



## GRAND FORKS PARKS & RECREATION FOUNDATION

**RAISED \$13,196  
ON GIVING HEARTS DAY!  
for scholarships**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Grand Forks, ND)**

**March 7, 2009**

Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) inspired many health related non-profits in our region to participate in "Giving Hearts Day", an online fundraiser, which took place Thursday, February 12. DMF matched \$5000 to each participating non-profit for online contributions made on Giving Hearts Day. **The Grand Forks Parks and Recreation Foundation** participated in this one-day event and through generous online donations and the DMF match, raised a gross amount of **\$13,196**. The Grand Forks Parks and Recreation Foundation devoted the dollars raised to [support scholarships for children and families in our community](#), who would otherwise not have the means to participate in programs and activities through the Grand Forks Park District. "This is a great opportunity to grow our scholarship fund and reach families and children with the most need in our community," stated GF Parks and Recreation Foundation President, Paula Anderson.



Over half of North Dakotans are currently overweight and today, children may die sooner than their parents directly related to obesity and other chronic illnesses. In North Dakota, 64% of us are overweight or obese and 22% do not exercise. North Dakota is 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation for obesity. One in three children, born after the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes, at some point in their life.

More and more, parks and recreation departments are looked to for providing programs and opportunities for children and families, which will help defy the critical health trends we face today. The **Grand Forks Parks and Recreation Foundation** was developed one year ago with this mission; to contribute to and promote healthful lifestyles in our community through the development and enhancement of parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, programs and activities for all people of Grand Forks, regardless of age, physical ability or economic position.

Paula Anderson concluded, "The Giving Hearts Day dollars devoted to scholarships is just the beginning of what we hope as a Foundation to provide to the residents of this community. Parks and recreation programs are essential to the vitality, health and wellness of Grand Forks and it is our mission to enhance opportunities for all."

**Photo** – Rob Vollrath (left) and Lorianne Fennell (middle) "Giving Hearts Day" Committee Volunteers presenting a check \$13,196 to GF Parks and Recreation Foundation President, Paula Anderson (right) during the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Forks Park Board meeting.