



Contacts:
Julie Haugen, Institute Director, Impact Foundation
juliehaugen@impactfdn.org (701) 356-3133
Pat Traynor, Executive Director, Impact Foundation
pattraynor@dakmed.org (701) 271-0263

Impact Foundation Launches Leadership Initiative for North Dakota Nonprofits

\$2 million grant from Bush Foundation will assist nonprofits across North Dakota

February 24, 2009, Fargo, ND – The Impact Foundation announced a statewide capacity-building initiative today that will benefit nonprofit organizations across North Dakota. Assisted by a \$2 million grant from the St. Paul, MN-based Bush Foundation, the Impact Leadership Institute will provide training, education and resources to increase nonprofit efficiency, reenergize nonprofit boards, improve communication strategies, increase revenues and diversify nonprofit funding streams. Impact estimates about 800 nonprofit executives, board members and staff will be trained through this initiative.

“North Dakota communities rely on nonprofit organizations for vital services,” said Bush Foundation President Peter C. Hutchinson. “We formed this partnership with the Impact Foundation so nonprofits could receive the training and support that will allow them to be even stronger leaders as they identify problems and work with communities to solve them.”

“The generous funding from the Bush Foundation allows the Institute to greatly improve its capacity-building services for nonprofits throughout North Dakota,” said Impact Foundation Executive Director Pat Traynor. “This exciting new leadership initiative includes an ambassador network with members representing communities across the state to help guide the initiative.”

Jim Davis, President of Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt, will chair the Institute Ambassador Network. According to Davis, “A major component of the initiative will be establishing a new nonprofit leadership center for board members and executive directors. Leadership Advanced North Dakota (LAND) will produce and network more capable leaders, highly effective management and strong governance that will improve the societal impact of nonprofits statewide.”

The LAND program will be led by David La Piana, founder of La Piana Associates of Emeryville, C.A. A popular speaker and teacher, La Piana is a regular contributor to the national dialogue on nonprofit leadership and foundation effectiveness. He has written several books and has developed a training program to create empowered, innovative and resilient executives, capable of navigating change and moving their organizations toward social innovation with greater impact. La Piana’s latest book is *The Nonprofit Strategy Revolution: Real-Time Strategic Planning in a Rapid-Response World*.

The Impact Leadership Institute has contracted with the North Dakota Association of Nonprofits to coordinate training and education throughout the state.

Impact Foundation, with support of Dakota Medical and Alex Stern Family Foundations was launched in 2004 to build the capacity of nonprofits, businesses and individuals to maximize their societal impact. Over 100 nonprofits have participated in the Impact Institute’s capacity-building programs, and over \$1.1 million has been donated to nonprofits through www.impactgiveback.org.

Bush Foundation was established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth. The Foundation strives to be a catalyst to shape vibrant communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota by investing in courageous and effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well-being of people in these three states. For more information visit www.bushfoundation.org.