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Otto Bremer Trust awards 138 grants totaling $8.4 Million

SAINT PAUL March 10, 2016 — The Otto Bremer Trust has awarded over $8.4 million in grants as part of its most recent grantmaking cycle to support charitable activities in Minnesota, North Dakota and western Wisconsin.

“The variety of organizations and the diversity of grant requests from this round is impressive,” said Charlotte S. Johnson, co-CEO and Trustee, OBT. “The work and dedication of these organizations helps move communities forward by meeting critical needs across the region.”

Based in St. Paul, Minn., the Otto Bremer Trust is a private charitable trust established in 1944 by founder Otto Bremer, a successful banker and community business leader. The Trust owns 92 percent of Bremer Bank and also manages a diversified investment portfolio. The mission of the Trust is to help support communities where basic needs are met, mutual regard is prized and opportunities for economic, civic and social participation are within everyone’s reach. In 2015, the Otto Bremer Trust awarded more than $45 million in grants and program-related investments that support charitable activities at more than 500 organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota and western Wisconsin.

A complete list of grants is included below.

Western North Dakota

**Abused Adult Resource Center**, Bismarck, ND, **$195,000**. To provide services and shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in a seven-county region in south-central North Dakota, and for assistance with roof repairs.

**Dakota College at Bottineau**, Bottineau, ND, **$99,224**. To provide equipment to re-establish a satellite site in Minot for the Dakota Nursing Program in order to address the nursing shortage in the region.

**Northland Healthcare Alliance**, Bismarck, ND, **$150,000**. To support the Care Coordination model, which reduces health care costs and complications for individuals with high medical needs.

**The Salvation Army, Northern Division**, Roseville, MN, **$40,000**. To prevent homelessness in Minot, ND by keeping families and individuals in their homes through rent and mortgage assistance.

**Sanford Bismarck**, Bismarck, ND, **$55,000**. For general operations of the Children's Advocacy Center in Bismark to provide evidence-based mental health services to children and families experiencing the traumatizing effects of abuse.
Women's Alliance, Inc. DBA: Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, Dickinson, ND, $100,000. To support a new building for the Women's Alliance, which serves victims of domestic violence in western North Dakota.

Red River Region

Abuse Resource Network, Lisbon, ND, $29,500. To support outreach and comprehensive advocacy services to two Southeast North Dakota counties.

Community Foundation of Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Region, Grand Forks, ND, $150,000. To renovate the East Grand Forks swimming pool.

Community Violence Intervention Center, Inc., Grand Forks, ND, $150,000. For general operations of the Community Violence Intervention Center and to support the capital campaign to build a new shelter.

Essentia Health Foundation, Detroit Lakes, MN, $50,000. To renovate patients' rooms in the obstetrics unit to increase services to the mother, infant, and family members.

Handi-Wheels Transportation, Inc., Fargo, ND, $30,000. To increase transit services to individuals with disabilities in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Mississippi Headwaters Area Dental Health Center, Bemidji, MN, $75,000. To support the construction of a new facility, which will increase access to dental care for low-income people in rural northwest Minnesota.

Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Bemidji, MN, $75,000. To increase community pool accessibility for people with disabilities.

Presentation Partners in Housing, Fargo, ND, $50,000. For general operations to support the assistance of households with mortgage/rent, eviction/foreclosure notices, and utility disconnections.

Ransom County Senior Citizens Council, Inc., Lisbon, ND, $47,390. For capital improvements, which includes meal prep appliances, new furniture and office equipment for four senior center sites.

Rape and Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND, $150,000. For general operations to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child sexual abuse in the Greater Fargo-Moorhead area.

Red Lake Nation College, Red Lake, MN, $100,000. To provide general operating support to enable Red Lake Nation College to attain accreditation status through the Higher Learning Commission.

United Way of Crookston, Inc., Crookston, MN, $28,000. To launch a Student United Way, a campus-based community change organization, led by students, that addresses education, income and health issues in Crookston.

Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Public Schools, #2176, Warren, MN, $80,000. For renovations and safety upgrades to the community playground.
Central and Northern Minnesota

**Accessible Space, Inc.**, St. Paul, MN, **$76,250.** To provide capital improvements to maintain accessible, affordable apartments in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

**Anishinabe Legal Services**, Cass Lake, MN, **$65,000.** To sustain the full-time White Earth Reservation attorney position, allowing Anishinabe Legal Services to continue providing enhanced legal services and education to the low-income Reservation community.

**Central Minnesota Council, Boy Scouts of America**, Sartell, MN, **$40,000.** To support Scoutreach, a program that encourages young people with financial or cultural barriers to participate in a scouting experience.

**Central Minnesota Mental Health Center**, St. Cloud, MN, **$65,000.** To support the St. Cloud Area Child Response Initiative, which provides a coordinated community response to children and families who have experienced violence or trauma.

**CommunityGiving**, St. Cloud, MN, **$100,000.** To build the capacity of community foundations in order to leverage financial and community resources.

**Helping Hands Outreach to Elders, Inc.**, Holdingford, MN, **$15,000.** To support and expand caregiver services and adult day activity programs in rural Stearns County.

**Initiative Foundation**, Little Falls, MN, **$60,000.** To increase access to affordable dental care for low-income children from birth to age three, and to educate parents and families about the importance of early oral health care.

**City of Isle**, Isle, MN, **$75,000.** To replace an inefficient and outdated fire station to increase the capacity of the Isle Fire Department to respond to emergencies and safely store equipment and vehicles.

**Lakes Area Senior Activity Center**, Brainerd, MN, **$87,500.** Capital support for replacement of the windows and doors at the senior center in Brainerd.

**Leech Lake Financial Services**, Cass Lake, MN, **$50,000.** To support financial services including asset/credit building, small business development and financial literacy on the Leech Lake Reservation.

**Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota**, St. Cloud, MN, **$45,000.** To provide family support services to low-income children and adults in the Talahi neighborhood of St. Cloud.

**Rise, Incorporated**, Spring Lake Park, MN, **$50,000.** To help ex-offenders in the St. Cloud area achieve sustainable employment, secure affordable housing, and avoid recidivism.

**Rivers of Hope**, Monticello, MN, **$64,000.** For general operating support for this organization that addresses domestic violence in Wright and Sherburne Counties.

**Riverview Church**, Pine River, MN, **$60,000.** General operating support for out of school time programs at The Warehouse to help youth in Pine River-Backus develop social-emotional assets.

**Sexual Assault Services, Inc.**, Brainerd, MN, **$70,000.** To provide support services for victims of sexual assault in Crow Wing County, and deliver community education programs to decrease victimization.

**Sherburne County Area United Way**, Elk River, MN, **$5,500.** To upgrade technology in the Sherburne County Area United Way office to increase internal capacity and create efficiencies.
Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, Princeton, MN, $50,000. For general operating support for Sustainable Farming Association, a network of sustainable agriculture supporters in Minnesota.

Tri-County Action Program, Inc., Waite Park, MN, $50,000. To provide free tax preparation to low-income residents of Central Minnesota by IRS-certified, volunteer tax preparers.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, Chisholm, MN, $21,500. To provide backpacks of food to children and families in Koochiching County with low food security.

Volunteers of America-Minnesota, Edina, MN, $55,000. To support Our HOME, a multi-dimensional program serving homeless families and people with disabilities in Mille Lacs County.

Western and South Central Minnesota

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota, Owatonna, MN, $60,000. For general operations of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota, which provides one-to-one mentoring to at-risk children and youth.

Brandon Fire and Rescue, Brandon, MN, $20,354. To assist the Brandon Fire and Rescue with the purchase of equipment critical to the safety of its unit.

