We invite you to join us in enriching the unforgettable memories and traditions you experience only at the Minnesota State Fair!

To our supporters-

There is a reason it’s called the Great Minnesota Get-Together! In 2019, an overall record of 2,126,551 people attended the fair over the course of its 12-day run. While the number itself is impressive, what’s even more amazing is the amount of unique experiences, new things learned, and memories made.

The Foundation is proud to be a part of enriching the unforgettable memories and traditions you experience only at the Minnesota State Fair. It’s an experience that can be simultaneously highly personal and broadly shared. It is unique in its diversity, representing all ages, geographies, cultures and abilities together in one place. The memories and traditions it creates are important parts of who we are as individuals, families and communities.

Whether you spend all of your time admiring the cakes and quilts, visiting the animals, looking at award-winning fruits and flowers, eating food-on-a-stick or people watching, the Minnesota State Fair is a key shared experience and a collective tradition. Thank you for helping to keep this tradition going strong and making millions of memories even more special.

Sincerely,

Sandy Craighead
Chair, Board of Directors

Mary Chung
Executive Director

msffoundation.org
Contributions from our generous donors fuel the Minnesota State Fair Foundation

Through the support of our Friends of the Fair, special project and program donors, Taste of the Fair guests and volunteers, the Foundation was able to grant $1,001,250 to the Minnesota State Fair in 2019. From the new North End development to the livestock complex with many of the fairgrounds’ oldest buildings, donations funded projects and programs across the fairgrounds and all five of our priority areas, including:

**AGRICULTURE**
- Renovations and improvements to the Swine Barn, renamed Robert A. Christensen Pavilion
- Support for the new loading ramp at the Cattle Barn
- Supreme Champion awards

**ARTS & CULTURE**
- Support for the Indigenous Food Lab at Dan Patch Park
- Studio:Here art demonstrations
- Fine Arts awards

**EDUCATION**
- Support for the new North End development
- Support for bee programming

**FAIRGROUNDS ENVIRONMENT**
- Tables, benches and bricks
- Care for trees and green space
- Fans at the Ramberg Music Café

**HISTORY & HERITAGE**
- History & Heritage Center
- Minnesota State Fair History Exhibit
- State Fair archives

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Statements of Financial Position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10/31/19</th>
<th>10/31/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$ 3,796,174</td>
<td>$ 2,939,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$ 108,770</td>
<td>$ 95,952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets: Undesignated</td>
<td>$ 1,406,057</td>
<td>$ 1,089,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets: Board Designated – Fine Arts</td>
<td>$ 75,538</td>
<td>$ 64,689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets: With Donor Restriction</td>
<td>$ 2,205,809</td>
<td>$ 1,689,338</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 3,687,404</td>
<td>$ 2,843,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$ 3,796,174</td>
<td>$ 2,939,520</td>
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**Statements of Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$ 2,093,744</td>
<td>$ 1,856,139</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support from the Minnesota State Agricultural Society (State Fair)</td>
<td>$ 149,979</td>
<td>$ 213,690</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind Contributions</td>
<td>$ 60,247</td>
<td>$ 283,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events, Net of Direct Benefits</td>
<td>$ 106,155</td>
<td>$ 101,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>$ 511</td>
<td>$ 7,583</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized Gains on Investments</td>
<td>$ 155,948</td>
<td>$(3,203)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchandise Sales, Net</td>
<td>$ 304,089</td>
<td>$ 264,281</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>$ 2,870,673</td>
<td>$ 2,723,712</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$ 1,220,753</td>
<td>$ 1,675,533</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and Administration</td>
<td>$ 282,483</td>
<td>$ 331,156</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$ 523,601</td>
<td>$ 491,766</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$ 2,026,837</td>
<td>$ 2,498,455</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGES IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$ 843,836</td>
<td>$ 225,257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Assets, Beginning | $ 2,843,568 | $ 2,618,311|
Net Assets, Ending   | $ 3,687,404  | $ 2,843,568|

msffoundation.org
Endowment

In addition to providing funding for current programs, the Foundation’s endowment saw strong growth in 2019 with the addition of four new named endowment funds as well as growth in the endowment general fund. During the year, $22,080 in grants were made from the Foundation endowment. As of Oct. 31, 2019, the Foundation held endowments of $1,170,841 with an additional $217,881 in pledge commitments which will help to provide support for the Minnesota State Fair in perpetuity.

