

NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

A Publication of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation



FALL/WINTER 2023



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.

Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

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FROM THE DESK OF RANDY HATZENBUHLER

A moment.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from the Badlands!

Some moments humble you because something is so strongly revealed that it can take your breath away. The holidays do that for many. Medora does too. I had such a moment late this summer during an early morning hike on Point to Point Trails on the east end of Medora.

It takes me about 40 minutes to take the winding trail that leads to Schafer Point that overlooks Medora. The Point is an important landmark in North Dakota history. It is where Harold Schafer stood with his young son, Ed over 65 years ago and formed ideas that Medora was where he would commit much of his energy and resources to restore the little town and invite people to know about North Dakota.

Don Zasadny (with help from Rolf Sletten) had been making improvement to the Point - building a deck; improving a shade structure; and little landscaping. I was eager to see how their work was coming along. When I came around the corner, I was greeted by a large rock that they had placed along the trail and a bronze bust of Harold Schafer and the young boy, Ed Schafer that they had mounted on the rock.

I almost forgot to look at the beautiful new deck and shade structure. The modest bronze of Harold and Ed took my breath away. I often quote Harold Schafer. In one of his interviews, he spoke of why he thought the Badlands and Medora were so important. He spoke about the fact that the history here is “real” and that “God had made the landscape”; the same landscape that Monsignor Shea from the University of Mary said has the “capacity to expand one’s soul”.

The moment humbled me. I recently heard a sermon that said, when we are humbled, it means that a truth has been revealed to us. That morning I turned away so that hikers who passed me would not see the tears running down my cheeks. It has been a blessing to work a long time in a very special place with people who care. People who work hard, volunteer and give generously. Harold Schafer did not just give everything he owned in Medora to the public, he gave an example of philanthropy that inspired people to understand that philanthropy makes the world a better place. Not just in Medora.

I am immensely grateful for the privilege to work with people who make a difference across our state.

The best part is there is so much more that we will get done in Medora!

Randy
Randy
President & CEO

2023 Scholarship and Ambassador
Award Recipients

LARSON AMBASSADOR AWARDS

- Wander Auer, Musical
- Ami Brookens, Musical
- Shannelle Brown, Pizza Parlor
- Juan Carlos Casillas, Catering
- Anna Cebula, Housekeeping
- Cosmina Cepreaga, Housekeeping
- Antonio Constantinoiu, Fudge Depot
- April Crommett, Reservation Center
- Deb Gray, Retail
- Paul Gray, Retail
- Richard Hamilton, Laundry
- Damian Lawrynnowicz, Point To Point Park
- Yuan Lee, LSC Cafeteria
- Maria Alejandra Magallon, Housekeeping
- Martin Maptula, Food Service
- Edward Perez Matos, LSC Cafeteria
- Petronela Miron, Theodore’s Dining Room
- Beau Munsell, Stables

- Kevin Padilla, Pizza Parlor
- Rachelle Presinal, Theodore’s Dining Room
- Marythssa Rivera, Housekeeping
- Sommer Schaap, Musical
- Miriam Serrano, Fondue
- Melvin Sheppard, Housekeeping/Janitorial
- Nelly Stoeva, Housekeeping
- Przemek Szyller, Point To Point Park
- Ching Tai, Front Desk
- Sin Joe Tan, Front Desk
- Naomi Uwagbai, Reservation Center
- Jolene Wilson, Rough Riders Hotel
- Eddie Winemiller, Personnel
- Lauren Wloszek-Therens, Stables

TJADEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

- Erwin Boenari, Front Desk
- Will Caruso, Accounting
- Joseph Eberle, LSC Cafeteria
- Mackenzie Kelty, Front Desk
- Grace Kilkelly, Stables
- Nora Machin, Reservation Center
- Abby Olson, Fudge Depot
- Emma Quale, Retail
- Connor Roche, Retail
- Maggie Roche, Point To Point Park
- Kenisha Santoso, Front Desk
- Grace Sowa, Retail
- McKenna Thompson, Musical
- Maddie Tice, Personnel
- Abi Wittmeier, Laundry
- Faith Zorn, Group Event Services

SEE THE FULL FEATURE ON PAGES 18 & 19



Sometime in late 1955 or early 1956, Harold Schafer got a letter from a schoolteacher saying her school class was decorating windows by dabbing Glass Wax over cut out stencils. Harold already knew that November and December were the slowest sales months for Glass Wax because people don't wash their windows as often in those months. Harold didn't need a whack on the side of the head to see a sales opportunity. He quickly found a couple of stencil manufacturers whose paper could stand up to Glass Wax, had some Christmas stencils designed, and bought their entire year's output from them. Delivery was set for late August of 1956—no time after that to make more stencils, and after Christmas the stencils were meaningless.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," Harold told *Printers Ink* magazine for a story they did some years later. "Tests convinced us this could be the most fabulous toy ever sold in the history of merchandising in this country. So we shot the works." Harold started advertising on the Mickey Mouse Club and the Perry Como Show 45 days before Christmas. "We bought more TV time during that 45 day period than any other advertiser had ever previously purchased. We spent so much money on promotion that if it had failed, our company would have been out of business."