Dakota Wicohan, Morton, MN, $40,000. For general operations of Dakota Wicohan, which promotes Dakota language skills and life ways.

Granite Falls Living At Home Block Nurse Program, Granite Falls, MN, $61,150. For general operations of the Granite Falls Living At Home BNP, which serves seniors and people with disabilities.

ISAIAH, St. Paul, MN, $25,000. To support congregation-based organizing in Willmar, MN that engages marginalized communities in local government decision-making to expand access to safe, decent, affordable housing.

Litchfield Area Mentorship Program - Kinship, Litchfield, MN, $18,000. For general operating support of Litchfield Area Mentorship Program-Kinship, which provides youth development and mentoring programs for at-risk youth in Meeker County.

Mayo Clinic Health System - Mankato, Mankato, MN, $50,000. To improve health access and healthy behaviors by improving the organization's capacity to meet the socio-economic, cultural, and linguistic needs of Somali patients.

Minnesota Civil Liberties Union Foundation, St. Paul, MN, $40,000. To support the Greater Minnesota Racial Justice Project, which protects the civil liberties of individuals by focusing on issues of racial justice in southern Minnesota.

Safe Avenues, Willmar, MN, $50,000. To support the Harmony Visitation Center that provides a safe setting for parents experiencing divorce and separation to have access to their children.

West Central Dental Resources, Inc., Alexandria, MN, $100,000. To expand West Central Dental Resource Inc.'s facility to serve citizens enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs, the uninsured, Veterans, and others in need of dental care and education.

Western Communities Action Network (WeCAN), Mound, MN, $55,000. For general operating support of Western Communities Action Network, which provides a full range of support services and referrals designed to enhance self-sufficiency through its One-Stop Opportunity Center.
Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation, St. Paul, MN, $100,000. To provide program support for integrated services to help families across multiple generations achieve stability and move out of poverty, with a special focus on African American children and their families experiencing homelessness and mental illness.

Athletes Committed to Educating Students, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. To support ACES academic extended-day programming for at-risk students in order to reduce and eliminate the academic achievement and opportunity gaps.

Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN, $15,000. For general operations of the Minnesota Urban Debate League, which works to empower students through academic debates to become engaged learners, critical thinkers, and active citizens.

Bii Gii Wiin Community Development Loan Fund, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. For general operating support to help Twin Cities Urban Native Americans move out of poverty.

CAPI, USA, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. For support of the Economic Support Initiative, which works to increase the income of food shelf clients through employment or public benefit enrollment.

Christian Recovery Center, Golden Valley, MN, $50,000. To provide mental health services to men, women and children who have financial need, and for needed technology updates.

Community Emergency Service, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $30,000. To alleviate food insecurity in the homebound elderly and disabled population, allowing them to remain independent and in their homes, and to develop a sustainable program support model.

Connections to Independence, Minneapolis, MN, $150,000. To provide employment, housing and living skills support for youth and young adults, ages 21-24, who are transitioning from foster care to independence.

Conservation Corps dba Conservation Corps Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, $30,000. To support the Youth Outdoors Program, an internship, education, and job readiness training for at-risk Twin Cities high school students to learn about work in the outdoors.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home Block Nurse Program, St. Paul, MN, $15,000. To provide opportunities for socialization and entertainment, education, and community involvement for seniors to participate in activities that promote wellness, quality of life and dignity.

The Dwelling Place, Columbia Heights, MN, $50,000. To support this organization that provides transitional housing and supportive services to women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Emerge Community Development, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. To support Better Jobs Through Training, a collaborative that assists low-income people to secure and retain livable wage jobs in high-demand fields.

The Family Place, St. Paul, MN, $50,000. To provide homeless and precariously housed adults and their children in Ramsey County with education and empowerment with a goal of achieving permanent stability while ending repeated and generational homelessness.