Gifts that last Forever

An endowed fund with the Minnesota State Fair Foundation is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding for the Great Minnesota Get-Together. Endowment assets are invested and each year a portion of the fund is paid out to support its purpose. Earnings above the amount distributed are used to build the fund’s value so the endowment can grow and provide support for its designated purpose in perpetuity.

Thank you to the donors who have created or contributed to the following endowments. You have invested in a permanent legacy of support for the Minnesota State Fair.

- **Minnesota State Fair Foundation General Endowment**
- **Kay Cady Endowment Fund** for the fairgrounds
- **Alan Calavano Fund** for history and heritage programs
- **Cavallaro Fund for The North End**
- **Marie Cavallaro Fund for Education** programs and activities
- **The Robert A. Christensen Pavilion Maintenance Fund**
- **Christensen Family Fund for Youth Scholarships**
- **Mitch and Laurie Davis Fund for Animal Agriculture**
- **Ray Diekrager Fund for campaign initiatives and history projects**
- **Fabie Family State Fair Endowment Fund** for the Foundation and its mission
- **Rosella Fefercorn Fund for the Minnesota State Fair Punch List**
- **Audrey and George Gustafson Fund for the Minnesota State Fair maintenance and improvements**
- **Jeff and Diane Hawkins Family Fund** for agricultural programs
- **Ginny Hubbard Fund** for access and accessibility
- **Huntington-Eilertson Family Fund** for arts, crafts, cultural programs and competitions
- **Dick and Peggy Lidstad Fund for Bee Programming**
- **Minnesota Livestock Breeders’ Association Agricultural Fund for Livestock**
- **Minnesota State Fair Archive Project Endowment**
- **Minnesota State Fair Endowment for Trees**
- **Sorensen Family Minnesota State Fair Endowment** to preserve the legacy of the State Fair and Minnesota
- **Werner-Jameson Family Fund** for beautification and improvements to the fairgrounds

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**Endowment Investments & Pledges**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endowment</th>
<th>Investments &amp; Pledges</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$211,345</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts and Culture</td>
<td>$234,841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$120,192</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairgrounds Environment</td>
<td>$247,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Heritage</td>
<td>$172,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>$402,065</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,388,722</strong></td>
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**Donor Restricted Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Restricted</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$1,388,722</td>
<td>$1,092,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds Restricted for Special Projects</td>
<td>$817,087</td>
<td>$596,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,205,809</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,689,338</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

msffoundation.org
In 1854, a group of Minnesotans had great foresight as they launched what we now know and love as the Minnesota State Fair. Their vision and dedication created a fair that would become one of Minnesota’s premier institutions which endures today as a time-honored and beloved tradition.

In honor of our fair’s beginnings, we are launching the new 1854 Society which recognizes our forward-thinking donors who have made planned gifts and shown dedication to benefiting the fair beyond their lifetimes.

To become a member of the 1854 Society and have a meaningful impact on the future of the fair, you can make a gift from your estate by including the Minnesota State Fair Foundation in your will or trust, or naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account. There are also planned gift options that provide income to you or others.

If you have already included the Minnesota State Fair Foundation in your estate plans, thank you! In order to enroll you in the 1854 Society, we need to know a little more about you.

Donor Profile: Jack & Leila Nessen

Jack and Leila Nessen have been active contributors to the Minnesota State Fair Foundation since its very inception. The couple, who split their time between Turtle Lake, Wis., and the Big Island of Hawaii, are part of the “First 100,” a group of donors whose contributions helped fund the Foundation’s creation in 2002.

