

*Enhancing  
eye health  
through  
education,  
research and  
community service  
for people of the  
Northern Plains.*



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## SPREADING LIGHT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

*There are two ways of spreading light -  
to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*

— Edith Wharton, *Vesalius in Zante*

As the Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) reflects on the past and develops initiatives to lead the Foundation into the future, we must relay deep appreciation for our many partners who allow NPEF to serve our region by enhancing eye health for the people of the Northern Plains. We are deeply grateful to these partners, the “candles” and “mirrors” from which the Foundation is “spreading light” throughout the communities we serve.

The Foundation’s 2009 Christmas Gift of Sight Program embodies this in the truest sense of the word. As one of NPEF’s flagship programs, Christmas Gift of Sight awards sight saving surgery to an individual in need. Referrals are made by eye care professionals in Rapid City and the surrounding Black Hills.

Gina Finnell, the 2009 Christmas Gift of Sight recipient, was told she was considered legally blind after experiencing on-going problems with her vision due to complications related to diabetes and high blood pressure. She was not able to work, and subsequently had no income or health insurance. Nor did she qualify for any other form of assistance. She was devastated and scared.

Thankfully, Dr. John Herlihy, Gina’s ophthalmologist, had received information from NPEF regarding its annual Christmas Gift of Sight Program. With Gina’s permission, Dr. Herlihy submitted her application.

When Gina was selected as the Christmas Gift of Sight recipient, NPEF phoned her to share the news. She was shaken and hesitant. “Are you sure you called the right number?” she asked. The answer, of course, was yes. Gina described her award as, “a wonderful gift I will remember as long as I live.”

“Spreading light” through NPEF’s Christmas Gift of Sight is possible due to generous and caring program partners, **Dr. John Herlihy, The Eye Doctors at Rapid City Medical Center, and Bill May and the staff of the Black Hills Surgical Hospital**, who generously donated services for Gina’s Christmas Gift of Sight.

NPEF was also able to assist another Christmas Gift of Sight applicant, Rick Marnette, through partnerships with **Rushmore Lions Club** and **Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI)**, both of which worked to provide cataract surgery to enable Rick to continue to operate his business.

In addition, our thanks go to Christmas Gift of Sight business sponsors, who, also, are integral in “spreading light.” **First Interstate Bank, Mid-Dakota Diesel** and **Black Hills Power**, along with media partners, **Knology, Lamar** and **Epic Outdoor**.

These partners are “shining” examples of the good will and charity that is so prevalent throughout the Black Hills area. We are thankful to the many “candles” and “mirrors” whose support allows our Foundation to continue “spreading light” in service to our region.



NPEF Staff with Dr. Herlihy (center)  
and Gina Finnell (2nd from right)



NPEF Board Chair, Dan Dryden (center), with  
Black Hills Surgical Hospital Team

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## EYE TO EYE: THE DIRECTOR'S VIEW



Spring and Summer...blossoming and budding...the time of growth continues at the Northern Plains Eye Foundation. New growth with the addition of new Board Members and new Staff. **Blossoming** with our new **Visionary Partners Program** that creates fruitful partnerships to support our three flagship programs. **Budding** with expansion of the **Healthy Vision Week** program throughout the Black Hills, with the addition of Pierre for Fall 2010.

Then, there are the perennials in the NPEF garden. The continuation of the second annual **Fireworks-Related Eye Injury Study** throughout South Dakota, with the assistance of participating ophthalmologists and the support of the **South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology**. And **Health-Care Education Scholarship Programs** providing \$11,000 in tuition assistance for students in the region pursuing health-care related studies.

As I look back to where the Foundation was when I began four and a half years ago, I am astounded and pleased with the progress that has been made. Three flagship programs where there was once only a small Scholarship Program. Strong connections forged with the eye care community, service organizations and supportive business partners. And we continually look for ways to serve our region by promoting eye health through education, eye-related research, and community service.

I hope that the stories that we share in this newsletter will inspire you—stories about givers focused on the good of others. Join us! For as Anne Frank exclaimed, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Why not **you**? Why not **now**? Plant a seed and help us promote "**Vision for a Lifetime!**"



Kathleen Kovarik,  
Executive Director

**Final Note:** As we go to press, I want to let you know that I will be stepping down from my leadership role at NPEF to pursue new directions in my life. I thank the Board of Directors of NPEF for supporting me these 4½ years, in bringing the vision of the 3 flagship programs to fruition, and NPEF's staff for co-creating and doing the hard work of bringing the good ideas to life.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS BRING FINANCIAL KNOW-HOW



Linda Rydstrom

The Northern Plains Eye Foundation Board of Directors welcomes two new members, who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, especially in the realm of finance!