Family Tree, Inc., St. Paul, MN, $60,000. To provide responsive reproductive and sexual health care to increase the health of communities most impacted by health disparities.
Family Values for Life, St. Paul, MN, $25,000. For general operations of Family Values for Life, which provides workshops for single parents, after-school youth enrichment, and family events for residents of St. Paul's East Side.

Free to Be, Inc., Blaine, MN, $35,000. To support an organization that assists economically disadvantaged individuals in Anoka County to obtain and maintain automobiles.

Friends of the Hennepin County Library, Minneapolis, MN, $25,000. To support academic success for children and youth through the Súper Kinder early learning program and the Homework Help after-school tutoring program.

Good in the Hood, Minneapolis, MN, $35,000. For general operations of Good in the Hood, which provides access to basic needs and other community-based programs and services.

Guadalupe Alternative Programs, St. Paul, MN, $50,000. To provide workforce development and training opportunities through certification and employment for at-risk youth and young adults.

Higher Ground Academy and Charter School, St. Paul, MN, $150,000. To provide an after-school (extended day) program consisting of academic tutoring and character development activities for Higher Ground Academy students.

HIRED, Minneapolis, MN, $55,000. For general operating support of this organization that provides employment and training for low-income and disadvantaged job seekers across the Twin Cities.

Indigenous Peoples Task Force, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. For general operating support for this organization, which improves the health and well-being of Native Americans through health education, HIV/AIDS prevention, housing for people with disabilities, and traditional medicines and gardening practices.

The Institute for New Americans, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. For general operations of the International Education Center, which provides Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language program for New Americans.

Joyce Preschool, Minneapolis, MN, $40,000. For general operations for this organization that provides culturally responsive bilingual early childhood education.

Keystone Community Services, St. Paul, MN, $100,000. For general operating support of this multi-service organization that provides basic needs, youth and senior services for individuals and families in Ramsey County.

Kwanzaa Community Church, Minneapolis, MN, $30,000. In support of Northside Women’s Space, a respite for girls and women who have been exploited by sex trafficking and the sex trade.

Learning Disabilities Association, Golden Valley, MN, $50,000. To provide literacy support for children and youth to succeed in school, college and life.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, $100,000. To support programs of this multi-service organization that focuses on economic empowerment, and homelessness.

Mentoring Young Adults, St. Paul, MN, $15,000. For general operating support of this organization that supports youth and families dealing with barriers to housing, employment and the criminal justice system.

Neighborhood Justice Center, Inc., St. Paul, MN, $65,000. To provide comprehensive criminal defense and crime prevention services to low-income people.
Operation de Novo, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $55,000. To support a pre-charge drug diversion is to offer supportive, treatment focused care to individuals who are facing first time felony drug charges in order to reduce recidivism, as well as the collateral consequences of felony drug charges and convictions.

Patchwork Quilt, Minneapolis, MN, $30,000. To provide out-of-school time programming that increases literacy and math skills, advances technology skills, and grows social, life and cultural competency skills.

Playworks Education Energized, St. Paul, MN, $20,000. To transform the school day for culturally diverse and low income children by harnessing the power of play to teach social and emotional skills that improve school climate and increase academic outcomes.

Power of People Leadership Institute, Minneapolis, MN, $40,000. To mentor, empower, train and place ex-offenders of color into livable wage jobs.

Prevention Health Care Agency DBA Isuroon, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. For general operating support to improve the health and well-being of Somali women and their families.

Reading Partners, Oakland, CA, $25,000. General operating support to provide Minneapolis-St. Paul elementary students with individualized support to improve literacy skills.

RECLAIM, Saint Paul, MN, $50,000. To expand a program that increases the competency of mental health practitioners to support LGBTQ youth.

RELATE, Inc., Minnetonka, MN, $40,000. To provide affordable high quality mental and chemical health services to children, youth and adults in the west metro Twin Cities.