It was such a successful promotion that stencils sold out before Christmas. Undeterred, Harold flew to Los Angeles where the Perry Como Show was being filmed. When the curtains parted between Como songs, Harold stepped out in front of the cameras and into the living rooms of millions of Americans.

"I told them what had happened, how we had sold out earlier than we thought, and I asked them to lend the stencils they had to their neighbors, so they could decorate their windows too."

"It may sound ridiculous on the face of it, showing up on television and saying that, yet it helped sell probably fifty more carloads of Glass Wax. We never got a definite number - how many loaned theirs out - but the amount of sales we had at that time of the year seemed to say a lot of people took the suggestion. Many who heard me and didn't have stencils asked a neighbor for theirs."

His announcement created a stir across the continent and came to be known as "The Good Neighbor" Commercial.



ROGER MINCH

Bronze Art Collection

This year, Theodore's Dining Room was given the opportunity to host several pieces of Western Heritage. Bronze sculptures by Frederic Remington, are known for his depictions of Western life in the late 19th century. To the left, you can see a few of the sculptures currently on display.

Guests were treated to some of his most famous works. Such as the "Bronco Buster" and the "Outlaw", as well as several pieces depicting Native Americans. The atmosphere of our prestigious dining room has never better.

These pieces of art were shared by our friends at the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. The rest of the Roger Minch collection is on display at the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame in their Hall of Honorees. Be sure to pay a visit to see more works of wonder from various Western artists.



Theodore's 
You can see these statues in person!

Breakfast
Daily | 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Dinner
Wed-Sun | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Medora.com/TheodoresDiningRoom/



When asked what’s special about Medora outside of the physical beauty of the Badlands, one will often hear the same answer: the people. In addition to the town’s residents and full-time employees, there lies another critical group of people who contribute greatly to its beautiful culture, community, and day-to-day operations: the volunteers.

Peggy Gunther, TRMFs Training & Development Specialist, formerly the Director of the Volunteer Program says the majority of TRMF’s volunteers are of retirement age and all come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some of the volunteers are even former TRMF employees. She says they range in age from kids coming with grandparents to the oldest volunteer being 93. Volunteers help out with any and everything from construction, carpentry, painting, and groundworks to scooping ice cream, ushering at the Musical, sweeping patios, and working at the golf course.

“It’s a wide variety of what volunteers do but they are integral to all of the components that make TRMF work, no matter what venue you’re at. There aren’t many venues they aren’t helping out at,” says Gunther.

And the volunteers love it!



“It has always been a great honor for me when I have been chosen to be a TRMF volunteer,” says Volunteer Jeannie Sovak.

“When people volunteer, they develop genuine, lifelong friendships,” says Volunteer Gina Renee Brekke.

“The volunteers come with the attitude of being useful, needed, and vital for the operations of TRMF and that is a self-fulfilling thing for them,” says Gunther. “Being retired myself, that feeling of still being useful, and having something you can contribute – to be part of something bigger than yourself and doing it for others, is hugely satisfying. That’s who these volunteers are.”

This September, TRMF celebrated the volunteers and their 25 years of service with a special ‘homecoming’ event.

“So many people call Medora their home, their second home, their happy place,” says Gunther. “We wanted our volunteers to come home to Medora for a special experience.”

TRMF’s 2023 volunteer extravaganza was a multi-day event. All current and former TRMF volunteers from the past 25 years were invited.

VOLUNTEERS!

On day 1, TRMF’s food service organized a homecoming-like cookout with burgers and bratwurst at the Tjaden Terrace. There were cheerleaders, a coach, and special programming. Gunther worked with TRMF’s marketing department to create a ‘sports network’ and ‘bully public television.’ There was a live band, firepits, and the night ended with smores. It was an incredibly fun and nostalgic evening.

On day 2, the volunteers were given their own itineraries. They included tours of the park, free mini golf, and zipline access. Around town, all the stores were open for shopping and volunteers could enjoy treats like shaved ice. That night, TRMF hosted a semi-formal dinner. The volunteers were formally thanked and shown appreciation. TRMF food service put on a fantastic meal, and ended the night with a beautiful gift – custom made clocks that included a photo of the old Musical. In the photo, Harold Schafer, Sheila Schafer, Lawrence Welk, and the former Governor, Art Link were pictured sitting in the audience. On the bottom half of the clock, was a photo of the new Amphitheatre and the audience, and the whole design was tied together with the signature of Harold along with a short message: ‘thank you volunteers for 25 years.’

Celebrating 25 years of incredible service was a gift to us and hearing how much it meant to out volunteers was wonderful!

“The volunteer event in September was amazing. It was filled with hospitality, gratitude, and thank yous from all the TRMF staff. It was a chance to visit with many volunteers that we previously worked with. It brought together friends in such a positive way that we want to do even more for TRMF. Some call this volunteer program a ‘camp for seniors.’ I call it a chance to give back to my community and my state,” says volunteer, **Diana Roloff**.

