# YEAR OF BOLDNESS.

## **RURAL ADVOCATES**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Josh Stuchl President (2025)



Scott Hardy Vice President (2026)



Kevin Bucholz Treasurer (2026)



Duane Bowman Secretary (2025)



Alicia Hess Director (2025)



Alan Peters
Director (2027)



Dustin Swanson Director (2027)



Rick Braaten

Bowman County



Jason Anderson City of Scranton



**Lyn James** City of Bowman



**Kristy Pagel**Bowman Chamber



Rocky Wallman City of Rhame

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your support of BCDC. As we reflect on another year, it is my honor to present the 2024 Annual Report. In the following pages, you will find insights into our accomplishments, ongoing projects, and strategic initiatives. We encourage you to read and reflect on the progress we've made and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

The past year has been one of innovation, growth, and resilience. One major initiative to highlight is our Play It Forward Fund which, using charitable gaming revenue, reinvested \$50,000 back into seven local projects. This underscores our broader mission of supporting local development in our area.

As we move forward, our vision remains clear: to strengthen Bowman County by encouraging and implementing innovative strategies for workforce, tourism, business, and quality of life.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and dedication to building a brighter future.

Josh Stuchl Board President

### MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a year 2024 has been! Reflecting on the past twelve months fills me with gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. At Bowman County Development Corporation, we've continued to create a meaningful impact for our communities.

This year, we expanded in size and scope, largely due to our partnership with Roosevelt Custer Regional Council and the increased services we offer to the region. This growth has brought new team members and projects, helping us serve Bowman County and the region more effectively.

Our focus remains on supporting businesses, building vibrant communities, and empowering the next generation. Programs like the Dilapidated Housing Program, Fusion, and Restaurant Renovation are just a few ways we're meeting community needs with creative solutions.

We also expanded our storytelling efforts with new videos showcasing Bowman County's unique qualities. Additionally, we launched the Play It Forward Fund to support local organizations with impactful projects. These accomplishments wouldn't be possible without the support of our partners, team, and residents.

Looking ahead to 2025, I encourage more engagement and collaboration. Our door is always open, and together, we can continue driving progress in Bowman County and beyond.

Thank you for your support. Here's to another year of growth and stronger communities!

**Teran Doerr**Executive Director

### **MEET THE TEAM**



TERAN DOERR
Executive Director

17 Years of Service



ARDIS KRAULIK
Office Assistant

1 Year of Service



**DEBBIE BUCHOLZ**Director of Finance

1 Year of Service



MEGAN MODEROW Event and Community Relations Assistant

1 Year of Service



**KATE BUER**Executive Coordinator

3 Years of Service



SARAH NAGEL
Director of Business
Development

2 Years of Service



BROOKLYN ENGELHART
Director of Tourism
and Creative

7 Years of Service

Our team supports the sustainability of Bowman County for a strong future. Together, we have 32 years of service.

# NEW IN 2024

With each year comes new opportunities to expand and strengthen our efforts in Bowman County. This year we are pleased to showcase several new awards, projects, and programs throughout the annual report.

# BOWMAN COUNTY MARKETING CAMPAIGN

In 2024, we started creating materials to highlight the opportunities and resources available in our community. This included building a new collection of photos, videos, and an online job board. To further promote local job openings, we've allocated \$90,000 for advertising in areas with high potential job seekers. The final part of the campaign is to expand our reach by funding the 2025 Bowman County Guide. The paid advertising efforts are scheduled to end in June 2025.

This campaign is funded by the North Dakota Regional Workforce Impact Program Grant.

\$152,583 in Grant Funding

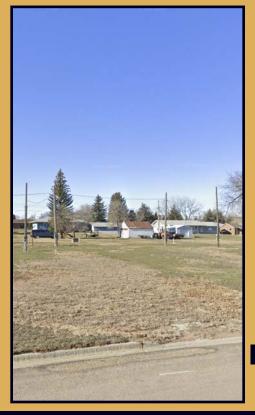




### **PLAY IT FORWARD GIVES BACK**

The Play It Forward Fund is a new grant program designed to enhance the quality of life in Bowman County. It supports community-focused projects by reinvesting charitable gaming revenues, generated at select local businesses, back into our communities.