**Linda Rydstrom** is a Rapid City native who currently serves as President of Westjet, where she began her career 35 years ago. Linda has both a bachelor's degree in business and a second degree in accounting from Black Hills State University, passing the CPA exam shortly after the completion of her accounting degree. In addition to her financial acumen, she has a wealth of flight knowledge and experience, with over 12,000 hours of flying. She was a professional pilot until 2006, when she retired due to cancer.

Linda is married to Don Rydstrom, owner of Westjet. Their daughter, Miranda, will be a sophomore at Arizona State University in Tempe. Linda loves to play golf, and enjoys

traveling with her husband. She also serves on the Board of Youth and Family Services.

NPEF's other new director, **Jarrett Breuninger**, is the Business Manager for the Black Hills Division of Knology. Jarrett enjoys his work and emphasizes, "Every day welcomes a new challenge." Jarrett, like Linda, is also a life-long resident of the Black Hills. He received his composite bachelor's degree in accounting and business from Black Hills State University and plans to pursue his MBA in the near future.

Beside the varied challenges of his job, Jarrett has spent the last 19 years studying, competing, and teaching Jukite Jujitsu at Dynamic Martial Arts. He and his wife, Doreen, who is the Compliance Manager for Green Tree's legal department, have 4 children, ages 3 to 19. Together as a family they enjoy the year-round outdoor recreational opportunities the Black Hills has to offer. Jarrett also serves on the Board of Ups of Downs, an organization focused on Downs Syndrome.

We are grateful to have both Linda and Jarrett join our talented Board team. A warm welcome!



Jarrett Breuninger

# VISIONARY PARTNERS LAUNCHES

## BHP and Black Hills Regional Eye Institute Become First NPEF Visionary Partners

This spring, NPEF announced a new partnership opportunity inviting businesses and organizations to share in the mission of the Foundation – to enhance eye health for people of the Northern Plains through education, research and community service – as a Visionary Partner. The **Visionary Partners Program** provides a platform in which businesses with a philanthropic interest in promoting eye health in their communities can partner with NPEF through a single sponsorship program. NPEF's three flagship programs, **Health-Care Education and Continuing Scholar Scholarships**, **Healthy Vision Week** and **Christmas Gift of Sight** are supported by the **Visionary Partners Program**.

NPEF's **Health-Care Education Scholarship Program** was launched in 2005 in recognition of the need for future health care and eye care professionals. In 5 years, NPEF has awarded over \$48,000 in scholarships in its 5-state service area to deserving high school seniors pursuing college health care studies, (Health-Care Education Scholars), and former NPEF scholarship winners continuing in full-time health-care studies, (Continuing Scholars).

Three years later, in 2008, NPEF launched two additional flagship programs, **Healthy Vision Week**, a component of the **Healthy Vision Initiative**, and **Christmas Gift of Sight**. Healthy Vision Week, a key element of the Healthy Vision Initiative, offers free vision screenings for children ages 3 - 11 through the cooperation of numerous eye care professionals throughout the region, who have generously donated their services. NPEF's Christmas Gift of Sight provides sight saving surgery to an individual who does not have the financial means to afford the necessary care.

Just a few weeks ago **Black Hills Power (BHP)** announced its commitment to the Visionary Partners Program – as NPEF's first **Visionary Partner**. BHP's Energy Services & External Affairs Director, Mutch Usera, relayed his thoughts on the Visionary Partnership in this way, "Supporting the communities we serve is a critical component of Black Hills Corporation and Black Hills Power's mission. NPEF has demonstrated a long-term commitment to improving the quality of life in our region through their various community service programs," continued Usera. "Their leadership and vision is akin to the values of our company and we look

forward to working hand-in-hand with NPEF to further benefit the communities we serve."

Recently, NPEF was pleased to learn that one of the region's largest eye care clinics, **Black Hills Regional Eye Institute**, also committed to the **Visionary Partners Program**. "Black Hills Regional Eye Institute is a recognized leader in the ocular health-care arena," said Dr. Monte Dirks. "Visionary Partners reflects Black Hills Regional Eye Institute's belief in the work of the Northern Plains Eye Foundation, as one of its key stakeholders."