ResourceWest, Inc., Hopkins, MN, $50,000. To help households in the western Twin Cities suburbs to move toward greater self-sufficiency by breaking or avoiding the cycle of poverty.

St. Paul Neighborhood Network, St. Paul, MN, $40,000. To teach technology literacy and job placement skills to unemployed and underemployed individuals in the Twin Cities.

St. Stephen’s Human Services, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $75,000. For general operating support of this organization which works to end homelessness for individuals and families in Hennepin County.

Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, $60,000. To provide support for high school youth in the Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center, which focuses on learning and sharing culturally relevant use of digital media learning in and outside the classroom.

Seward Redesign, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $40,000. To increase the livability and economic health of the Seward and Longfellow neighborhoods of Minneapolis by increasing connections between residents and jobs, transportation and housing opportunities.

Teens Alone, Inc., Hopkins, MN, $50,000. For general operations of this organization that provides barrier-free counseling, homeless youth case management, housing, and drop-in services for young people ages 12-24 in the west metro suburbs.

Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation, St. Paul, MN, $20,000. To support the Resource Center which provides out-of-school time programming and employment services for residents in housing communities in St. Paul.

United Family Practice Health Center dba United Family Medicine, St. Paul, MN, $160,000. General operating support for comprehensive and integrated primary, behavioral, and dental health care services for underserved individuals and families, and capital support for expansion of dental clinic.
Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation, Minneapolis, MN, $30,000. To support the Learning Lab program which provides year-round academic support to urban youth grades 1-12.

Women’s Advocates, Inc., St. Paul, MN, $120,000. To support Women’s Advocates scattered-sites, transitional housing and aftercare support services for victims of domestic violence.

Zion Originated Outreach Ministry, Minneapolis, MN, $67,600. For general operating support to provide affordable housing for chronically homeless families with children and to expand supportive services for residents.

Wisconsin

Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire, WI, $50,000. To provide general operating support for Boys & Girls Clubs in Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, and Menomonie, Wisconsin.

Cancer Center of Western Wisconsin, New Richmond, WI, $48,728. To support the establishment of a genetics counseling program, which assists newly diagnosed cancer patients and their families.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse, Inc., La Crosse, WI, $50,000. To support the provision of legal services for the immigrant community.

Children’s Service Society of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, $25,000. To support the general operations of the Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center.

Colfax Community Fire Department, Colfax, WI, $40,000. To assist the Colfax Community Fire Department with the purchase of equipment critical to the safety of its firefighting unit.

Coulee Council on Addictions, Inc., La Crosse, WI, $30,000. For general operations of Coulee Council on Addictions, which serves individuals and families in recovery.

Grace Episcopal Church, Menomonie, WI, $18,000. To support the relocation and expansion of a thrift shop, which serves economically challenged individuals and families in Menomonie.

LE Phillips Memorial Public Library, Eau Claire, WI, $55,000. To refurbish portions of the library, providing patrons a comfortable and inviting place to connect, read and learn.

Municipal Ambulance Services, Inc., Amery, WI, $46,988. To assist Municipal Ambulance Services with the purchase of critical equipment to become a paramedic unit.

North Country Independent Living, Inc., Superior, WI, $50,000. For general operations support during a transitional period for this organization, which assists people with disabilities to live independently.

Northeastern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center, Inc., Manitowoc, WI, $50,000. To support efforts to increase the capacity of healthcare professionals in rural northwestern Wisconsin.

Recreation and Fitness Resources, Inc., Bayfield, WI, $8,000. For general operations of the Bayfield Area Recreation Center, which serves individuals and families living in Wisconsin’s South Shore communities.

River Falls Community Food Pantry, River Falls, WI, $30,000. For general operations of the River Falls Community Food Pantry, which provides food for low-income families.
Siren Fire Association, Siren, WI, $75,000. To support the construction of a new fire hall for the Siren Fire Association.