“The volunteer reunion in Medora was something to behold. After working in Medora for the past 18 summers as a volunteer I had met hundreds of great people. I may not have remembered all of their names, but the faces, the camaraderie, and the great times we had to talk about were beyond belief. What a great experience. Thank you Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation for pulling this great reunion together,” says volunteer, **Mike Johnson**.

“The volunteer appreciation event in Medora was fantastic! We felt so appreciated!!! It was different to have others serve us when we are so accustomed to being the ones serving! Randy and the whole crew really put out the red carpet for us!! We had a blast with our fellow volunteers! It was so well planned; the entertainment was fabulous, and of course, the food... great as always,” says volunteers, **Linda Layne & Dennis Hoyer**. *“Thank you TRMF for this experience! Can’t wait to go back to Medora!”*

“The 25th Medora Volunteer Celebration this past September was a prime example. I felt I was a kid again just getting dropped off at summer camp for a week of fun! Seeing other friends and volunteers those few days and evenings were extraordinary. Medora, thank you for a wonderful recognition and a priceless memory to cherish,” says volunteer, **Gina Renee Brekke**.

“TRMF empathetically informs volunteers that their hospitality is essential to Medora. The 25th anniversary volunteer celebration was the Foundation showing their hospitality to the volunteers with an over the top experience with all that Medora has to offer,” says volunteers, **Clint & Ardella Larson**.

“When I attended the TRMF volunteer appreciation event in September, I was blown away! In every possible way, from the excursions in the Badlands with beautiful weather, to the main banquet at the Tjaden Terrace, with its exquisite decor and menu, it was obvious how much attention to detail had been considered for us, and I felt so special,” says volunteer, **Jeannie Sovak**. *“All I can say is thank you TRMF and I look forward to volunteering again, I keep my fingers crossed!”*

“It was an amazing event, I don’t know how else to put it,” says **Gunther**.

A Story 35 Years In The Making

Meet Martha Hicks. In 1988, Martha and her husband L.V. visited Medora. Martha and L.V. loved to travel, square dance, collect rocks for their garden and collect memories to share. Unsurprisingly, the couple thought Medora, North Dakota was worth a stop. Before leaving our wonderfully western town, Martha and L.V. stood on the balcony of the Rough Riders Hotel and commemorated the trip with a picture.

Although Martha lost her husband, her love for travel never died. Now, at the age of 88, she's on a mission to return to as many destinations as possible, cherishing old memories and making new ones along the way. This summer, Martha once again traveled to Medora, this time bringing along her daughter, and granddaughter. She hoped to recreate the balcony photo, a small way to revisit and memorialize a decades-old memory.

We heard Martha's mission and knew we had to help. Our Rough Riders Hotel staff jumped to action and made her dream a reality. 35 years later, Martha stood in the same spot where she and her husband made a lasting memory years before.

A million memories and special stories like Martha's live in Medora. The legendary stories of Theodore Roosevelt, the Marquis de Mores, and Harold Schafer aren't far from the spotlight, but the stories that often stay behind the curtain are just as important to our town's character. Year after year, travelers from around the world make personal connections, capture meaningful moments, and create unique memories in Medora - it's why our little town has such a big story.

Then

Now



TEDDY'S GOT NEW TIRES!

Joe Wiegand, world renowned Theodore Roosevelt repressor, spends a lot of his time on the road. Joe travels around the nation to tell the story of Teddy and share the mission of Medora. Now, thanks to Brent and Laurel Nelson and family and Red Rock Ford of Dickinson, he's got a car fit for the journey!

Although this mode of transportation may be a little more modern than Roosevelt's original ride (his horse Manitou) we like to think that Joe's Manitwo-point-0 would get the presidential stamp of approval. The new ride is entirely filled with powerful imagery inspired by Roosevelt, Medora, and patriotism. When Joe travels the highways and byways of America the car is certain to catch some stares, and hopefully some smiles, but more importantly, it will bring new attention to Medora.

Joe and his new wheels have already made appearances in New York, Iowa, Washington, DC, and more. The legacy of Roosevelt and the magic of Medora is quickly covering the world. If you see Joe on the go, be sure to give him a honk, wave, or smile!

Follow Joe's Travels → [Medora.com/TeddyTravels/](https://www.Medora.com/TeddyTravels/)



A Magical Medora Christmas

*Independently Presented By
Bill Sorensen Production*
Old Town Hall Theater

December 1 | 7:30PM
December 2 | 3:00PM & 7:30PM

Celebrate this holiday season with music, comedy, and inspiring Christmas cheer. This holiday favorite is wonderful for the entire family!

Medora stars of the past and present share a wonderful story that will remind us all of the reason for the season!

Tickets available at MedoraChristmas.com

Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas

*Featuring
The Waddington Brothers*
Old Town Hall Theater

December 8 | 7:30PM
December 9 | 2:00PM & 7:30PM
December 10 | 2:00PM



Winter hospitality at its finest! Eats on the streets, shopping, dancing, live music featuring The Waddington Brothers - all amidst western Christmas decor and snow-capped buttes.