"These programs allow NPEF to play a role in making this a better and healthier place to live and work for generations to come," stated Ronda Gusinsky, NPEF's Development Director. "The funding provided by our Visionary Partners for these flagship programs ensures that future generations have access to quality health care in our communities; that eye-related problems in our children continue to be detected through free annual screenings; and that the gift of sight is shared with those less fortunate in our community," Gusinsky continued.

**For more information, or to become a Visionary Partner, please contact Ronda Gusinsky at (605) 716-6733.**



NPEF Staff: Carolyn Ness, Kathleen Kovarik, and Ronda Gusinsky, with Mutch Usera, Black Hills Power

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VISIONARY PARTNERS

NPEF recognizes and thanks our annual **Visionary Partners**. Through **Visionary Partner** sponsorship of NPEF's flagship programs - **Health-Care Education Scholarship, Healthy Vision Week and Christmas Gift of Sight** -

these corporate partners join us in making our communities a better place to live by assuring that future generations have access to quality health care, eye-related problems in our children continue to be detected through free annual screenings, and each year, we share the gift of sight with those less fortunate in our community.



BLACK HILLS REGIONAL  
**EYE INSTITUTE**

EDUCATION



RESEARCH



SERVICE

## NPEF WELCOMES NEW STAFF

We are excited to welcome two new staff members to our NPEF team –  
**Ronda Gusinsky and Peggy Martz.**



**Ronda Gusinsky**  
Development Director

Ronda Gusinsky joined the Foundation as its Development Director on October 16th. As Development Director, she leads in the areas of donor and corporate development, marketing and public relations. Her background, which includes over twenty years experience in sales, marketing, event management and public relations, made this position a natural fit for her.

"I am excited to be a member of the NPEF team. It is very rewarding to be involved in the mission of the Foundation," Gusinsky

said, "and to have the opportunity to utilize my skills to make a difference in the lives of people in our community."

Previous to joining NPEF, Ronda was President of OutSource Solutions, Inc., a company she founded, which directed corporate development for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for almost a decade. She is a long-time Rapid City resident and shares her passions for motorcycle riding and travel with her husband, Robert, an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Ronda has 2 sons, Dane, who lives with his wife, Colleen, and son, Taber, in Rapid City, and Tanner, who is a senior at USD.



**Peggy Martz**  
Executive Assistant

Peggy Martz joined the Northern Plains Eye Foundation on January 26th. Peggy brings with her a diverse background, which includes working for an attorney, a clinic, a hospital, as well as a Third Party Administrator (for groups that choose to be self-insured instead of purchasing health insurance).

Peggy, who is from Watertown, SD, and her husband Jim, from Greensburg, PA, met in Rapid City when Peggy was in college and Jim was stationed at Ellsworth, became engaged and married. They moved to Watertown shortly thereafter. Following Jim's retirement from 26 years with the Watertown Fire Department, they have come full circle after moving back to Rapid City in 2001.

Peggy adds that, "Getting an opportunity to work for an organization that provides such a tremendous service to the community is very exciting. I love learning about various processes and software, so I'm thrilled about the new challenges this job will provide."

Ronda and Peggy both bring wonderful talents to the Foundation. We look forward to utilizing their skills and expertise to help us promote "**Vision for a Lifetime.**"

## ANOTHER RECORD YEAR FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



**Sue Jimmerson and Peggy Martz**  
with Scholarship Applications

Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) has two scholarship programs. One provides college scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a health-care related field of study (**Health-Care Education Scholarship**). The other program assists college students who were previous recipients of the Health-Care Education Scholarship and are continuing to pursue their health-care related college degree (**Continuing Scholar Scholarship**).

For several years now, NPEF has distributed information on the scholarship program to high schools in all of South Dakota, as well as a 300-mile radius of Rapid City in Wyoming, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Montana. Since its inception in 2005, the number of applications for these scholarships has quadrupled. In 2010, NPEF received 133 Health-Care Education Scholarship applications and 12 Continuing Scholar applications.

The selection process for winners of these scholarships includes an extensive set of criteria in order for the committee members to be sure the best recipient is chosen.

The competition is fierce, with most recipients usually having a GPA of 3.95 or higher. The whole process begins with a landslide of applications, which staff open and sort (*see photo*). Watch for the announcement of the scholarship award recipients and sponsors in the fall newsletter.

