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Otto Bremer Trust awards 136 grants totaling over $10 million

SAINT PAUL June 10, 2016 — The Otto Bremer Trust has awarded over $10 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 assist people in achieving full economic, civic and social participation in and for the betterment of their communities. 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

Bismarck Recreation Council, Bismarck, ND, $50,000, For capital improvements to the Schaumberg Ice Arena.

Library Foundation, Inc., Bismarck, ND, $50,000, To build a new library space for teens to read, do homework, work together in teams, explore their creativity, and learn new technology.

McLean Family Resource Center, Washburn, ND, $75,000, To support the construction of a new building to improve domestic violence and sexual assault victim services and expand a community food shelf and clothes closet.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Bismarck, Bismarck, ND, $150,000, To sustain and expand the services of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile and the School Base Sealant Programs, which provide access to oral health care for underserved children in western North Dakota.

The Salvation Army, Northern Division, Roseville, MN, $25,000, To provide emergency social services, such as rent, mortgage, utility, medical, and transportation assistance to individuals and families experiencing crisis in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Belcourt, ND, $70,000, To replace Belcourt Lake playground equipment to increase safety and community use.
Ward County Park Board, Minot, ND, $10,000, For capital improvements to Old Settlers Park.

Red River Region

African Initiative for Progress, Fargo, ND, $15,000, To increase tutoring and mentoring supports for immigrant youth in Fargo.

Altru Health Foundation, Grand Forks, ND, $93,856, To provide telemedicine skills training for nurses in rural health facilities located in the Red River Valley.

Community Health Service Inc., Moorhead, MN, $250,000, For capital improvements to increase health and wellness services to low-income patients in Grafton, North Dakota.

Grand Forks Community Land Trust, Grand Forks, ND, $50,000, To create and administer a statewide Community Land Trust for North Dakota.

The Grand Forks Foundation for Education, Inc., Grand Forks, ND, $60,000, To increase literacy through the access of library books to children throughout the Grand Forks community.

L.I.S.T.E.N. (Love is Sharing The Exceptional Need), Grand Forks, ND, $120,000, For general operating support to provide programs and activities for people with and without disabilities in Grand Forks.

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc., Moorhead, MN, $75,000, For general operating support to provide services for low-income children, families and individuals.

Larimore Park Board, Larimore, ND, $64,575, To increase the safety of the Larimore Centennial Park playground.

Northern Lights Youth Services, Inc., Hillsboro, ND, $47,298, To increase the capacity of Students Against Destructive Decision programs in the Red River Valley.

Northwest Regional Library, Thief River Falls, MN, $17,670, For improvements to access for library patrons in Warren, Minnesota.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Red River Valley, Inc., Fargo, ND, $250,000, To increase the availability of short-term housing for families with critically-ill children in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

The Social Connexion, Inc. DBA A Place for Hope: Recovery and Wellness Center, Inc., Moorhead, MN, $40,000, For general operating support to provide social support and meet basic needs of adults living with serious and persistent mental illness.

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Crookston, MN, $128,468, For general operations to support interventions addressing identified supportive housing needs in the community.

The Village Family Service Center, Fargo, ND, $75,000, For scholarship support only of the Nokomis Child Care Centers, which provide care and early education to children from birth through kindergarten.

Wilkin County Public Health, Breckenridge, MN, $82,384, To support the Youth and Community Prevention Coalition efforts to reduce substance and chemical abuse in Wilkin County.

YWCA Cass Clay, Fargo, ND, $100,000, For support of the YWCA Emergency Shelter Services Program, which serves homeless women and children.
Central and Northern Minnesota

The Brainerd Baxter Youth Center, Brainerd, MN, $30,000, For general operating support to fund out-of-school-time programs for at-risk and homeless youth in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota, St. Cloud, MN, $50,000, For general operating support to provide children with one-to-one relationships with adult mentors.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, St. Cloud, MN, $100,000, To provide supportive services and emergency and transitional housing for homeless youth, ages 16-24, in central Minnesota.

Child Care Choices, Inc., Waite Park, MN, $80,000, To ensure that low-income families in greater St. Cloud are able to find, secure, and maintain quality child care in order to progress toward employment and self-sufficiency.