In the first funding round, a total of \$50,000 was awarded to seven local organizations with impactful, community-minded projects. This marked a significant milestone in our efforts to empower Bowman County residents to come together and build a stronger, more prosperous community. The fund welcomes applications from individuals, non-profits, community organizations, and businesses with initiatives that address community needs or introduce creative solutions. Offering two funding cycles each year, winter and summer, the Play It Forward Fund provides an exciting opportunity for Bowman County to foster collaboration and drive meaningful, lasting improvements for all residents.



## MAKING WAY FOR NEW HOUSING

In partnership with Bowman County Housing Authority, we secured a Rural Workforce Housing Grant from North Dakota Department of Commerce to revitalize housing in Bowman. We acquired seven dilapidated properties and will prepare the lots for new homes in 2025. These lots will be offered to the public for purchase at a nominal fee, with qualified buyers required to commit to building a new home on the lot within two years.

This project has the potential to add 8-10 new homes in the city of Bowman, leading to housing market growth. The anticipated long-term economic benefits include attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, supporting population growth, and increasing property values in the community.

\$273,000 in Grant Funding

# ENHANCING COMMUNITY VIBRANCY





### LIGHTS SHINE AT FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Our winter vibrancy event continues to be a success thanks to the help of the community in decorating Bowman City Park. Once again, there were hundreds who came out for the lighting ceremony in December. With hayrides and refreshments, it is always a great evening of laughter. The beautifully decorated park remains lit for the entire holiday season.

# FUNDS DEDICATED TO VISITOR EXPERIENCE

A 1% and 2% tax is charged on local restaurant and lodging that funds tourism initiatives in our community

\$108,236 Generated \$91,386 Granted



# VISITOR INFORMATION AVAILABLE 24/7

We continue to serve tourists by staffing and stocking a visitor information center inside Frontier Travel Center. Being available 24/7 continues to enhance travelers experience in our area and we are grateful for the opportunity to help them with information.

### GRANT TO PLANT TREES

We were granted \$32,435 from Denbury Resources to add trees in Bowman. These funds will plant approximately 80 trees on eight blocks of the north boulevard of Highway 12 in 2025.

#### 80 Trees

# WAYFINDING SIGNAGE IN DEVELOPMENT

Wayfinding signage is directional signage to help pass through travelers identify areas of interest in a community. In 2024, our Master Plan, including 18 signs was submitted to ND DOT. We are now in the revision phase and hope to have an approved plan and break ground on the signs in 2025.



# SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

We proudly represented Bowman County through a variety of community-focused events. Highlights included serving ice cream at Scranton's Burgers in the Park, a vibrant float and booth at the Bowman County Fair, welcoming new faces at the Family Fun Fair, participating in Rhame's Parade of Lights, and sharing our story through newsletters and social media.

5,316 Newsletter Opens

# FRONT LINES TRAINING CONTINUES

Visitor spending in Bowman County is crucial to our local businesses, contributing \$4 to \$8 million annually. To ensure a positive impact, we take time each spring to meet with local businesses and their staff who interact with visitors regularly. This training focuses on strategies to enhance visitors' experiences, encourage longer stays, and equip employees with the knowledge to be helpful resources throughout the tourism season.

**4 Businesses Visited** 

**35 Employees Trained** 



# CAPITALIZING ON WHITE BUTTE VISITORS

With the highest point in the state just north of Bowman, we take advantage of the asset with a promotion drawing hikers back to Bowman County. A sign was placed at the base of White Butte in 2023, to direct hikers to a coupon book for local businesses and the opportunity to buy a White Butte t-shirt. This promotion continues to be utilized and is a fun way to interact with visitors we were unable to before.

28 Shirts Sold

616 Website Views

8 2024 Annual Repor





### DECK THE STREETS MAKES BUSINESSES SHINE

The annual Deck the Streets competition once again made Bowman shine with 13 local businesses decorating their storefronts. Each year, voting takes place on Facebook showing pictures of the displays at night. This year, our winner was Dakota Western Bank's South Branch followed close behind by Inspired Styles and Oakland Salon and Spa. The winner received \$250 in Chamber Bonus Bucks. Deck the Streets serves to incentivize vibrancy during the winter season.