Interested in assuring future medical providers are available to care for you and your family? Help fund deserving college students through this program by calling us at (605) 716-6733, e-mailing us at [vision@npef.org](mailto:vision@npef.org), or clicking on the "Donate Now" button in the lower left corner on our website at [www.npef.org](http://www.npef.org). You can also download the printable donation form by clicking on the "Contributions" tab. Help us support our future health-care professionals!

# WATCH FOR EXPANSION OF HEALTHY VISION WEEK THIS FALL

Join with the Northern Plains Eye Foundation this fall to make healthy vision a priority for children in our region. Healthy Vision Week (HVW) highlights the importance of vision screenings by offering free vision screenings for pre-school and elementary-age children. Eye care professionals throughout the Black Hills and Pierre will join with NPEF to provide free eye screenings for children ages 3 through 11 during the week of **September 27th through October 1st**.

Oftentimes, children do not even know they are having trouble seeing. They may not realize that blurry trees or faces are abnormal. If fuzzy images are all they have ever seen, that is normal to them. Early diagnosis is key, as vision loss and blindness may be prevented through timely treatment. Correction of vision problems can actually prevent eye-related learning problems.

While a vision screening does not take the place of a comprehensive eye exam, a vision screening is a basic first step that can help identify vision problems in children. According to statistics from NPEF's 2009 HVW (see below), participating doctors reported that, of the children who received vision screenings, 56% had vision problems. Of those with vision problems, almost 10% needed glasses. NPEF is committed to educating the public about eye health and safety. Join us in supporting **Healthy Vision Week, September 27 - October 1, 2010**, and help preserve our children's sight in Western South Dakota.

## HVW 2008 Statistics

**18 Doctors Participated**

- 252** Eye Screenings Conducted
- 2** Black Hills Communities Served
- 136** Rapid City Students Screened \*
- 31** Black Hills Area Students Screened \*
- 41** Required Glasses (16.3%)

\*Geographic distribution per 167 Patient Evaluations returned

**\$11,580**

**in Donated Eye Care Services**



## HVW 2009 Statistics

**33 Doctors Participated**

- 302** Eye Screenings Conducted
- 7** Black Hills Communities Served
- 174** Rapid City Students Screened \*
- 107** Black Hills Area Students Screened \*
- 29** Required Glasses (9.6%)

\*Geographic distribution per 281 Patient Evaluations returned

**\$12,830**

**in Donated Eye Care Services**

## HATS OFF TO OUR GENEROUS PARTNERS WHO MADE HVW 2009 A SUCCESS

### EYE CARE PROFESSIONALS

Heidi Bartell, OD  
Gail Bernard, MD  
Patricia Bogaard, OD  
Anne Britton, OD  
Mary Buurma, PA-C  
Monte Dirks, MD  
Elizabeth Ellender, OD  
M. Scott Ellender, OD

Cary Feldman, OD  
Brian Gill, OD  
Michael Guilbert, OD  
Joseph Hartford, OD  
Kathy Haivala, OD  
Tammy Hersch, OD  
Bill Holec, OD  
Dwayne Ice, OD

Scott Kennedy, OD  
Gaylene Kudrna, OD  
Brad Moriarty, OD  
Robert Nixon, MD  
Eric Porisch, OD  
Michael Richey, OD  
Scott Schirber, OD  
Paula Sorensen, OD  
James Trimble, OD

Lynn Tucker, OD  
Dawn Wattenhofer, OD  
Pauline Weichler, OD  
Nathan Wiederholt, OD  
Dallas Wilkinson, OD  
Robert Wilson, OD  
Falon Young, OD  
Paul Zimmerman, MD

### SPONSORS



Black Hills Insurance Agency



Ketel Thorstenson, LLP  
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Rapid City Downtown Lions Club  
Rapid City Metro Lions Club  
Rushmore Lions Club  
Sturgis Lions Club



Miller Wealth Mgmt.  
RBC Wealth Mgmt.