Tickets available at Medora.com/CowboyChristmas



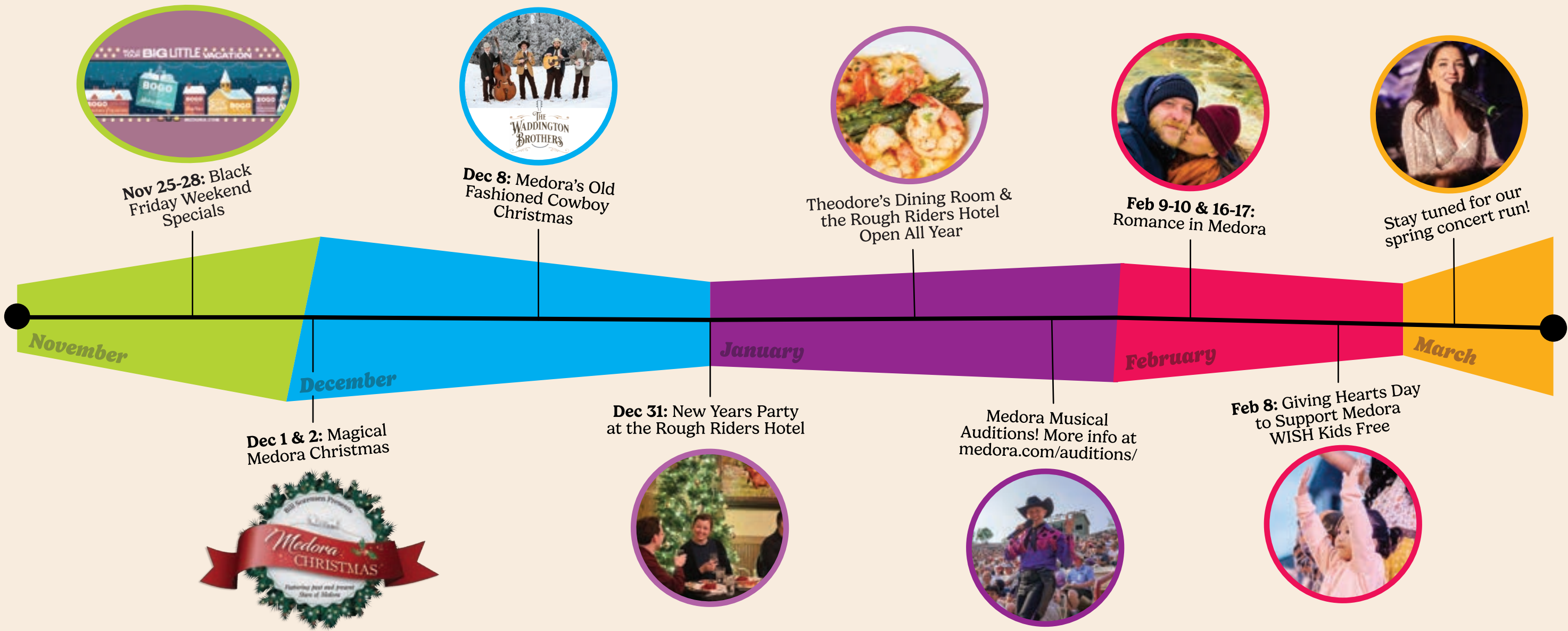
BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY TO THE BADLANDS!

Round up your team or loved ones and getaway in the Badlands. Groups of 20 or more can receive discounted show tickets by calling our group services office at **1-800-MEDORA-1**

Whether it's a family reunion or a corporate retreat, you're in good hands with our Event Services team who would love to help you plan!

Visit Medora.com/Groups to start planning your event!

MORE TO EXPLORE IN MEDORA!



Dates subject to change. Visit Medora.com/Calendar for a full list of what's happening in town.



BLACK FRIDAY WEEKEND DEALS!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 -
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27



Get the best deals of the year and more!
Scan this code or visit
Medora.Com/BlackFriday

Bill Sorensen's Must See Christmas Musical Experience!

Get Tickets at
MedoraChristmas.com



Billings, MT
Nov 25

Miles City, MT
Nov 27

Tioga, ND
Nov 28

Watford City, ND
Nov 28

Williston, ND
Nov 30

Medora, ND
Dec 1

Medora, ND
Dec 2 | 3 PM

Medora, ND
Dec 2 | 7:30 PM

Spearfish, SD
Dec 3

Minot, ND
De 5

Grafton, ND
Dec 6

Northwood, ND
Dec 7

Mayville, ND
Dec 8

Valley City, ND
Dec 9

Grand Forks, ND
Dec 10

Wahpeton, ND
Dec 11

Alexandria, MN
Dec 12

Park Rapids, MN
Dec 13

Ellendale, ND
Dec 14

Devils Lake, ND
Dec 15

Jamestown, ND
Dec 16

Fargo, ND
Dec 17

Fergus Falls, MN
Dec 18

Detroit Lakes, MN
Dec 19

Barnesville, MN
Dec 20

Casselton, ND
Dec 21

Bismarck, ND
Dec 22

Bismarck, ND
Dec 23



Mark your Calendar Giving Hearts Day

and participate in the
Midwest's biggest day of giving!