## BEAUTIFYING MAIN STREET

Bowman's Main Street remains vibrant year after year. With 44 beautiful hanging flower pots and American flags brightening up Main Street.



# SUPPORTING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



### RESTAURANT RENOVATION UNDERWAY

Renovations are in full swing on the vacant restaurant located at the corner of Highway 12 and Highway 85, thanks to USDA's Rural Business Development Grant awarded in 2023. Our goal is to bring a new breakfast option to the community in 2025.

We are collaborating closely with local contractors on the renovations and working with culinary professionals to plan, design, and equip the space for an exciting entrepreneurial opportunity. This project addresses the community's growing demand for breakfast options and aims to enhance Bowman's dining scene. By expanding our dining options, we strive to improve the quality of life in Bowman and strategically attract and retain a talented workforce.

While BCDC currently owns the property, we are actively seeking a passionate Restaurant Manager to lead operations and bring their unique culinary vision to life.









### **FUSION IMPACTS REGION**

The seventh annual Fusion Conference was a dynamic event filled with energy, inspiration, and personal transformation. Over 140 attendees from across the tri-state region, representing diverse industries and professions, came together to learn how to navigate chaos and change while growing personally. We focused on empowering individuals to become more confident and comfortable amid life's uncertainties.

Keynote speakers led sessions centered around the theme "Confidence in Chaos". The day was dedicated to growth, fostering connections, and brainstorming way to be more confident and comfortable in the midst of chaos and change. Attendees left with new skills, renewed energy, and a sense of purpose, ready to tackle challenges in all aspects of life—whether as leaders, employees, parents, spouses, or friends.

Fusion continues to play a vital role in professional and personal development for our region. Planning for Fusion 2025 is already underway, with the event set for September 18, 2025.

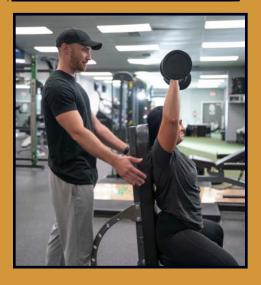
#### 140+ Attendees



### LEARNING FROM OUR BUSINESSES

We continued our business visit program, meeting face-to-face with Bowman County businesses to discuss growth, challenges, succession planning, and opportunities for support. These scheduled conversations with our staff and board have proven instrumental in fostering open communication, driving economic resilience, and advancing the goals and ideas of local businesses. Most visits occur at the businesses' locations, allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of their operations.

### 31 Visits in 2024 152 Visits Since Start



### CELEBRATING BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

We shared 15 Business Highlights this year to showcase a quick snapshot of what's happening in Bowman County's local business community. Those highlights included expansions, start-ups, new owners, updated facades, and new members to our community.

15 Business Highlights



### **WORKFORCE EDUCATION**

We continued our commitment to supporting local businesses and communities by facilitating accessible and impactful workforce training programs. We focused on developing skills and offering relevant and relatable content tailored to the unique needs of local employers and employees. By keeping registration costs low and hosting trainings locally, we ensured accessibility for all. Courses in Excel, investing, marketing, and leadership equipped attendees with practical skills to enhance their professional and personal growth, aiding in workforce retention and development for our rural businesses.

7 Classes Offered

98 Total Attendees

### MAINSPACE RENTALS CONTINUE

Mainspace continues to be utilized by businesses and individuals. It offers versatile, state-of-the-art business spaces designed to meet a variety of needs. From dedicated offices to fully equipped conference and meeting rooms, Mainspace provides a professional setting for meetings, interviews, and trainings. With flexible rental options, Mainspace provides the perfect space to help users elevate their business.

1,196 Individual Users

138 Space Rentals

### EDUCATION GRANT RECEIVED



We were awarded a Rural Business Development Grant from USDA to expand and enhance the impactful training programs and resources we offer to our rural community. This funding will allow us to continue fostering a culture of learning and innovation among local businesses.

#### \$85.969 Grant Awarded



### REPRESENTING BOWMAN COUNTY

We remain committed to representing Bowman County at local, regional, and state levels. Teran Doerr served her second term as Chair of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota. Teran also served on the Governor's Housing Task Force and worked with several interim legislative committees, advocating for policies that support rural economic development. She also serves as Past-Chair of the Governor's Rural Development Council, on the Board of North Dakota Women's Business Center, and Advisory Council member for ND Small Business Development Centers.