Family Pathways, North Branch, MN, $65,000, For supportive services and emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in rural Minnesota.

Friends Against Abuse, International Falls, MN, $80,000, For general operating support to provide crisis and basic services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Koochiching County.

Goodwill Industries, Inc., St. Paul, MN, $70,000, To provide a comprehensive model of workforce development, mental health, and related support services to improve financial and family outcomes.

Independent School District #742, St. Cloud, MN, $20,000, For a new playground to serve disabled children at Talahi Community School in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Koochiching Aging Options, International Falls, MN, $40,000, For general operating support to provide ongoing referral, program, and planning services to older adults of Koochiching County, their families, and the broader community.

Reach Up, Inc., St. Cloud, MN, $80,000, For general operating support to provide early childhood education and family support to low-income families and children.

Sauk Rapids/Rice Public Schools, #47, Sauk Rapids, MN, $35,000, To meet the needs of preschool children with emotional concerns in early childhood special education settings.

Support Within Reach, Grand Rapids, MN, $65,900, For general operating support to build the capacity of the organization and increase access to services for victims of sexual violence.

Western and South Central Minnesota

Alexandria Opportunities Center, Alexandria, MN, $58,300, For capital improvements to the organization, which employs people with disabilities.

Carlos Fire Department, Carlos, MN, $19,985, To assist the Carlos Fire Department with the purchase of equipment critical to the safety of its firefighting unit.

Greater Mankato Area United Way, Mankato, MN, $62,125, To support the Connecting Kids Program, which provides financial and community resources that connect low-income youth in Mankato to youth development programs.

Lake Crystal Area Recreation Center, Inc., Lake Crystal, MN, $30,000, For general operating support to improve health, fitness, and quality of life in Southern Minnesota.
Leisure Education for Exceptional People, Inc. (LEEP), Mankato, MN, $42,000, For general operating support to provide social and programming support for people with developmental disabilities in the Mankato community.

Loaves and Fishes Too, Minneapolis, MN, $25,000, For general operating support to serve nutritious meals in Marshall, Minnesota.

Outreach Food Shelf of Douglas County, Alexandria, MN, MN, $64,000, To support capital improvements for the Outreach Food Shelf of Douglas County, which provides food assistance to residents of Douglas County.

Prairie Home Hospice, Inc., Marshall, MN, $40,000, To support the Palliative Care and Chronic Disease Management Program, a financial support program for chronically ill patients.

Redwood Falls Parks & Recreation Department, Redwood Falls, MN, $100,000, To support capital improvements for the Redwood Area Community Center to better serve senior citizens in Redwood Falls, MN.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, Owatonna, MN, $30,000, For support of a community civic stewardship process to identify and address opportunities and challenges in Owatonna.

Southern Prairie Center for Community Health Improvement, Inc., Marshall, MN, $50,000, To improve health literacy and healthy behaviors by improving the organization's capacity to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of the Somali community in Kandiyohi County.

Steele County Clothesline, Inc., Owatonna, MN, $50,000, For general operating support to provide clothing and small household items to Steele County residents.

Western Community Action, Inc., Marshall, MN, $150,000, To support capacity building to serve low-income households in southwest Minnesota.

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Ain Dah Yung Center, St. Paul, MN, $75,000, To support American Indian youth through culturally relevant programs, community support, and safe transitional housing.

Alexandra House, Inc., Blaine, MN, $55,000, To provide advocacy and support services to victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, and abuse in later life.

Ally People Solutions, St. Paul, MN, $40,000, To provide Personal Empowerment training, job coaching, and ongoing support for adults with disabilities.

American Indian OIC, Minneapolis, MN, $70,000, To support the Takoda Institute, which helps low-income adults move from poverty to employment through sector-specific vocational training paired with complementary career services.

Anew Bam, St. Paul, MN, $15,000, To support an after-school program that helps to strengthen reading and math skills and reinforce positive life skills.

Appetite for Change, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $40,000, To provide general operating support to this organization which works to transform the North Minneapolis community through food.