### SPONSORS



Simpsons Printing  
Whiting, Hagg, Hagg, Dorsey & Hagg, LLP



# FIREWORKS-RELATED EYE INJURY STUDY FINDINGS

*"...And the rocket's red glaze, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there..."*

How fitting that we celebrate our country's birthday with fireworks displays! Though these words from the Star-Spangled Banner speak of another kind of "fireworks," there is something spectacular and thrilling about watching beautiful colors and formations explode and light up the sky. But fireworks in the hands of anyone but trained professionals can go from fun to fatal in a moment. Consider this story shared by local eye doctor, Dallas Wilkinson:

"When I was a teenager we were at a friend's house and shooting off some fireworks. There were people across the street doing the same. We started to have a little rivalry of sorts and began shooting bottle rockets across the street toward each other. My good friend, Jody, was upstairs, shooting them out the window from a bottle in his hand. We had both been firing bottle rockets with report (exploding) and had just run out. The next one Jody lit, hit the windowsill, came back, and hit him in the eye, penetrating and causing a retinal detachment. He was very lucky that we had just finished the report ones or he would have likely lost the eye entirely. He is blind in that eye now, but the eye looks normal. I guess you can call that lucky!? We spent the rest of the night in the emergency room and he spent several hours in surgery and follow up appointments. Something as simple, cheap and easy to buy as a bottle rocket has caused a lifetime of difficulty for Jody."

How many of you know someone who can share a similar story? Perhaps too many, which is why the Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) launched a **"Fireworks-Related Eye Injury Study"** (FREIS) in 2009 to explore the significance of eye injuries around Independence Day in South Dakota. We were grateful to have 29 ophthalmologists (along with their staff) from across South Dakota agree to participate. Of these, 6 doctors reported treating fireworks-related eye injuries during the reporting period of June 15 to July 31, 2009. Statistics on these eye injuries included:

- 4 males, 2 females;
- 3 of the males & 1 female were using the fireworks themselves;
- 2 of the males reported alcohol intake;
- 1 male & 1 female were bystanders (1 within 10', 1 within 30');;
- 2 of those handling fireworks were in the age category of 6 - 12;
- 2 were in the 18 - 29 year old group;
- 1 bystander was in the age category of 13 - 17, 1 was in the 30 - 45 year old group;
- Fireworks causing the injuries = 3 bottle rockets, 1 punk, 1 other aerial device, 1 unknown;
- Prognosis for injured individuals = 1 mild visual impairment; 1 unknown (possible mild impairment to possible full visual recovery); 4 were fortunate enough to expect full visual recovery.

Dr. Monte Dirks, who presented the study's results at the fall 2009 meeting of the South Dakota Academy of Ophthalmology (SDAO), reported favorable feedback from the doctors attending. The Research Committee of NPEF unanimously voted to continue FREIS for the summer of 2010. Special thanks go out to all the

eye doctors and staff who made this study possible. We are also extremely grateful for the support of the SDAO and Executive Director, Gloria Hermanson, who provided a \$2,000 grant which helped defray costs of the 2009 FREIS study.

Although eye injuries are the focus of the FREIS study, one of our Board members who is a volunteer fire-fighter, Dr. Chet Roberts, continues to remind us of the fires and burn injuries that also result from carelessness with fireworks. Five states ban backyard fireworks completely, and a majority of states prohibit aerial devices, and certain other fireworks, deemed "more dangerous." South Dakota has the dubious distinction of being one of only 10 states where the use of bottle rockets is still legal.

If you enjoy fireworks, why not choose to be a spectator at a professional display, where fireworks safety is a priority? Or, if you insist on setting off fireworks yourself, then minimally take precaution by wearing protective eye gear and keeping children as far away as possible - and think twice about using bottle rockets. Although six eye injuries may not seem like a lot, even one eye injury is one too many. Eyesight is precious. Just ask Jody.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO NPEF CHRISTMAS GIFT OF SIGHT PARTNERS

**Dr. John Herlihy, the Eye Doctors  
at Rapid City Medical Center, and  
Bill May and the staff  
at the Black Hills Surgical Hospital**

for the services donated for Gina Finnell's sight saving surgery,

### Program Sponsors



and  
**Service to the Blind  
and  
Visually Impaired  
(SBVI)**



## FOCUS ON PHILANTHROPY



George B. and Mary Wallace

### ***"Life's richest blessings come not in receiving, but in giving."***

It's a familiar statement. It may even seem overused and a bit cliché. Until you meet George B. Wallace.

Last August George walked into the Northern Plains Eye Foundation (NPEF) office, surprising NPEF Associate Director, Carolyn Ness, with his desire to add the Foundation as a beneficiary in his will. George explained that his bequest was due primarily to a "random act of kindness" displayed by a farmer in New York state in the early 1960's, who bought George his first pair of glasses.