In 2019, Jack and Leila achieved another first, as the initial donors to establish a charitable gift annuity to benefit the Foundation. “A Foundation staff member mentioned that they had a ‘menu of options’ for donating to the Foundation, and I realized there was one option that was not yet on that menu. We’d established charitable annuities benefiting other organizations and felt this would be a good option for both the Foundation and other people interested in this particular type of legacy gift,” said Jack. “Leila and I wanted to be the first to get the ball rolling.”

The Nessens’ planned gift will provide them with tax-favored income throughout their lives and income to the Foundation in perpetuity. The amounts donors are paid are determined by the American Council on Gift Annuities and based on the ages of the donors. This type of gift may also offer additional tax advantages for
about your plans and what you wish to support with your gift.

If you have, or are considering, a planned gift please contact us. Over the course of the next year, we will be documenting these gifts, and we will publish the list of inaugural members of the 1854 Society.

Please call us at 651-288-4326 to talk about how a planned gift may help you meet your philanthropic goals. You can also learn more about planned gifts by visiting plannedgiving.msffoundation.org.

Some donors. “Though this was a new type of gift for the Foundation, the work they did to get this program set up was just perfect,” said Jack. “As fair junkies, we felt fortunate to be the first to make this type of gift.”

During their 57 years of marriage, the couple has never missed a visit to the annual State Fair. Jack still attends the fair five times annually, and Leila four times, even though each visit requires a 140-mile round trip from their home. They have a tradition of starting each visit the same way – with breakfast at a favorite fair location, before heading off to sell Blue Ribbon Bargain Books as volunteers for the Foundation. “I never get tired of volunteering at the fair,” said Leila. “You meet the most interesting people. It’s a lot of fun and I don’t consider it work.”

For more than 120 years, the John Deere Company has participated in the Minnesota State Fair as a steadfast icon of Machinery Hill. Over the years, they have built several buildings, delighted fair visitors with baby buffalos and giant overalls, and most importantly, exhibited giant tractors and combines which gave fair visitors through the ages a glimpse into the future of farming. Throughout the years they have adapted to changing times and audiences while remaining a popular fixture at the fair. During the 2019 State Fair, John Deere was presented with the Minnesota State Fair Foundation’s Legacy Award for their century-plus role in making the Minnesota State Fair the treasured experience it is today.

“We are extremely honored to receive this award,” said Doug Anderson, President of John Deere Fair Dealers, who accepted the award along with John Deere Division Sales Manager Steve Drissel. “We’ve been a part of the Minnesota State Fair since the late 1800s. John Deere and the fair have grown up together. Our shared link to agriculture remains important for both of us and we value our ongoing partnership with the fair and our historical role as an agriculture resource.”

In addition to their long tenure as an exhibitor, John Deere has participated in the fair in other ways, including as a partner in pulling trains in the State Fair daily parade, as an early sponsor of Bicycle Day at the fair, and more recently as sponsor of the Little Farm Hands exhibit.

John Deere continues to demonstrate agricultural equipment at the fair, showcasing products such as lawn mowers, tractors and other technological innovations that appeal to today’s audience of homeowners, hobby farmers and small agricultural producers.
The New North End

In 2019, the fair debuted the new North End! Anchoring the neighborhood is the new North End Event Center, a 12,000-square-foot exhibit hall that will house annually changing museum-quality exhibits. In its inaugural year, the North End Event Center featured ANGRY BIRDS UNIVERSE: THE EXHIBITION, a hands-on adventure of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities enjoyed by more than 120,000 guests.

Visitors to the North End were greeted at a new plaza that highlights Minnesota industry, history and culture. Within it is a new landmark, the 24-foot tall Minnesota Corn Fairstalk, where visitors flocked to take selfies and create photographic memories. Named for the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council in recognition of their gift to the North End Project, the Fairstalk celebrates Minnesota's agricultural heritage.

“The Minnesota Corn Growers Association and the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council supported the North End Project in order to share the important role agriculture plays in our state with the millions who attend the fair each year,” said Adam Birr, Minnesota Corn Growers Association executive director. “The sculpture does a beautiful job shining a light on the many ways our farmers benefit all Minnesotans, and we look forward to it being an iconic attraction for years to come.”