Bloomington Meals on Wheels, Bloomington, MN, $10,000, For general operating support to provide nutritious meals to seniors and people with disabilities in the Bloomington-Eden Prairie community.
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, St. Paul, MN, $50,000, To support Pathways to Success, which introduces at-risk teens in the Twin Cities to career options and provides opportunities for scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships.

The Bridge for Youth, Minneapolis, MN, $75,000, To provide crisis intervention, shelter, and supportive services to end youth homelessness.

Build Wealth MN, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $30,000, For general operating support for work to close the housing disparity gap in the Twin Cities for communities of color and enhance financial literacy.

Cancer Legal Line, St. Paul, MN, $50,000, To provide legal care concerning employment, insurance, finance, and housing to Minnesotans affected by cancer.

Casa de Esperanza, St. Paul, MN, $120,000, For general operating support to serve Latino children and families experiencing domestic violence and engage communities in promoting healthy families and relationships.

Centro de Trabajadores Unidos En Lucha, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000, For general operating support to develop leadership among low-wage workers.

Children's Dental Services, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $212,848, For general operations and capital support to provide emergency dental services to low-income children and pregnant women.

Church of the Ascension, Minneapolis, MN, $25,000, To support summer enrichment programs for disadvantaged youth in north Minneapolis.

City of Saint Paul, St. Paul, MN, $46,479, To support Right Track, an employer-paid professional internship program for low-income youth in St. Paul.

Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin, St. Louis Park, MN, $50,000, To provide assistance to individuals and families who are moving from homelessness and provide basic needs assistance.

Cycles for Change, St. Paul, MN, $15,000, To train and employ youth to learn vocational skills related to bicycle mechanics.

DARTS, West St. Paul, MN, $10,000, To support the Learning Buddies program, which engages community volunteers to ensure elementary school children reach basic reading proficiency levels.

Domestic Abuse Project, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $40,000, For general operating support to serve victims of domestic violence.

Dunwoody College of Technology, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000, To help low-income women prepare for and secure high-wage jobs in the technical sector.

EVOLVE Adoption & Family Services, Oak Park Heights, MN, $50,000, For general operating support to provide foster care programs and outreach in the Twin Cities.

Friends In Need Food Shelf, Cottage Grove, MN, $20,000, For general operating support to provide food and resources for people in need.

Goodwill Industries, Inc., St. Paul, MN, $160,000, To provide holistic, employment-focused services to individuals recently released from incarceration in order to aide and support in their transition back into society.

Intercongregation Communities Association, Minnetonka, MN, $15,000, To provide support for engaging residents and community partners in improving the quality of life in the Blake Road neighborhood of Hopkins, Minnesota.
The Jeremiah Program, Minneapolis, MN, $40,000, To provide on-site mental health counseling and resource referrals to low-income single mothers in residence at Jeremiah Program.

The Lift Garage, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000, For general operating support to provide car repairs at below-market rates for low-income residents in the Twin Cities area to enable transportation to work, school, and other appointments.

The Link, Minneapolis, MN, $100,000, To pilot an innovative model of ending homelessness of LGBTQ youth in the Twin Cities.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation, St. Paul, MN, $100,000, To support Bridges to Career Opportunities, a program that helps low-income individuals start and progress along a career pathway, resulting in employment opportunities with increased wages.

MAD DADS, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000, For general operating support to promote public safety and youth development in Minneapolis.

Merrick, Inc., Vadnais Heights, MN, $17,990, To support a program that will provide assessments, instruction, and "soft skills" training for individuals with significant disabilities.

Minnesota Council on Crime and Justice, Minneapolis, MN, $75,000, For support for the Fair Hiring Project, which helps those with criminal records to overcome legal barriers and obtain employment and housing.

Open Access Connections, St. Paul, MN, $30,000, To provide the basic, necessary communication tools needed for homeless and low-income people to find housing, employment, and economic self-sufficiency.

Our Savior's Community Services, Minneapolis, MN, $30,000, To support the English Learning Center, which conducts literacy classes to empower adult immigrants and refugee students in the Twin Cities.

