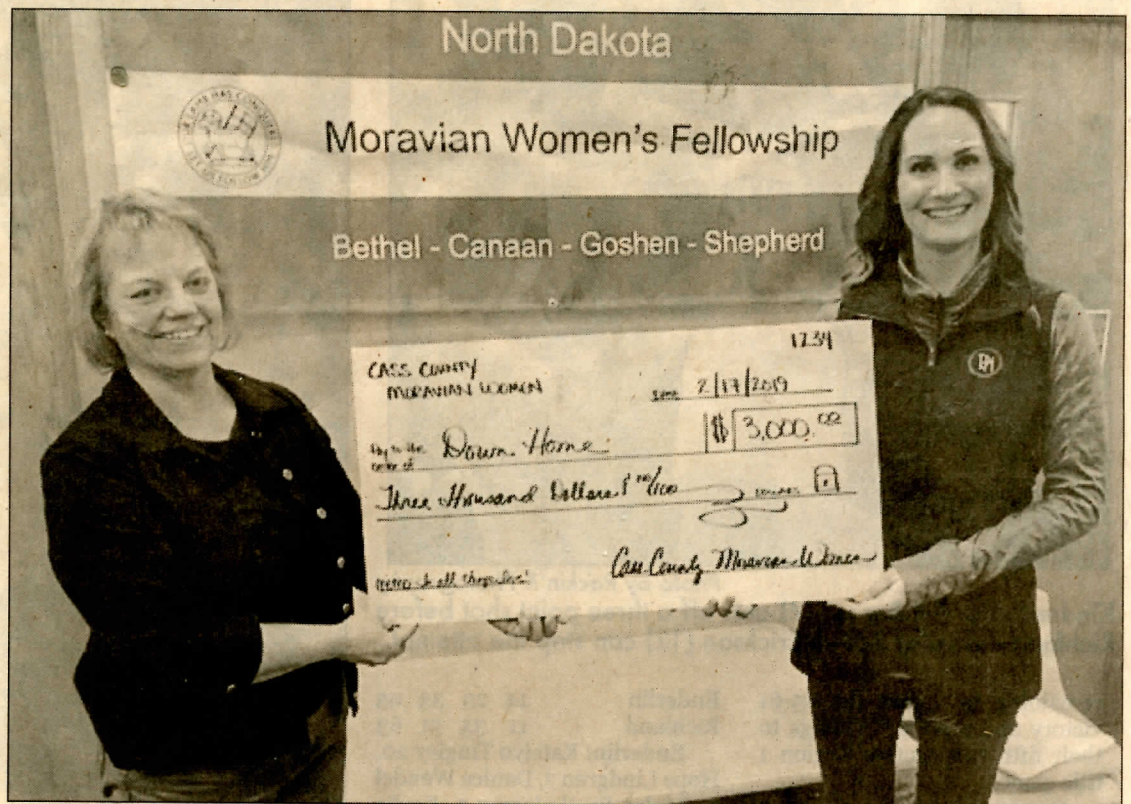


Church

Moravian Women's Fellowship helps those transitioning from homelessness



North Dakota Moravian Women's Fellowship representative Sylvia Medd (left) presents a check to Jenessa Fillipi, executive director of Down Home.

By Jan Russell

North Dakota Moravian Women's Fellowship announced the completion of their annual mission project. The group, consisting of members from congregations in Davenport, Durbin, Leonard and Fargo, raised \$3,000 for the Fargo-based charity Down Home. The non-profit provides furnishings and décor for families that are transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.

Sylvia Medd, a representative of the women's fellowship, presented a check to Jenessa Fillipi, executive director of Down Home earlier this month. The money will be used to furnish an apartment, condo or small home. Down Home works closely with community agencies to identify candidates and it helps each client family develop a "Pay It Forward" plan to foster connections to communities, schools and churches.

The Moravian women, when brainstorming how to raise the funds needed, fell back on a tried and true method: the bake sale. The four churches banded together to stock and sell baked goods at Summerfest in Casselton, Leonard's Fall Festival and Shepard of the Prairie's annual Pork Supper. Each sale yielded close to \$1,000.

"Never underestimate the power of the oven," joked Becky Czichotzki, a member of Shepherd of the Prairie Moravian Church in Fargo. Different flavored popcorn, relishes, jams and jellies joined the traditional cookies and pies at each site.

"It was so exciting and so humbling to work with Down Home," Medd said. "The four church families came together and it gave us a purpose—not only to work together—but to help others locally."

The women have chosen to work with Down Home again this year.

Saturday, August 24, 2019 C3

The Forum

ND Moravian Women's Ministry Raises Funds to Sponsor Down Home family

The North Dakota Moravian Women's Ministry raised funds from selling baked goods and a potato bake to sponsor a Down Home (DH) move-in. In June, the Moravian Women's Ministry team, including parishioners from all four ND churches, and their families moved furniture and décor selected from DH's warehouse into the client's home. They also assembled furniture, hung pictures, arranged and coordinated the furniture and décor into a space to embrace. The team finished the process with the final reveal of the newly decorated and furnished space to the DH family transitioning out of homelessness into permanent housing.

The ND Moravian Women's Ministry's sponsorship aids DH's efforts to provide clients with relief from the financial stressors of furnishing a home; empower clients to provide stability for their family; continue to connect families to community resources; and prevent homelessness from recurring for families.

"After hearing Jenessa, founder of DH, speak, we knew we wanted to do something as a community," said Sylvia Medd, ND Moravian Women's Fellowship President. "Our four ND churches came together as a team to help to make a difference for a family."

The ND Moravian's Women's Fellowship is actively involved in local and global missions. They plan to raise additional funds for Giving Hearts Day to sponsor more family move ins. Find out more about the Moravians at shepherdfargo.org.

To find out more about the DH Sponsorship program, please visit us at www.down-home.org.

"It was inspiring for us to move Dominique and her daughter Kia into their new home" said Sylvia Medd, ND Moravian Women's Fellowship President. "Thank you Down Home for making this happen."

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ND Moravian Women's Ministry Sponsors 2nd Down Home Move-In, Pushing Lives Impacted to over 200!

The ND Moravian Women's Ministry sponsored its 2nd Move-In for a Down Home (DH) family emerging from homelessness. The Moravian Women's Ministry team, including parishioners from all four ND churches, moved furniture and selected décor from DH's warehouse into the client's home. They assembled furniture, hung pictures, arranged and coordinated the furniture and décor into a space to embrace. The team finished the process with a final reveal of the newly decorated and furnished space to the DH family emerging out of homelessness into permanent housing. This move-in marked over 200 lives of parents and children, emerging from homelessness, being impacted in the community in under 3 years!