Since 2002, the Minnesota State Fair Foundation has been the State Fair’s fundraising partner for capital and program improvements in agriculture, art, the fairgrounds environment, history and education. Through the generosity of our donors, the Foundation has been able to grant a total of $14.7 million for major capital improvements and program enhancements, helping to produce a State Fair that is relevant to our communities, while also preserving many traditions and developing new initiatives.

In 2019, the Foundation was proud to be part of several projects across the fairgrounds, including the development of the new North End and the Swine Barn Improvement Project.
The swine barn plays an integral role in bringing together swine industry leaders, thousands of 4-H, FFA and open-class exhibitors, as well as millions of fair guests in the generations-old tradition of showing animals and showcasing the best in our state’s agriculture.

Built more than 80 years ago, the heavily used swine barn needed improvements to support the health, safety and overall experience of exhibitors, livestock and fair guests. Recognizing the critical role that a significantly improved and updated swine facility at the State Fair would play in advancing the swine industry, Christensen Farms made a generous lead gift to the project to honor the legacy of the late Bob Christensen. In 2019, the swine barn was renamed Robert A. Christensen Pavilion.

Further gifts to the campaign are funding significant capital improvements to the facility over several years to improve biosecurity, ventilation, lighting, technology and more. In all, the Swine Barn Improvement Project is a $2.5 million investment. We are honored by those who have joined us in supporting the education and exhibition tradition of the swine barn, including Meg and Brad Freking, owners of New Fashion Pork, whose generous gift to the campaign will have a great impact going forward. In recognition of their gift to the project, the east show ring will be named the New Fashion Pork Show Ring.

“Pork is an important industry in Minnesota, and we want that industry to be showcased in the best light possible at the Minnesota State Fair,” said Brad. “Plus, we are believers in giving back.” “Our family has a tradition of showing animals at the fair,” added Meg. “Making a gift to the Swine Barn Campaign was a way to demonstrate our gratitude for the experiences we’ve had there over the years.”
Thank you to our Grand Champions!

The Minnesota State Fair Foundation gratefully acknowledges our 302 Grand Champions who provided support in 2019. You play an important role in fulfilling our mission of helping the Minnesota State Fair continue to thrive. Thank you for enriching the unforgettable memories and traditions experienced only at the Minnesota State Fair!

Join other Grand Champions and invest annually in preserving and improving the Minnesota State Fair.

Why Be A Grand Champion?

Grand Champions are invited to events throughout the year which give a peek behind the scenes of the Great Minnesota Get-Together and they receive special recognition annually on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

How Can I Become A 2020 Grand Champion?

To receive recognition as a Grand Champion this year make a gift of $1,000 or more. You may choose to support one of our five program areas, sign up to be a Friend of the Fair at the Purple Ribbon level or above, customize a bench or table on the fairgrounds, or donate to one of our endowments or capital projects.

We acknowledge you for your generous support! Donors listed here gave to endowments, State Fair programs and projects, campaigns, fundraising events and Foundation operations. Gifts and pledges listed here represent contributions of $250 or more made between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2019.

Our complete list of fiscal year 2019 contributors can be found at msffoundation.org.

Best efforts are made to include your name(s) correctly. We apologize for any errors and ask that you let us know by calling 651-288-4327.

