

## More than 100 Attend Vessel Christian Foundation Kick-Off Events

*While the idea for Vessel has been kicked around for 10 years, the organization has found its footing and is running full speed ahead.*

**O**n November 27 and May 5, Vessel board members, staff and consultants were thrilled to host more than 100 interested community members to kick-off events held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Grand Forks. The events were held to formally introduce Vessel Christian Foundation and share information on how the new non-profit organization can provide unique services to individuals, families, businesses and charities.

"We are very pleased with the turnout to our kick-off events and the feedback we've received," explained board chairman Charles Vein. "I think this proves people are not only interested but have a need for the types of services Vessel provides."

Since the first event in November, more than \$300,000 in gifts have come in from donors



*Gloria Patocka, WPC Executive Director and Rita Midstokke get to know each other at the May event.*



*Board member Arlyce Gibbs with her brother-in-law Mitch Gibbs and mother-in-law Adelyne Gibbs.*

interested in supporting Christian ministries while benefiting from the tax advantages Vessel can offer. While gifts coming in are crucial to the success of Vessel, the gifts going out are just as meaningful. For example, through Vessel, a gift of \$12,000 was granted to the Women's Pregnancy Center in Grand Forks to serve as a matching incentive for their spring fundraiser.

"How blessed the Women Pregnancy Center was to have been the recipient of such a wonderful gift. First off, we truly trust God for His provisions for this ministry and to have something in this amount come in to us was so exciting, for us to see how the Lord works," said Gloria Patocka, Executive Director of the Women's Pregnancy Center. "We are so thankful to Vessel Christian Foundation – this is a much-needed ministry." "The Lord answered our prayers with this wonderful gift," said Women Pregnancy Center Executive Director Gloria Patocka. "We are so grateful to Him and the donor who gave through Vessel to support our clients."

For those who attended one of our events, thank you for joining us! If you weren't able to attend, please feel free to call 701-746-8321 or visit [www.vesselchristianfoundation.org](http://www.vesselchristianfoundation.org) for more information.



Joe Chine, Riverside Christian School, and Mitch Gibbs visit after the program.



Bill Morritz, foundation consultant for Vessel and keynote speaker.



Vessel Christian Foundation board members Lee Reddig and Arlyce Gibbs before the kick-off event in May.

## Do we really need another non-profit in town?

According to Scott Hulst, Administrative Director of VCF, the answer (yes!) has come from the people he serves. Creative consultant Michelle Walters sat down with Scott to get the nitty gritty on why this organization was started.

### **Q: What is Vessel Christian Foundation?**

**A:** Vessel is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Several years ago, a group of Christian men and women discussed the idea of an organization that would allow families to continue their giving in support of God's kingdom but with much greater impact and with tax saving benefits. Ultimately, Vessel is a service that is helping make dreams come true for families, businesses and the Christian ministries and organizations that receive support.

### **Q: How is it different from other non-profit foundations seeking donor support?**

**A:** First, we offer more flexibility and creativity through donor advised funds. For example, a couple called us and said they wanted to make a gift and had a timing issue. They needed some tax shelter by the year's end but still need to conduct some research on where their gifts should go. They made the gift by setting up a family giving fund, received the tax savings, and have as much time as they need to decide which organizations they want to support. Second, Vessel allows you to focus your

giving on meeting **local** needs. Most importantly, our mission is Christ-centered and the Board of Directors for Vessel evaluates recipients of funds to ensure they uphold the mission.

### **Q: What was the motivation behind getting Vessel started?**

**A:** Simply put: unmet needs. People want their giving to have greater impact. They want to work with an organization that can offer the advice and expertise to help them accomplish this. Vessel exists to serve the donor and the organizations who receive funds and services. It's not about us. It's about them. Their timing, their goals and dreams, and how they want to leave their legacy.

### **Q: Who can get involved with Vessel?**

**A:** We are looking for two distinct groups: donors and partners. Whether someone gives \$50 to support the general fund or \$50,000 to create their own family fund, sustained support will allow us to continue operating and providing these services. We are also hoping to develop more partnerships with organizations who can benefit from Vessel. We don't just

dole out money – we can also provide fundraising consulting and services. Churches, missions organizations, bible camps and other Christian ministries are great examples of partners we would love to work with.