2024 gifts will go to support Medora WISH, creating more
kids free activities, check out the Theodore Roosevelt Medora
Foundation details at

GivingHeartsDay.org/#/Charity/1177





YEAR END GIVING

The Medora WISH Endowment & Veterans' Day In Medora



2023 was a great year in Medora. Guests enjoyed the Badlands and bustling businesses - all open and fully staffed. TRMF welcomed new board members, had a great Rough Riders Roundup, celebrated 25 years of volunteers, and named new Bully Spirit Award recipients.

With a record number of rooms booked, over 113,000 *Medora Musical* attendees, and TRMF on pace to hit its \$8 million fundraising goal, Director of Development Daniel Gannarelli says it couldn't have been done without Medora's supporters.

"We have a lot of great people that support Medora, specifically through our endowments," says Gannarelli. "It's a blessing and a really great opportunity for donors to help specific groups of people enjoy Medora."

Gannarelli says there were two standouts this year when it came to endowments: The Medora WISH endowment and the Veterans' Day in Medora endowment.

Thanks to generous contributions, over 6,000 kids saw the *Medora Musical* for free – a \$100,000 value. Currently at \$2.3 million of its goal, TRMF is working hard to raise a total of \$7 million for the Medora WISH endowment. "When we hit that goal, kids could attend the *Medora Musical* free forever, which is just a blessing," says Gannarelli. "Who doesn't want to be a part of helping kids have those memories that they'll have for a lifetime?"

Anyone under the age of 17 can benefit from the Medora WISH endowment. Not just North Dakota residents, but people from all over the world.

"It's great for families," says Gannarelli. "It's a way for families to see the Musical and not break the bank in a world where prices just keep going up."

In addition to the Medora WISH endowment, TRMF's Veterans' Day in Medora endowment was also a hit this year. On Sunday, July 9, Veterans and their spouses attended the Musical free of charge thanks to donors who wanted to help the men and women – and their families – who have served our country and protected our way of life.

"People are just helping people," says Gannarelli. "If you want to take care of veterans, we have that for you. If you want to make sure families can afford a family vacation, the Medora WISH endowment is there for you. If you just want to preserve Medora and make sure it's going to be here forever, we've got the Schafer Fund. There are a variety of endowments people can contribute to."



OPENING THE DOORS TO PHILANTHROPY

If you are a taxpayer in the State of North Dakota, an individual is allowed an income tax credit for making a charitable contribution in the form of a planned gift to either a qualified nonprofit organization or to a qualified endowment fund. This credit is equal to 40% of the contribution, up to a maximum credit of \$10,000 (or \$20,000 if married filing a joint return). With the holidays just around the corner, Gannarelli encourages families to talk about their philanthropic interests.

"It's just a great time to talk through what's important to you and your family," says Gannarelli. "What are the communities, programs, and places you want to help so you can make a better State, and in our case, a better Medora."

Without donors, Medora wouldn't exist the way it does today. Gannarelli says it best: "We just couldn't do what we do without the people who give their time, talent, and treasure."



GIFT DESIGNATED TO: _____

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

I AM GIVING:

☐ **\$25,000** Donors at this level will be recognized on a plaque at the Tjaden Terrace in Medora

☐ **\$5,000**

☐ **\$** _____

North Dakota residents who contribute to this endowment may qualify for a 40% tax credit!



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

THE TJADEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Recipients



Melvin Sheppard
Awarded with the
Larson Ambassador Award.



Maggie Roche
Awarded with the
Tjaden Educational Assistance Scholarship.



In 2023 the Tjaden Scholarship Fund awarded nearly \$40,000 in scholarships to students working for TRMF during the summer months. The scholarship program was established over 20 years ago in honor of Rod Tjaden, the first Executive Director for TRMF. The scholarship fund was created via an annual golf tournament where all funds raised from the tournament went into this endowment fund that created scholarships for some of TRMF’s best summer employees.

“School is obviously important to these students, but it’s also important to us as an organization because our vision is to connect people to Medora for positive, life-changing experiences. It’s the belief of the organization and certainly my personal belief that we need to extend that beyond just their time in Medora,” says Clarence Sitter, COO at TRMF. “We can’t do what we do without our employees each and every year and for us to be able to help them is a way to show our gratitude for what they do for us.”

Sitter says the scholarship fund is also part of the legacy of Harold Schafer.

“Harold was one of the most generous people and the quietest philanthropist in North Dakota history. He’s very well known for helping people out so this seems to be the right thing to do,” says Sitter. “To help so many of the college students we hire every summer to come out and make sure the guests have a great experience in Medora.”

TRMF has two different programs under what they call the scholarship umbrella. First, the traditional awards you would give to college students to help offset their school costs. Second, are for our international workforce of students who are studying back in their home country from all different parts of the world.