ORGANIZATIONS

$50,000 +
• Christensen Farms
• Minnesota Corn Growers Association
• New Fashion Pork

$25,000 - $49,999
• Humana
• Manitou Fund
• Minnesota Historical Society

$10,000 - $24,999
• Ames Construction Inc.
• By The Yard Inc.
• John E. Desmond and Janet C. Desmond Foundation
• Dino's Gyros
• Fresh French Fries
• Gale Family Foundation
• Margaret H. and James E. Kelley Foundation Inc.
• McCoug Construction
• Minnesota Beverage Association
• The Scrooby Foundation
• Sweet Martha’s Cookie Jar

$5,000 - $9,999
• Allied Blacktop Company
• Compact Family Farms Inc.
• Dellwood Foundation
• Holden Farms
• LuLu’s Public House
• McCarthy Bjurklund Foundation
• Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation
• The Eric and AJ Snyder Family Foundation

$2,500 - $4,999
• Abbot Downing
• The Ball Park Cafe
• Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett P.A.
• J.B. Nelson and Son Inc.
• The Longview Foundation - Mary C. Dolan
• Mancini’s
• Pronto Pups
• River Raft Ride Inc.
• Sampson Family Charitable Foundation
• Sleep Number
• St. Paul Area Association of Realtors
• Strawberry Patch
• TKDA Engineers Architects Planners
• The Wetzel Foundation

$1,000 - $2,499
• AgCountry Farm Credit Services
• American Restaurant Consultants Inc.
• Bailey Nurseries Inc.
• Blue Plate Restaurant Company Inc.
• Jerome J. and Ursula Chromanski Family Foundation
• Cinnie Smiths - Good Food Concessions
• Clifton Larson Allen
• Collins Electrical
• Culver Franchising System LLC
• Cuningham Group Architecture P.A.
• Fredrikson & Byron
• Fredrikson & Byron Foundation
• Giggles’ Campfire Grill
• Gray Plant Mooty Foundation
• Green Mill Restaurant
• Hubbard Broadcasting Inc.
• Juanita’s Fajitas
• Kennedy Communications Ltd.
• Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren LTD Foundation
• Lieberman Companies
• The Longview Foundation - Eleanor and Fred Winston
• Lorenz Bus Service
• Maertens-Brenny Construction Co.
• Minnesota Rusco Inc.
• MOAC Mall Holdings LLC
• Old National Bank
• Peterson Brothers Roofing
• Pugsley Fund of the HRK Foundation
• Roseville Visitors Association
• Bud Rotter Family Foundation
• Siggins Plumbing & Heating
• Thelma’s
• Tot Boss
• Twin City Jacuzzi LLC
• Vagabond Imports of South America
• West Indies Soul Food

$250 - $999
• Alamo Amusements Inc.
• Ameriprise Financial Employee Matching Gift Program
• Becker Concessions
• Big Bell Ice Cream
• Bongards’ Creamery
• Branson Builders & Contractors Inc.
• Custom Remodelers Inc.
• Daryl’s Dog House
• The First Impression Group
• Gonko and Vavreck Law
• Grandstand Donuts
• Groth Family Farms
• Harrington Enterprises
• Kilian Truck Line
• Lakeside Products
• Land O’Lakes Foundation
• Lemonade - Wiles Enterprises
• Midway Men’s Club
• Minnesota Dairy Goat Association
• Minnesota Farmers Union
• Minnesota Federation of County Fairs - District 2
• Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
• Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation
• Northern Stars Homecare
• Patio Umbrellas - M&E Sales
• Ramsey County Fair
• Reigstad & Associates
• St. Paul East Parks Lions Club
• St. Paul Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 34
• Starr International Trading
• Syndicate Sales Corp.
• Thivent
• Two Rivers Kettle Korn
• Udder Tech Inc.
• Watt Second Studios
• Zeller Realty Group

$100 - $249
• African Violet Society of Minnesota
• Anchor Coffee House - Coffee Bar LLC
• Apple Dumplings - Rutana Concessions
• Best Buy Co. Inc.
• Carver County Fair
• Cotton Candy - Immeman
• Country Scones & Coffee
• Crow Wing County Fair
• Donna’s Bar-B-Q Rib Sandwich
• Exotic Everest Imports
• Future Vision Phone Accessories
• Haferman Water Conditioning Inc.
• Hopkins Food Service Inc.
• J D Fair Dealers LLC
• Leimon Pizzeria Inc.
• Marshall County Fair
• Mexican Hat
• Mickey’s Grill & Kabobs - Ormic Concessions
• Minnesota Apples Inc.
• Neuenfeldt & Co.
• Oasis Aqua Massage
• Push Pedal Pull
• Retired Agriculture
• Midwesterners Society
• Rio Grooming School & Salon
• Roberta’s Inc.
• Sharon and James Co.
• The Standard Employee Giving Campaign
• Summit Fire Protection
• Swine Services Unlimited Inc.
• Tenth Judicial District Judges Association
• Three B’s LLC
• UnitedHealth Group Inc.
Sometimes a bench is more than just a place to sit down.