### **Q: What about those who simply want to give to their church?**

**A:** We are not looking to replace the giving most folks do directly to their church or any other organization. You can certainly give through Vessel. We hope to provide gift planning services and advice that can allow your gift to have greater impact for your church.

### **Q: What do you hope to see happen with Vessel now and in the future?**

**A:** We have already had the privilege of working with some wonderful families, donors and organizations. Word of mouth has been a powerful tool. We hope to continue growing in donors and partners by building on our positive reputation, increasing awareness through events and communication, and reaching out to organizations who can align with us for the benefit of those they serve. It's a win-win for everyone.

## Planting a different kind of seed

**N**orth Dakota farmers Jim and Shirley Hooge set up a family giving fund with Vessel Christian Foundation

A strong emphasis in the Hooge household for as long as Jim Hooge can remember still holds true today: all of their children are encouraged to give 10 percent of their allowance or earnings to a charitable cause or organization. For their 16-year-old daughter Shanna, this rule extends to giving of her time as well.

"We often ask our kids, 'What have you done for someone else today? How have you contributed to our family or someone else's family?'"

The Hooge family firmly believes that God calls us to give of ourselves to others – our time, our love, and our income.

Jim and Shirley Hooge recently made a charitable contribution by setting up a donor advised fund with Vessel Christian Foundation. Through this fund, the family received the tax savings that come from giving to a registered 501 (c) (3) organization. More importantly, Jim and Shirley, along with their five children, can make decisions about where to direct these funds over several years instead of when the actual gift was made.

As small grain farmers in the Munich, ND area, it made perfect sense for Jim and Shirley to give a gift of grain. When the transaction was made, Vessel Christian Foundation immediately sold the grain commodity to start the Hooge Family Fund.

"We've given to other organizations for years, including our church and foster care foundations. However, we were able to give a larger lump sum to set up our fund with Vessel because of the option to give a commodity like grain.



*The Hooge family, Christmas 2007. From L to R: Kathryn, David, Shanna, Shirley, Daniel, Karen and Jim. Through their donor advised fund, the family plans to continue their support of their local church, Christian education, the Gideons, missions and benevolent funds for those in crisis situations. Shirley, an RN working at the Good Samaritan Society in Osnabrock, added, "I am impressed that Vessel has strict standards about where funds are distributed. No matter what happens within our family, we know that our gifts will support Christian ministries and organizations."*

***"This is the first donation we've made in this way and of this size...and we feel it has truly reignited the fun of giving for us. Vessel's services have helped us to be efficient and purposeful in our giving while having fun with it."***

Without the experts and advisors at Vessel, we wouldn't have been able to do this."

The entire Hooge family is already making quite a difference in the world. Their oldest son Daniel is serving in the Navy in Japan and David serves in

the National Guard and is beginning his college education in the fall. Daughter Karen left on June 13 for a 13-month missions trip to Mexico while their daughter Kathryn is working on an archeological dig. Last but not least is daughter Shanna whose energy and joyful personality keep Jim and Shirley on their toes.

Jim and Shirley's children will also have the opportunity to give to the family fund.

"Watching the kids give is a joy. My father taught me the importance of giving and passing that onto our kids has been a priority for us."

Thank you to the Hooge family for partnering with Vessel Christian Foundation to advance God's kingdom through charitable support.

## Five Pillars

VCF utilizes five pillars of focus in developing and evaluating programs:

1. Healing the Wounded – providing counseling for individuals and families
2. Education Blueprint – developing and enhancing Christian education
3. Support Services – providing services to churches, organizations and donors
4. Community Partnerships – strengthening teamwork in the Red River Valley
5. Feeding the Hungry – helping programs that feed those in need

VCG is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. Thus, donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by the law.

