



From: Robert Heitkamp  
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023  
Subject: Community Development Grants

Dear Chairman & ND Leaders,

My name is Bob Heitkamp, and I am the Executive Director of Marketplace for Kids (MFK). MFK recently received a VIBRANCY GRANT with/for the City of Valley City for our first Marketplace for Kids Education Day. The results were phenomenal! There were 347 students (our first year) who were actively engaged in entrepreneurial education and career choices that were too numerous to count! There were also another 150 teachers, chaperones, volunteers, presenters, Business Owners, Chamber, and Development personnel on hand to ensure that these students not only had an opportunity to look at what their local community has to offer but also help develop those critical first choices young minds make when deciding WHAT they want to do, WHERE they want to live, and HOW can they get to the culmination of those goals when they reach those first years of employment and visionary dreams of making their community GREAT!!!

This Vibrancy Grant had a direct impact on shaping the future of Valley City by planting the seeds of community business, growth, and workforce development in the crucial sector of the population we seldom think of as "LEADERS". But it's these students in grades 3-8 that can and WILL be the driving force in the local community in only 4+ years!

Please do everything you can to support, increase, and grow these opportunities for ALL of this State's communities in an effort to encourage, retain, and grow our State's workforce and business community...the heart of North Dakota!

Thanks,  
Bob

Robert Heitkamp  
Executive Director

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