For the Horns, a bench is a way of commemorating the important people and events in their life in a meaningful and lasting way. Long-time annual contributors to the Minnesota State Fair Foundation, Bob and Anne have donated 10 benches and counting, which bear the names of their children and grandchildren along with a bench that celebrates Bob’s family’s farming heritage. The commemorative benches are placed throughout the fairgrounds for use by the fair’s 2 million guests each year.

In 2019, Bob donated two benches to the fair. The first one was inscribed “Anne + Bob 50” to mark the 50th anniversary of his marriage to Anne, who lives with Parkinson’s disease and dementia. The second bench commemorates a concert by the Giving Voices Chorus, which is comprised of people living with dementia and their caregivers. Bob and Anne were members of that chorus and part of the group’s sold-out Love Never Forgets concert in 2018 at the Ordway Concert Hall in St. Paul. On that bench, an inscription reads “LOVE NVR FRGTS.”

“Donating to the Foundation’s bench program is a way of remembering a loved one, or a good time, while also making a contribution that provides a concrete function that others can enjoy,” said Bob. “I’ve seen people gathered around ‘their’ bench with their family and friends, sharing stories and smiles. When you donate a bench, you are offered the chance to share a memory with loved ones as well as offering a glimpse of your story to other people.”

Anne and Bob actively volunteered for the Foundation many times together, and Bob continues to volunteer each year. “You see the full spectrum of life experiences at the fair, all ages and all levels of ability,” said Bob. “The fair really captures people’s hearts, because it’s a place where everyone is welcome.”

Donor Profile:
Bob & Anne Horn
TASTE of the Fair 2020
August 16, 2019

Over 1,200 Foundation supporters came together to enjoy a night of food and beverage, music, and games to raise funds in support of the mission of the Minnesota State Fair Foundation and kick off the 2019 State Fair.

Save the Date: TASTE OF THE FAIR 2020 will be held on August 20th.
Ticket information will be available this summer!

msffoundation.org

August 20th, 2019
Since moving to the Twin Cities 30 years ago, John Fabie and his family have made it a tradition to attend the fair together each year. “Every year provides a special memory at the fair,” he said. “Being a part of the Foundation which serves this great fair has been an honor.”

The Senior Director of Foundations and Endowments at Abbot Downing has served on the Minnesota State Fair Foundation’s Board of Directors from 2011 until completing its third term in early 2020. During his tenure, John was instrumental in launching the Foundation’s endowment program in 2011 and growing it to more than $1.3 million today. In addition, John established The Fabie Fund for General Support of the Foundation and its mission in 2012, which was one of the organization’s first named endowments.

“Going forward, the endowment will allow the Foundation to make grants, fund large projects and be another vehicle for raising capital at the fair,” said John. While he has completed his Board service, he plans to stay on as a volunteer for the Foundation’s investment committee, with a goal of seeing the endowment reach $10 million in assets.

Thank you to outgoing Board member

John Fabie
We are pleased to welcome five new members to the Foundation Board in 2020.