Supporting Families Together Association, Madison, WI, $55,125. To support the Early Childhood Professional Development Options collaboration, which seeks to enhance literacy in La Crosse by supporting the continuing education of early childhood education professionals.

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Foundation, Inc., La Crosse, WI, $50,000. To support It Makes Cents!, a financial literacy program which promotes better financial decision making among college students in the broader La Crosse community.

Western Technical College Foundation, Inc., La Crosse, WI, $61,200. To provide continued support for Pathways Scholarships, which assists qualifying individuals to attain certificate level training in a Career Pathway at Western Technical College.

Westfields Hospital, Inc., New Richmond, WI, $46,500. To enhance patients' healing and recovery by providing a holistic healing environment that incorporates integrative therapies with conventional medical interventions.

YWCA of La Crosse, La Crosse, WI, $35,000. To support the development of restorative justice tools to increase student success in La Crosse-area schools.

Southeastern Minnesota

City Housing Corporation, Duluth, MN, $150,000. For renovations to create the Empowerment Center, which will provide an array of support services to families in northwest Rochester to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Channel One, Inc., Rochester, MN, $101,847. For general operating support to collect and distribute food to organizations and programs addressing food insecurity.

Dyslexia Institute of Minnesota Inc., dba The Reading Center, Rochester, MN, $75,000. For general operating support to increase the capacity to serve additional students with Dyslexia.

Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, St. Paul, MN, $50,000. To provide coordination, planning, technical assistance, and other support to address the creation of workforce housing in Olmsted County.

The Jeremiah Program, Minneapolis, MN, $51,250. To support a community needs and feasibility assessment to determine program expansion in the greater Rochester area.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN, $10,000. To provide supplemental food to vulnerable children in the Kasson-Mantorville school district through the Food for Friends backpack program.

SEMCAC, Inc., Rushford, MN, $18,000. To provide food support for low-income households through the Dodge County Food shelf in Kasson, Minnesota.

YMCA of Rochester, Inc., Rochester, MN, $100,000. To support the Building the Bridge campaign to enhance community, sustain mission work in Rochester and increase the YMCA of Rochester’s community impact.

Zumbro Valley Health Center, Rochester, MN, $91,569. To provide integrated mental-chemical-medical care for patients diagnosed with a co-morbid condition.
Minnesota Statewide

50Can, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $35,000. To close Minnesota’s education opportunity gaps and build stronger public schools through research, communications, and public engagement.

Children’s Defense Fund - Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, $125,000. To improve the economic stability of low-income families and communities through the Bridge to Benefits tool and use of the Economic Stability Indicator.

College Possible, St. Paul, MN, $400,000. To expand a “tech-connected” model for low-income high school students in Greater Minnesota to gain admission to college.

Minnesota AIDS Project, Minneapolis, MN, $45,000. To support the Bridge to Health Equity program, which provides care linkage for HIV-positive and high-risk individuals in communities facing health disparities.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, St. Paul, MN, $50,000. For general operating support of the organization, which provides comprehensive services for Minnesota veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Muscular Dystrophy Association, Edina, MN, $10,000. To provide financial support for children ages 16 to 17 with a muscle disease to attend summer camp in Minnesota.

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota (NAMI), St. Paul, MN, $100,000. To educate and support affiliates throughout Minnesota in developing a comprehensive statewide mental health system.

Philanthrofund Foundation, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000. For general operations of Philanthrofund Foundation, which invests in leaders and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities.

Rainbow Health Initiative, Minneapolis, MN, $40,000. To support the creation of safer and more inclusive spaces for LGBTQ patients within healthcare systems throughout Minnesota.

North Dakota Statewide

North Dakota Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health, Bismarck, ND, $100,000. For general operating support to assist and empower parents to advocate for their children with behavioral, social and emotional challenges.

North Dakota Women’s Network, Bismarck, ND, $57,351. To update a report on the status of women in North Dakota in order to improve conditions for women’s workforce participation, health, and education throughout the state.

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