“Often it can be kind of a challenge to work with the international schools to provide funds in the form of scholarships so one of our generous donors probably 6 or 7 years ago started what’s called the Larson Ambassador Award. Those are awards we give out to our non-student population or some of those international students that do great work for us. They can use those funds to offset their school costs,” says Sitter.

The scholarship criteria includes the number of hours of work done, being in Medora for 12+ weeks, and being an ambassador of Medora by living out the values of what TRMF does in terms of providing hospitality for guests, and more. These students can either nominate themselves, or be nominated by their manager.

Melvin Sheppard is one of those recipients. In the summer of 2023 while Sheppard was working primarily as a janitor at the Rough Riders Hotel. He also worked at the Pitchfork Steak Fondue a couple nights a week for extra hours. After being nominated by his manager, Sheppard was awarded with the Larson Ambassador Award. Sheppard says, “he loved seeing the guests have a good time and is grateful (for the award).”

Maggie Roche, a 2023 recipient of the Tjaden Educational Assistance Scholarship - also nominated by her manager - says she was honored to be the recipient.

“It was a great feeling that my hard work was recognized and appreciated,” says Roche.

Roche has worked in Medora for two summers now. This year, she worked as a supervisor at Point to Point Park.

“It was a lot of fun to be on the first Point to Point staff and be a part of figuring out how Point to Point was going to run,” says Roche. “When I came back this year to work for TRMF for a second summer, I was excited to take a bigger leadership role as a supervisor. When I was not at Point to Point, I enjoyed working at the Musical. It was always awesome to see TRMF employees from all different departments working together at the Musical. I also co-taught an English as a Second Language (ESL) class for employees looking to improve their English skills. Since I am studying education, it was great to gain experience teaching and learn from and about my coworkers.”

Several of the scholarships that are a part of the Tjaden Scholarship Fund have special meaning behind them because when they were initially set up they were named after certain people who either love Medora and wanted to make a contribution to help in that way, or are in memory of some of TRMF’s best employees. Take Sheila Schafer’s ‘Sunshine Award,’ for example, Maggie was the recipient of this award in part due to the joy and kindness she radiates. In addition to the monetary side of the scholarships, the students are also recognized in front of an audience of 2,000+ at the Burning Hills Amphitheatre on Labor Day weekend, where they often get a standing ovation.

When awarded the scholarships, Sitter says more often than not, these students radiate joy and gratitude.

“That sense of accomplishment, joy, and pride that they did a good job and they’re being recognized for it is really, really cool,” says Sitter.

Though the summer of 2023 has come to an end, students like Roche say they are thankful for the experience and lifelong friendships she formed in Medora. “There are many components of working in Medora and for TRMF that I really enjoy so it is hard to pick one favorite, but what would make each work day special was the people,” says Roche.

“Medora is a special place and sometimes it doesn’t even feel like work that we’re doing, and I know a lot of our employees feel the same way,” says Sitter. “One of our donors always says we’re a talent generator and it’s pretty cool. When we talk to our employees later on in their careers, they often say, ‘Medora was the best summer of my life.’ It’s fun to hear how people go on and are successful and Medora was a part of that.”



PRESENTED BY:



Wally Goulet



Niles Hushka



Vern Dosch



Mike Eggl

Growing, Connecting, and Leading!

In October, we hosted our third annual Wisdom Chain Day in Medora – an event devoted to growth and leadership. The Wisdom Chain is an idea derived from one of TRMF’s very best friends, Dick Anderson. When speaking to business partners or making sales calls, Dick would often place the chain on the edge of his desk. Of course, the chain was more than desk décor. It represents a larger philosophy, the importance of every individual, the interconnectedness of each link in the chain. The Wisdom Chain philosophy asks you to consider who else is impacted by your actions, ideas, and attitude. How can you strengthen your link? How can you strengthen the chain? How can leadership change the chain? These questions inspired our 2023 Wisdom Chain Day.

For three days, TRMF employees and business partners explored the idea of servant leadership. Through meaningful connections and conversations, attendees took a deep dive into personal growth and the power of good leadership.

Speakers from Yellowstone Strategies offered their expertise and knowledge through powerful presentations, breakout sessions, and important conversations. However, the event wasn’t all talk. Participants were engaged in trust exercises, guided meditation, and even had the opportunity to get outdoors and connect with nature. “The event was very engaging” says Nicole Pinner, TRMF’s new Volunteer Director, “rather than sitting in one spot listening to person after person speak, we had parts where we were all together, then we broke into groups, we were able to go outside and get fresh air as well as knowledge. Not only did this set up make us very comfortable asking questions, but it also encouraged us to share our stories and experiences.”

Speaker Vern Dosch shared his leadership experience and led the discussion on what it means to be a servant leader. Dosch, former CEO of National Information Solutions Cooperative, shared what sets apart servant leaders and offered advice on how to take on that often-difficult authority role. Beyond the basics of leadership, attendees were asked to consider how to act as a servant leader when faced with obstacles. Mike Eggl, former Senior Vice President at Basin Electric Power Cooperative, helped identify challenges and evaluate how to move the needle forward and create positive change.