Park Nicollet Foundation, St. Louis Park, MN, $30,000, To support Growing Through Grief, a program that provides in-school grief support services, one-on-one counseling, and school crisis intervention.

People Responding in Social Ministry (PRISM), Golden Valley, MN, $45,000, For general operating support to encourage self-sufficiency for the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families in financial crisis living in the western suburbs.

PRG, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $30,000, For general operating support to close the homeownership gap by correcting multi-generational inequities for low-income families of color.

Redeemer Center for Life, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $65,000, For general operating support for multi-faceted organizational strategies to support a vibrant community and resilient youth in North Minneapolis.

RESOURCE, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $50,000, To expand and enhance existing programs for youth in the Twin Cities while providing support to achieve education and career goals.

Ronald McDonald House Charities - Upper Midwest, Minneapolis, MN, $50,000, For general operating support to provide care and support to families experiencing health crisis of a child.

Simpson Housing Services, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $100,000, For general operating support to provide emergency shelter, supportive housing and educational services for homeless families and adults.
St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi, MN, $50,000, To support the Community Resource Center, which works to alleviate homelessness in Washington and eastern Ramsey counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Summit Academy OIC, Minneapolis, MN, $225,000, To provide adult basic education, vocational training, and employment referrals for low-income and minority people in St. Paul and the Twin Cities metro area.

Two Rivers Community Land Trust, Woodbury, MN, $20,000, To provide homeownership services and affordable homeownership options in Washington County.

Ujamaa Place, St. Paul, MN, $80,000, For general operating support for providing supportive services to economically disadvantaged African American men.

Way to Grow, Minneapolis, MN, $150,000, To support Great by 8, an early childhood and elementary literacy, math and health education program.

Women at the Courthouse, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $35,000, For general operating support to promote positive outcomes for women and children through court monitoring, education, action-based research and analysis, and policy recommendations.

Wisconsin

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, $100,000, To support prevention outreach, health care, and social services programs for HIV-positive individuals in western Wisconsin.

American Cancer Society, Inc., Eagan, MN, $71,632, To support the Circle of Life Cancer Prevention project, which increases screenings and early detection programs in Native American reservation communities.

Arc of Dunn County, Inc., Menomonie, WI, $41,000, For general operating support to serve adults with intellectual disabilities in Dunn County.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater La Crosse, La Crosse, WI, $175,000, To support capital improvements for the organization, which serves children and youth in the La Crosse community.

Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity, Inc., Eau Claire, WI, $30,000, For general operating support to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to economically challenged families.

Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, Hudson, WI, $60,000, To provide professional development training, educational resources, and support services to dairy farmers in rural communities of western Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Easter Seals Wisconsin, Inc., Madison, WI, $80,000, To support vocational rehabilitation services for farmers with disabilities in Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Dunn, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Polk, and St. Croix counties.

Family Pathways, North Branch, MN, $92,000, For capital improvements and operating support of the St. Croix Falls and Frederic food shelves.

Five Loaves Food and Clothing Center, Inc., New Richmond, WI, $35,000, To support fund development strategies and provide food to residents of New Richmond.

Hillview Greenhouse Life Center, Inc., La Crosse, WI, $25,000, For general operating support for urban agriculture programs to increase health, self-reliance and food security in La Crosse.
Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Burnett County Inc., Danbury, WI, $90,000, For general operating support to provide a variety of services to the elderly and other vulnerable populations.

Kinship of Polk County, Inc., Balsam Lake, WI, $30,000, For general operating support to establish and maintain mentoring relationships in western Wisconsin.

L.E. Phillips Career Development Center, Eau Claire, WI, $25,000, To provide basic needs and services for those experiencing homelessness and facilitate connections to community resources with intensive case management.

Operation HELP, Inc., Hudson, WI, $20,000, To provide emergency rent, utility, car repair and gas assistance to clients in St. Croix county.

Stepping Stones of Dunn County, Inc., Menomonie, WI, $134,000, To provide operating and capacity-building support to provide basic needs support services.

Turningpoint for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence, Inc., River Falls, WI, $50,000, For general operating support to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence.