BCDC participates in the Southwest Developer's Group and Bowman County Housing Authority Board. Brooklyn Engelhart serves on the Bowman Parks and Recreation Board, and Debbie Bucholz serves on the Pioneer Trails Regional Museum Board.

Through these efforts, we ensure that Bowman County's priorities are represented in important conversations.

12 2024 Annual Report

### PARTNERSHIP WITH ND SBDC CONTINUES

Since 2010, BCDC has proudly hosted the North Dakota Small Business Development Centers (ND SBDC). This vital partnership enables a center in Bowman to serve the region's small business owners and entrepreneurs by providing valuable insights and resources to support their success. The Bowman ND SBDC offers confidential, no-cost advising to help small businesses thrive.

**4 Business Starts** 

**66 Jobs Supported** 

**40 Clients Served** 

\$1,810,926 Capital Infusion

#### **Two Tired Garage**

Bondon Scott opened Two Tired Garage in March 2024, bringing a much-needed power sports repair shop to the Bowman community. Two Tired Garage specializes in the maintenance and repair of ATVs, motorcycles, UTVs, and boats, offering a one-stop solution for enthusiasts who rely on their vehicles for recreation, work, or transportation.

Bondon's passion for power sports and his years of experience in the industry ensure that customers at Two Tired Garage receive top-notch service and expert care for their vehicles. Whether it's a routine tune-up, extensive repairs, or custom modifications, the shop aims to keep customers' equipment running smoothly and reliably. ND SBDC was able to assist with financial projections and future growth plans.





### COOKIE CART PROGRAM LAUNCHES

Late 2024, we launched our Cookie Cart Program for local businesses. Each month, we visit select businesses to deliver local, homemade cookies. The goal is simple: to create meaningful, no-strings-attached touchpoints with our business partners. These visits are our way of showing appreciation and reinforcing that we are here as a resource and a supportive presence.



# JOB PROMOTION IN SOUTHWEST NORTH DAKOTA

We invested in the second phase of the Wide Open Wonder campaign, launched by Roosevelt Custer. The first phase in 2023 introduced a regional website and captivating videography and photography showcasing the uniqueness of Southwest North Dakota. The second phase includes boomerang marketing initiatives and the development of a Southwest North Dakota relocation guide, further positioning our region as an inviting and dynamic place to call home.

### **BUSINESS PROGRAMS**



# NEW CHILDCARE WORKFORCE RETENTION STIPEND

In 2024, we piloted a new childcare program to strengthen the critical role of childcare in our community. Childcare is essential to a thriving workforce, and BCDC remains dedicated to ensuring stability and excellence in childcare services, which directly supports Bowman County's broader workforce.

The Childcare Workforce Retention Stipend Program, introduced in 2024, was designed to retain skilled childcare professionals by providing stipends to all qualifying childcare employees, managers, and owners. Through this program, we distributed 32 stipends, successfully helping to retain 21 childcare workers.

### FUNDING PROGRAMS UTILIZED

**BND PACE/Flex PACE** 

Weiss Law Office

Childcare Fixed Cost Reimbursement Program

Tot Lot Child Care

### Childcare Workforce Retention Stipend

ABC Daycare, Tot Lot Child Care, Rise and Shine Daycare, LeeAnn Anderson, Char Maychrzak, Little Tykes Daycare

### Childcare Provider Matching Program

ABC Daycare

### **Workforce Programs**

ABC Daycare, Bowman County School District, Bowman Parks and Recreation, Bronson's Marketplace, Frontier Travel Center, Gooseneck Implement, North Winds Lodge, Prairie Dental, Southwest Healthcare Services, Tot Lot Child Care

### **Commercial Signage Grant**

Haley Evans, LLC, Bowman Ambulance

### Downtown Revitalization Facade Grant

West River Health Services

\$79,665 Total Funding



# WORKFORCE PROGRAMS CONTINUE

The Workforce Incentive Programs have been instrumental in attracting and retaining talent in Bowman County. Since their inception in fall 2022, these programs have successfully filled 42 open positions while committing \$53,620.97 to support workforce growth. These programs provide valuable incentives, including relocation assistance, tuition support, sign-on bonuses, and career advancement funding. By addressing critical workforce needs, these initiatives have solidified their role as a cornerstone of Bowman County's strategy to build a skilled and thriving community.

