

# Chairperson's Report of Directors

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Good evening, everyone. Welcome to the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the Family & Friends Foundation. We are gathered here tonight at the Churchbridge Community Centre to reflect on a year of significant growth and community impact. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces as we share our achievements and look forward to the future together. This year has been defined by significant financial stewardship and impactful community engagement. I am proud to report that we have successfully navigated the past year, enabling us to distribute over \$100,000 in grants this evening. Through prudent fiscal management and the dedication of our board and administrative team, we continue to ensure the long-term sustainability of our mission.

The Foundation currently holds over \$2.3 million in assets. To ensure these funds are managed with transparency and purpose, we utilize several distinct types of endowment funds: restricted funds, which are specifically designated; unrestricted funds; flow-thru funds, which remain separate from the standard grant process; and our reserves. These reserves act as a "rainy day" account, allowing us to maintain our grant-making capacity even during periods when investment returns may not be as high as previously seen, ensuring a consistent level of community support.

I would like to talk about the Restricted funds for a moment. These are the funds that we gathered here tonight to acknowledge the successful grant applications. The Restricted funds are specifically designated by the donor

for particular purposes or locations. For example, the **Trent Fieseler Memorial Fund** is designated to the community of Langenburg, and the **Dennis & Diann Putland Memorial Fund** is dedicated to support Churchbridge Communities in Bloom and Churchbridge Cemetery. We also have an undesignated fund, which provides broad support and is split equally between our three communities. For example, if there is \$3,000 of interest available to grant, each community receives \$1,000 to be applied to approved local projects.

**In essence, the more capital donated to your community's specific funds, the greater the capacity we have to support your local projects.** Additionally, we continue to fund initiatives that benefit the region as a whole. Projects such as those supporting the **Centennial Care Home** provide value to residents across multiple communities, embodying our commitment to regional well-being.

The grant application process is the heartbeat of our organization. The Board is consistently faced with the difficult decision of selecting the successful grant recipients from a pool of worthy initiatives. While we evaluate many factors—including the completeness of applications and the direct focus of the funds—the task of choosing between such important community projects is never an easy one. It is a responsibility we hold with great weight, knowing that our decisions directly impact the lives of those we serve.

We recently hosted a **Gratitude Evening** which is a true reflection of our organization's passion. We shared personal stories of endowment start-ups, enjoyed local choir performances, and unveiled our next major

partnership with the **Partners in Health committee** for the **Palliative Solarium project**. I am delighted to announce that the Gratitude Evening raised about \$15,000 from ticket sales and donations to go towards this initiative.

The Family and Friends Foundation thrives because of your generosity. Ways to continue to support the foundation are:

- **Digital Giving:** E-transfers are welcome.
- **In-Person:** Drop off a cheque at **Smalltown Financial**.
- **By Mail:** We welcome mailed donations at any time.
- **Leave a Legacy:** With a gift of **\$5,000**, you can establish your own endowment, creating a lasting impact for your specific community for generations to come.
- We can accept stocks and investments for efficient tax planning

The remarkable success of this year is credit to the collective dedication and achievement of my fellow board members, including our valued administrative team which consists of:

- **Board of Directors:** Don Layh (Vice Chair), Janessa Liepert, Elliana Margarit, Brian Ingjaldson, Fallon Prince, Roly Schappert, Jami Andres, Patti Zerr, and Alex Witzke.
  - *A special thank you to **Janessa Liepert** for your dedicated service; your contributions throughout your term have been invaluable.*
- **Administrative Team:** A heartfelt thank you to **Jill Faul (Program Administrator)** and **Megan Nerbas (Finance Administrator)**. Your

tireless work behind the scenes keeps our operations running smoothly.

As we complete another of the foundation, I end with great optimism. We have built a robust financial platform and fostered deep community partnerships that are well-positioned for growth. I am confident that the future of this organization will continue to have a great impact for the communities we serve.