**Eric Britt**  
Market President, Old National Bank

**Ted Johnson**  
Chief Strategy Officer, Minnesota Timberwolves

**Catherine Lawrence**  
Chief Development Officer, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

**Paul Merkins**  
President, Minnesota State Agricultural Society

**Dave Mona**  
Retired, Chairman and Founder of Weber Shandwick (formerly Mona Meyer McGrath & Gavin)

**Frank Parisi**  
Retired, Communications Executive

**Brad Ribar**  
Business Owner, Ribco Enterprises

**Ken Sandvik**  
Retired, District Court Judge for Minnesota

**Dan Shogren**  
Manufacturers’ Representative

**Dave Sorensen**  
Retired, Vice President Worldwide Sourcing, General Mills

**Michael Sullivan**  
Partner in Charge, Minneapolis Office- Lathrop GPM LLP (formerly Gray Plant Mooty)

**Linda Tank**  
Senior Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs, CHS Inc.

**Directors Emeriti:**  
Steve Elertson  
Joe Fox  
Terry Gilberstadt  
Dave Hyslop  
David Johnson  
Malcolm McDonald  
Mike Miles*  
Clarice Schmidt

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Thank you to our outgoing board members, John Fabie and Paul Merkins, for their time serving and leading the Minnesota State Fair Foundation Board of Directors.
TRIBUTES
IN HONOR OF
Marilyn Albers
duncan anderson
erin arboe
Lucille armstead
John and Sharon Beardsley
The William Blank family
Sherry and rich bombard
The Bommarito family
Curt bowen
Leonard Brunjes
James dedin and debbie welle
Lynette and Bruce wendellord
Jamie wenda
Alexandra Wennberg
Sara wentzien
Steven Wertz
John and Andrea wheeler
Ruthann white
David and mimi wick
Jane Wicklender
Linda wigfield
Paul and becky wigley
Candace and mike wilkinson
Bridget williams
Donovan williams
Eva Ann williams
Carrie wilmot, bill and emma brown
Diana Wilson
James Wilson
Mary Wilson and Patrick Wilson
Jim and Lori winter
Jennifer wiste
Sue and roy witte
Dwaine and Dorothy Witter
Bradley wolf
Allison wolf
Holly wolfe
Keely wolter
Joan and Mark Wolters
Tim wong and jodi pope
Jim woodford
Steven woodford
Beverly woods
Sarah wieszner
Sandra wright
Maiai and moua yang
Jody youngblood
Sabra zahn
Mary zahradka
Renee and Larry zappa
Heather and rob zarrett
Eugene and theresa zerwas
Ronald and susan zils
Eileen zimmer
Steve zwicky

*deceased

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Tim abraham
James L. ”Jim” Adams
Lorna Adams
michele additiong
Chuck albers
Paige Elizabeth Albertson-Bishop
Judith albrecht
Gene almquist
Diane susan kehr alton
Alfred W. Anderson
dede husak Anderson
Gordon Anderson
Donald E. anger
Lauren apfen
Marian apfen
Harv armstead
Kyer, kobe, pixie and brady armstrong-davis
Donna atkinson
Linda M. bade
Robert bade
Macey balzer
Joseph Barrett
Robert and caren barstow
Edgar bathke
Timothy J. beckmann
John beeson
Debbie Leigh Bell
Sharon Bennett-Bronn
Linda R. Berg
karol “bud” berglind
Dick and jan bernard
Donna and charlie betz
Mike bigaoutte
Al and vi birkholz
Greg bjork
Mary alice blais
Chief Art Blakey
Brad bong
Jill Borchert
Susan bous
Karen Bracken
Jeffrey Lester brevig
kelly Jo Brousseau
Gary brown
Donn C. Bruess
Leona Budzynski
Laron “Fritz” Burdick
Alan Calavano
Carl Cardamon
Dennis Carlson
Paula Vavrecek
Louise Vossberg
Tammie weinfurter
Theresa weinfurter
Mollie and Chad wood
Alice Woolever
Grandma Youngblood and grandma Larson
Chester Zaiser

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• Matthew Conlin
• Laurie Loveridge Conway
• David Cooper
• Bill Cosgriff
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• Ken Dahlberg
• John Derham
• Ray Diekraeger
• Digger
• Rita Ellis
• Robert Engstrom
• Ray Erickson
• Stan Fairchild
• Kevin Finley
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• Lin Froncak
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• Gordon Shulstad
• Oriss and Leona Shulstad
• Idabelle Sigefried
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