\$27,073 Paid in Programs

**14 Positions Filled** 

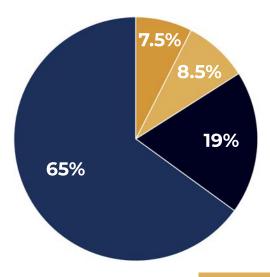
### \$14,400 in Stipends

14 2024 Annual Report

### FUNDING OUR WORK

Bowman County Development Corporation's operating revenue is categorized into four sections. The majority of the operating budget is allocated directly to programming and projects.

Our mission is to strengthen Bowman County by encouraging and implementing innovative strategies to workforce, tourism, business, and quality of life.



# **7.5**% LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Bowman County & City of Bowman

We serve as the contract economic development agency for Bowman County, City of Bowman, and City of Scranton.

### 8.5% FACILITATOR

#### Crossroads Business Park

Managed by BCDC

#### **Fusion**

Hosted and managed by BCDC.

#### Mainspace

Funding supports education efforts and operations of the facility. Corporate Supporters also pay memberships to support education in the county.

### 19% OTHER SERVICES

### Bowman County Fair Association/ All Seasons Arena

Contract to provide bookkeeping, event management, and booking services.

### Chamber of Commerce

Contract for administrative services, marketing, and event management.

### Hospitality & Lodging Grant

Grant to facilitate and promote community development and tourism for the City of Bowman.

### Roosevelt Custer Regional Council

Contract to provide management services for programs, community development, and business services.

### Small Business Development Centers

Contract to provide business services in Bowman, Slope, and Adams Counties.

# 65% PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

### Bowman County & City of Bowman

Funding allocated for PACE, signage and facade grants, childcare programs, and workforce programs.

#### **Charitable Gaming**

BCDC has operated charitable gaming for over 30 years.
Machines are operated in Bowman and Rhame with Bingo hosted in two locations. Profits are disbursed between BCDC, Pioneer Trails Regional Museum, Rhame Fire Department, Bowman American Legion, and Play It Forward Fund.

### Grants & Donations

Includes grants and project funding that is accessed through local, state, and federal funding upon availability to bring more resources to the county. Assisted with workforce and education initiatives.

### Hospitality & Lodging Fund

Funding allocated for tourism related initiatives including the Visitors' Center, Bowman County Guides, Main Street Beautification, and more.

# More than One ORGANIZATION

Bowman County Development Corporation serves as a unique umbrella organization holding several contracts with other organizations in order to share staff and capitalize on niche talents for rural areas. These contracts allow us to grow our team and serve not only Bowman County, but the Southwest North Dakota region. Below is a depiction of how staff are shared across organizations. While all staff can help with each organization at any time, this is where they focus.

### **Bowman County Development Corporation**

Service Area: Bowman County



Teran Doerr
Executive Director



Debbie Bucholz



Kate Buer Executive Coordinator



Brooklyn Engelhard Director of Tourism & Creative



Ardis Kraulik Office Assistan



Megan Moderow Event & Community Relations Assistant



SARAH NAGEL
Director of Business
Development

### **Roosevelt Custer Regional Council**

Service Area: Adams, Billings, Bowman, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, Slope, and Stark Counties



Teran Doerr



Debbie Bucholz
Director of Finance



Kate Buer Executive Coordinator



**Jessica Buer** Program Assistan



Shannon Ellig Regional Progra Coordinator



Brooklyn Engelhart Director of Tourism &

### North Dakota Small Business Development Centers

Service Area: Adams, Bowman, and Slope Counties



SARAH NAGEL
Director of Business
Development

### Bowman County Fair Association/ All Seasons Arena

Service Area: Bowman County



Teran Doerr Executive Director



**Debbie Bucholz**Director of Finance



**Ardis Kraulik** Office Assistant

### **Bowman Area Chamber of Commerce**

Service Area: Bowman County



Brooklyn Engelhart Director of Tourism & Creative



Ardis Kraulik Office Assistant



Megan Moderow Event & Community Relations Assistant