To encourage positive change, it’s crucial to establish balance. Former Trial Attorney and state lobbyist, Wally Goulet, worked with attendees to find peace, clarity, and balance. He asked participants to consider where their priorities lay. Through creative methods and personal connection, Goulet helped participants prioritize purpose and maintain focus throughout the ever-changing and challenging role of a servant leader.

Servant Leadership

One of the biggest challenges of leading in a modern world, is adapting to the new tools and technologies that constantly reinvent the way we work. Niles Hushka shared a moving message on how leaders respond to the speed of change. Hushka, former President and CEO of KLJ Engineering offered a fresh perspective on some major changes on the horizon. His inspiring personal journey and diverse background added a unique perspective to the topic.

In its third year, Wisdom Chain Day proved itself a staple event, integral to the growth of both our foundation and our employees. Thanks to the knowledgeable speakers from Yellowstone Strategies, the hard work of event coordinators, and the support from board and business members, our 2023 Wisdom Chain Day was a great success. We’re looking forward to the future of the event and are striving to strengthen the Wisdom Chain in 2024.



NORTH DAKOTA
**PETROLEUM
FOUNDATION**



Bully to our friends at the North Dakota Petroleum Foundation!

Ongoing efforts to innovate and preserve Bully Pulpit Golf Course received a boost in 2022 thanks to the North Dakota Petroleum Foundation. In 2023 our team kept building on that initiative and folks are calling it the best the course has been in years.

‘We’re proud to be long-time supporters of TRMF and Medora. Thousands of oil and gas employees and their families love to experience the beauty of Medora and the Badlands, and we’re glad we can be a part of that legacy for them and TRMF.’

-Ron Ness
CEO, North Dakota Petroleum Foundation
President, North Dakota Petroleum Council



Rough Riders Roundup becoming *Bully Spirit Weekend*

The Rough Riders Roundup, an event hosted for Rough Rider members by TRMF for over 20 years, will see some exciting changes in 2024, including a name rebrand: Bully Spirit Weekend.

“Bully,” is a term coined by Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States. Roosevelt utilized this adjective as an explanation of commendation and excellence.

According to TRMF’s Director of Development, Daniel Gannarelli, ‘Bully Spirit’ is also a tagline often used by TRMFs President & CEO Randy Hatzenbuhler: The bully spirit achieves where others give up.

5 years ago, TRMF developed an award called the Bully Spirit Award. This award honors individuals who have given their time, talent, and treasure to Medora and is considered the highest honor bestowed by TRMF. Nominees are selected by TRMF’s board of directors.



“The Bully Spirit Award is defined by the human soul’s capacity for goodness,” says Gannarelli. “We look for that in people who have been really good to our organization.”

The 2023 Bully Spirit Award winners were Char and Duey Marthaller of Mandan, North Dakota. Each year, the Bully Spirit Award winners are honored with a celebration.

“There’s this old line, ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,’ and while that’s true in many cases, if you don’t incorporate change and make things better, we personally feel like we aren’t doing right by our guests or donors. We wanted to make this even more meaningful for the people who mean the most to our organization, our award winners and our donors,” says Gannarelli.

The 2024 Bully Spirit Weekend will take place July 12-13. The event will include a social, a fondue dinner at Tjaden Terrace, a presentation about the state of the Foundation and new projects coming to Medora, followed by the *Medora Musical*. The next day, attendees will enjoy the Medora Gospel Bunch. This two-day event will allow members to take in Medora’s top attractions and celebrate with fellow members.

“It just feels good to honor the Bully Spirit Award winners and our members in a public way, and also to play that small part in improving people’s lives through friendship and fellowship,” says Gannarelli. “It’s getting people from around the country in the same room to hear about a place they love where they can meet like-minded people. The friendships that walk away from this event, they wouldn’t have without Medora. It’s a special, special thing,” he adds.

It takes a \$350 donation to become a Rough Rider member. Gannarelli says that \$350 can be taken as a full, charitable tax credit, or donors can take one of the 3 other benefit options: two season passes to the *Medora Musical*, 2 rounds of golf at Bully Pulpit golf course, or a \$150 shopping gift card. Members will have their names listed in the *Medora Musical* program, join now through December 31 or at any time next year at ***Foundation.Medora.com/Member***.

“If you believe Medora is good and you believe in our vision of connecting people to Medora for positive, life-changing experiences; that we do change people’s lives for the better; we are a force for good in our state and in the world; and if you can help, we’d encourage you to support as a member,” says Gannarelli. Without donations, we aren’t the Medora we are today. To change people’s lives, we need support, and our members are our bedrock of support.”



Theodore Roosevelt
MEDORA FOUNDATION

Medora
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.

