medical equipment from NDAD for both family members. Since her mom moved into an assisted living residence, Leticia has borrowed the NDAD van several times for her daughter.

“Without that vehicle,” Leticia said, “I don’t know how we would have been able to get around. We live in an area that’s away from doctors, away from stores.”

NDAD “has helped me and my family a lot.... The people who work there are very nice. I see a lot of great customer service.”



Photo: Lisa Cramer, NDAD
Leticia Munoz stands next to Minot’s accessible van for loan.

NDAD’s Grand Forks office has two accessible vans, like Minot’s van available for use a maximum of two days in a month for long-term wheelchair

users. Vans may be used to bring a wheelchair user to a family gathering or another event. It cannot be taken out of North Dakota or beyond Minnesota border communities East Grand Forks, Moorhead and Breckenridge except for approved medical trips — to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for example. Vans do not have hand controls, and use requires a licensed driver with proof of vehicle insurance. Other limitations may apply.

For Terry Fix of Minot, the NDAD van was enormously helpful in May when he took his mother-in-law, who uses a wheelchair, from Trinity Hospital to a Velva, N.D., care center.

“Fantastic,” Terry said about NDAD’s van loan program. “It was a lifesaver. Otherwise, we would have to try to pick her up and carry her into the vehicle.”

The NDAD van was easy to schedule and use, and staff was great, too, he added. ■

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GF food outreach program awarded \$5,000 Gibbens Memorial grant

Northlands Rescue Mission's Feed the Need program in Grand Forks has been named the 2019 recipient of NDAD's \$5,000 Faye Gibbens Memorial Grant.

The grant is awarded annually to an agency or organization to use in a health, welfare, social service or educational purpose for at-risk populations. It is named for NDAD's late co-founder and program services leader.

Sue Shirek, mission executive director, said Northlands will use the money to purchase heavy duty commercial-grade coolers for use in a mission van that will become a mobile food pantry twice monthly.

The mission's goal: extend its existing Feed the Need food services to local people with food

insecurity issues who lack traditional means of access and have yet to participate in picking up available food baskets at the mission in order to meet the community in need "where they're at," Shirek said. Distribution will be at several



**Northlands
Rescue Mission**
WHERE HOPE BEGINS

announced "pop-up" locations or directly to the doors of

people in need.

The grant award was "pretty awesome," Shirek said. "We're very thankful and appreciative."

Northlands' contact information and more grant information is at NDAD.org (<https://bit.ly/2WUdzn7>). ■



For a \$5 admission each, people with disabilities, family members, students and support staff may attend the 2019 N.D. PowerUp Health Conference Sept. 13 at the Bismarck Event Center. Professionals pay \$75. The state's fourth PowerUp will inform people with physical, sensory and cognitive disabilities, their families and providers multiple ways to enjoy good health throughout their lifespans. NDAD will provide one of the booths. Registration deadline is Sept. 6. More info at <https://ndcpd.org/powerup.html>. ■

Money Follows the Person continues for transitions into communities

Medicaid-eligible people with disabilities and elderly adults in North Dakota are able to get help transitioning from nursing homes and other institutions to community living arrangements at least through the end of 2019 through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program.

Since 2008, MFP has been used by more than 450 people in North Dakota to voluntarily transition from institutions where they'd lived at least 90 consecutive days to community options, such as an assisted living facility, family member's home, or a home or apartment of their own.

The intention is to continue funding MFP through 2021 under new federal grant funding, according to the North Dakota Department of Human Services (NDDHS).



Working with a transition coordinator from one of North Dakota's centers for independent living, eligible participants create a one-year transition plan and arrange for supports and

services to meet their needs in their new places of residence.

Qualifying individuals also get up to \$3,000 in one-time moving costs, rental assistance and 24-hour backup nursing call services.

They also get access to assistive technology, personal care services, home modifications, transportation and other services, according to NDDHS.

More info: ND.gov (<https://bit.ly/2MCmyZi>) or at one of the Centers for Independent Living serving North Dakota, with main offices in Bismarck, Fargo, Minot and East Grand Forks, Minn. (<https://bit.ly/2Ixb5xH>). ■

Fun prevails at NDAD's 25th annual Escape

NDAD's 25th annual adaptive water recreation extravaganza, Escape to the Lake, took place June 15 under a sky that went from most cloudy to partly sunny, with a smattering of rain.

This year's free event at Nelson Lake Recreation Area near Center, N.D., saw participation from 21 skiers with physical disabilities, some who skied more than once, and an estimated 30 people also took pontoon rides. Free lunch was provided for participants, family members, caregivers and volunteers, plus a ski performance from the Aberdeen (S.D.) Aqua Addicts.

NDAD thanks the Aqua Addicts and its other great event partners: Sporting Chance N.D., Revolutions Power Sports, Cass County Electric Cooperative Foundation, CircuitGizmos, Knutson Printing, McLean Electric Cooperative Foundation, MDU Resources Foundation, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up, Prairie Patriot Firearms Training, Pub 21, Roughrider Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up and Southgate Casino Bar & Grill. More images: NDAD's Facebook page (<https://facebook.com/ndad.nd/>). ■



First-time skier Brooke Mosbrucker of Bismarck enjoys one of her Escape runs.

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NDAD is a nonprofit, charitable organization founded by concerned citizens to assist mentally and physically disadvantaged people in North Dakota, many of whom are not eligible for services from other agencies.

NDAD provides financial assistance through funds generated by both the organization and community projects. NDAD also provides information and referral services to help people receive assistance through other agencies, when possible.

*It's **AMAZING** what people can do when there's **help**.*