George eloquently weaved a narrative of his life beginning with the love he felt for his wife of over 35 years, Mary, who had recently passed away. Mary was born in England and George, who is a 26-year Air Force veteran, met her in Illinois after she had moved to the states to live with her sister. They traveled the world together, and in 1991 upon George's retirement from the Air Force, he and Mary settled in the Black Hills to begin their retirement years. In the fall of 2008, Mary became ill and needed to be hospitalized.

She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. For the remainder of Mary's days, George lovingly cared for her in their home and on Sunday, April 19th, 2009, George lost his beloved wife. He described the unfathomable grief he felt and, over time, came to understand that grief, if left unattended, would build up inside him, "like a pressure cooker." For George, the only way to relieve it and work through his grief was to share the story of the life he so treasured with Mary.

While the life that George shared with Mary is a cherished memory, George's life as a young boy was indeed very different. A product of a divorce, George and his siblings were raised by his mother. Money was non-existent, school was difficult and trouble was oftentimes "just around the corner." At the age of 15, George got a part-time job on a farm. One afternoon, George was helping the farmer and was asked to get "that" piece of tin from "that" shed. George struggled to see the tin at which the farmer was pointing. Noticing that George was not doing what he'd been asked, the farmer scolded him. George shamefully admitted that he "couldn't see." The farmer arranged for George to have his eyes examined and shortly thereafter George was fitted with his first pair of glasses, paid for by the kind farmer. George immediately realized that the "fuzzy" world he came to see as normal was anything but normal. George described it as, "My world was brighter than I ever could have imagined." Academically, George began to excel, and shortly thereafter was accepted into the Air Force.

Several years after settling in the Black Hills, Mary noticed an article about free glaucoma

screenings at Black Hills Regional Eye Institute. At Mary's urging, George made an appointment for a screening where he met Dr. Monte Dirks. Upon examination, Dr. Dirks raised concerns about high pressure in George's eyes, and placed George on a strict regime. Today, the pressures are at a satisfactory level. In 2008, George developed cataracts and was referred to Dr. Paul Zimmerman, who George described as, "the finest human being to wear the title of doctor." Dr. Zimmerman performed cataract surgery on George, and for the first time in George's life, he no longer needed corrective lenses for distance.

At the conclusion of George's visit with the NPEF staff, he stated, "If that farmer hadn't cared about me, about my eyes, and hadn't extended that kindness to me, I would likely not be where I am today. I would not have gotten into the military. I would not have married Mary."

"Now," he said, "I hope that Mary's and my gift to the Foundation makes a difference in someone's life like the farmer's gift made in mine."

George's pledge naming NPEF in his will is a powerful and caring tribute to his wife, Mary, as well as to those who, through "random acts of kindness," made a significant difference in his life. If you would like to create a legacy memorial through a planned gift to NPEF, please consult with a financial advisor to discuss your charitable giving interests, what you wish to give and the advantages of a current gift or an estate gift.

## NPEF AWARDED GIVEBLACKHILLS.ORG GRANT



Gusinsky, Kovarik and Stuck

NPEF was recently awarded a \$500 grant from Black Hills Area Community Foundation (BHACF) and its [www.GiveBlackHills.org](http://www.GiveBlackHills.org) website. The awards presentation, hosted by BHACF for area nonprofits at the Dahl Fine Arts Center on March 29th, was a great opportunity for NPEF staff to network with others in the nonprofit community. Shown in the "official" check presentation photo are Ronda Gusinsky, NPEF Development Director; Kathleen Kovarik, NPEF Executive Director; and Haven Stuck, Chairman of the Board, Black Hills Area Community Foundation.

BHACF is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization established in 1987 whose mission is "to inspire people to invest as a community to improve the quality of life of people in the Black Hills area." BHACF funds vital community services, supports nonprofit organizations, and

assists individuals with charitable giving through its online resource about Black Hills area charities, [www.GiveBlackHills.org](http://www.GiveBlackHills.org). GiveBlackHills.org offers donors a place where they can learn more about their favorite charities, discover new ones and donate to the organizations that speak to their passion. For more information or to donate to NPEF, visit [www.GiveBlackHills.org](http://www.GiveBlackHills.org) and insert Northern Plains Eye Foundation in the key word search.



NORTHERN PLAINS EYE  
FOUNDATION

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VISION  
FOR A LIFETIME

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

NPEF Board of Directors Meeting  
June 29 – Rapid City

South Dakota School Nurse Conference  
July 20 & 21 – Pierre

Healthy Vision Week  
September 27-October 1 – Black Hills Area & Pierre

NORTHERN PLAINS EYE  
FOUNDATION