Medora Musical

Bully Pulpit
GOLF COURSE

P.O. Box 1696
Bismarck, ND 58502

Our Development Team

Randy Hatzenbuehler, *President & CEO*

Emily Klym, *Chief Financial Officer*

Daniel Gannarelli, *Development Director*

Kaelee Wallace, *Marketing & Communications Director*

Morgan Bruhn, *Development Assistant*

Sean Cleary, *Major Gift Officer*

Brandy Duarte, *Development Design Specialist*

Mike Kraemer, *Major Gift Officer*

Jordin Leier, *Membership Sales Officer*

Darla Tescher, *Development Accountant*

Joe Wiegand, *TR Reprisor & TRMF Ambassador*

Our Vision

We Connect people to historic Medora for
Positive, Life-Changing Experiences.

Our Mission

PRESERVE the experience of the badlands, the historic character of Medora and the values and heritage of Theodore Roosevelt and Harold Schafer.

PRESENT opportunities for our guests to be educated and inspired through interpretive programs, museums and attractions that focus on the Old West, our patriotic heritage, and the life of Theodore Roosevelt in the Badlands.

SERVE the traveling public, providing for their comfort while visiting historic Medora, the Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Our Values

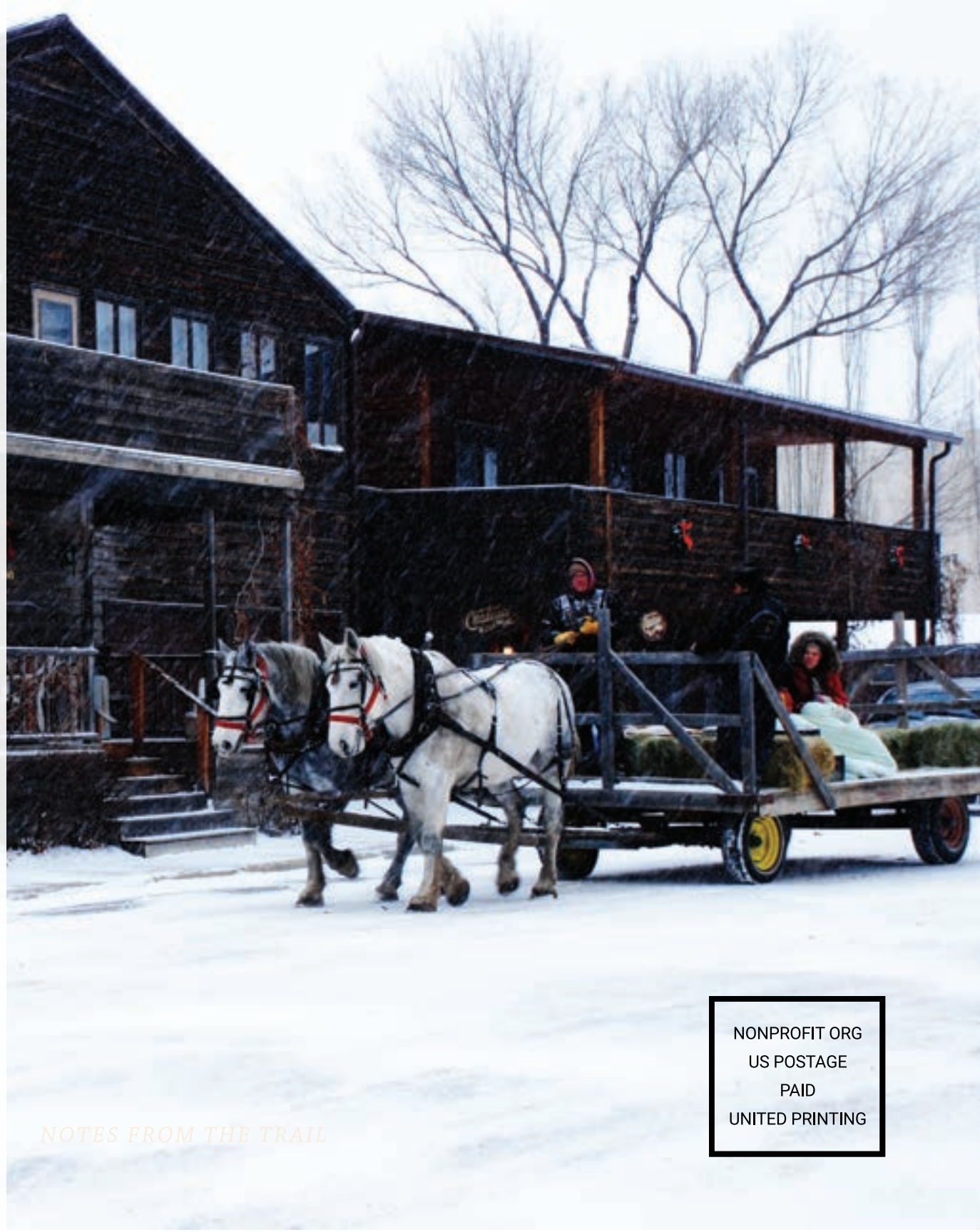
Have **fun**.

Show **respect** for people and place.

Live life with an **ownership** mentality.

Always be **grateful**.

Promote **sales**.



NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

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