West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, Inc., Glenwood City, WI, $122,500, To provide opportunities for low-income households in west central Wisconsin that will lead to greater self-sufficiency and alleviation of poverty.

Southeastern Minnesota

Bear Creek Services, Rochester, MN, $62,685, To increase the capacity of the Independent Life Skills Program.

Senior Citizens Services, Inc, Rochester, MN, $75,000, To furnish and equip the 125 Live Center for Active Adults Rochester Senior Center.

The Arc Southeastern Minnesota, Rochester, MN, $50,000, To build fund development capacity to provide advocacy and support services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, St. Paul, MN, $276,802, To support the Rural Libraries and Literacy Leadership program for southeastern Minnesota communities.

Tweedten Lutheran Healthcare Center dba Gundersen Tweedten Care Center, Spring Grove, MN, $75,000, To support the Increased Mobility and Fall Reduction Project through capital modifications and equipment purchase.

Minnesota Statewide

180 Degrees, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, $100,000, To support organizational strategic planning and capital and operating support of group homes in St. Cloud and Albert Lea.

African Development Center, Minneapolis, MN, $75,000, For programs in Greater Minnesota to assist African immigrants and refugees in starting and sustaining successful businesses, building wealth, and promoting community reinvestment.

All Parks Alliance for Change, St. Paul, MN, $15,000, To support the Manufactured Home Community Preservation Program, which works to prevent foreclosure and bankruptcy of home parks in Greater Minnesota.
Community of Recovering People, Inc., Wayzata, MN, $500,000, To provide scholarships to those seeking relief from alcohol and drug dependency in the Otto Bremer communities of Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

Hunger Solutions Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, $40,000, To build the capacity of food shelves across the Twin Cities to better serve low-income and vulnerable groups.

Inver Hills Community College Foundation, Inver Grove Heights, MN, $150,000, To support the TuitionMatch-MN program for a consortium of metro and Greater Minnesota MnSCU colleges, which offers matched savings accounts, financial literacy, and career coaching to support student success.

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc., North St. Paul, MN, $200,000, To support the creation of dementia-friendly communities throughout Minnesota.

Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration, Maplewood, MN, $75,000, To build the capacity of nonprofits to expand volunteer engagement in Greater Minnesota.

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, Inc., St. Paul, MN, $70,000, To expand public awareness in Minnesota and decrease community tolerance for domestic abuse.

Minnesota Community Action Association Resource Fund, St. Paul, MN, $51,600, To support the Minnesota Statewide Financial Education Initiative, which provides training to local community action programs and other nonprofits.

Prepare + Prosper, St. Paul, MN, $125,000, For general operating support to increase the financial capability of low- and moderate-income individuals through free tax preparation, help with financial planning and goal setting, and development of a new suite of financial products through the FAIR initiative.

Twin Cities Public Television, Inc., TPT, St. Paul, MN, $30,000, To increase the capacity of TPT/ECHO to serve Minnesota’s immigrant, refugee, and LEP communities with critical educational and emergency information.

North Dakota Statewide

ARC of Bismarck, Bismarck, ND, $50,000, To provide leadership and advocacy training to adults with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities.

Children’s Advocacy Centers of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND, $50,000, For general operating support to provide statewide program services and support to local children’s advocacy centers through training, technical assistance, and outreach.

North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services, Bismarck, ND, $100,000, For a project to support updated domestic violence and sexual assault service delivery models in four local programs.

North Dakota Jump$tart Coalition, Bismarck, ND, $3,000, For general operating support to improve the financial literacy of North Dakota residents through teacher training and educational events.

Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, St. Paul, MN, $80,000, To strengthen comprehensive sexuality education and access to reproductive health care in North Dakota.
**Program-Related Investments**

**Model Cities of St. Paul, Inc.,** St. Paul, MN, **$250,000,** To provide capital support to the BROWNstone project, a mixed-use development that will help bring increased economic vibrancy to St. Paul's Frogtown/Rondo neighborhood.

**United Covenant Foundation, Inc.,** Clear Lake, WI, **$300,000,** To support an expansion of Ridgeview Apartments, which provides affordable independent living alternatives for moderate-income seniors in western Wisconsin.

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