## Mission

*Meeting the needs of the region  
by financially supporting organizations  
that provide Christ-centered,  
thoroughly Biblical, culturally relevant,  
and emotionally healthy programs and services*

*We would love to hear your ideas and thoughts! Please call or email us anytime.*



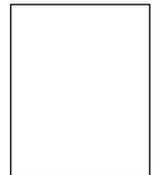
Christian Foundation

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## Our servant leaders

# Vessel Christian Foundation Board of Directors

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### **Charles Vein, Chairman**

Charles Vein is the President of Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services Inc., (AE2S), a specialized civil/environmental consulting engineering firm. He started AE2S with his business partner in 1991. Charlie has been a member of Faith Evangelical Church in

Grand Forks for approximately 30 years. He and his wife Leeza have two daughters and live in Grand Forks.



### **Reverend Paul F. Knight**

Paul is the lead pastor at Hope Evangelical Covenant Church in Grand Forks, N.D. Paul grew up in Duluth, Minn and earned his BAS in Elementary Education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, received a Certificate in Bible from Northwestern College, and received

a MDiv from Bethel Seminary which included one year of Covenant orientation studies at North Park Seminary in Chicago. Paul and his wife Bonnie have been married for 29 years and have three children. They live in Grand Forks. Paul enjoys watching his kid's sports and music activities. He is the "voice of the Castle Yard" for the Central Knight's soccer team and enjoys bicycling with a group from church. He even does a bit of gardening with Bonnie, his wife.



### **Lee Reddig**

Lee Reddig is a native of North Dakota, a graduate of North Dakota State University, a US Army Veteran, and presently Senior Loan Officer with Ag. Country Farm Credit Services of Grand Forks. Lee has been active on the Ag Committee of the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce, various boards at Faith Evangelical

Free Church and is a former board member of Cooperstown Bible Camp. Lee and his wife Marsha have 3 grown children and one grandson. They live in Grand Forks.



### **Scott Hulst, Administrative Director**

Scott is the business administrator for Faith Evangelical Free Church in Grand Forks and also serves on a part-time basis as the administrative director for Vessel Christian Foundation. Scott had worked in the insurance business for several years before

joining the staff at Faith Evangelical Free Church. He leads a bible-based personal finance class at the church and serves on the mission committee. He and his wife Kelly live in Thompson, ND.



### **Arlyce Gibbs**

Arlyce and her husband Dusty are the owners and operators of Residual Materials Inc. in Grand Forks. Arlyce is currently serving on the Booster Board for the University of North Dakota on on the YMCA Board of Directors. She also stays busy with numerous church activities including leading women's Bible studies and teaching

children on Wednesday evenings. She and Dusty have been married for 36 years and have three children and six grandchildren. They live in Grand Forks.

## Projects with Vessel Christian Foundation

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**Hope Evangelical Covenant Church Educational Fund** - To support the educational advancement of Hope staff.

**Northland Christian Counseling Center Scholarship Fund** - To offer a ministry which aids in the development of each individual's potential, emotionally, physically, socially, intellectually, and spiritually through endeavors that include counseling and educational services based on the Word of God.

**Riverside Christian School Tuition Assistance Fund** - Provide the financial ability to assist qualifying families attending Riverside Christian School.

**Riverside Christian School Endowment Fund** - Provide Riverside Christian School ongoing financial stability through funding; teacher and administrative salaries, supplies and materials, facility and development needs.

**Riverside Christian School Special Projects Fund** - Ongoing projects that will enhance educational and extra-curricular activities at Riverside Christian School.

**Northlands Rescue Mission Help, Hope and Healing Fund** - This is a client fund to provide food, shelter and advocacy to our residents.

**Northland Rescue Mission Hope for Tomorrow Fund** - This is a bricks and mortar fund for Northlands Rescue Mission.

**Northlands Rescue Mission Hope for the Future Endowment Fund** - Provide sustained funding for Northlands Rescue Mission projects and services through an endowment program.

You can support any of these projects or apply for a new project that supports a Christian program or organization close to your heart. For more information, please call 701-746-8321.

*Please visit our newly launched Web site!*

[www.vesselchristianfoundation.org](http://www.vesselchristianfoundation.org)

## Why You Should Consider Establishing A Project with Vessel Christian Foundation

There are many advantages for philanthropic individuals to establish an account with Vessel Christian Foundation. Individuals, who have been blessed financially, can accomplish their charitable objectives in religious, scientific, health, education and benevolence in the name of Christ through the foundation. Vessel gives donors who are looking to establish private foundations or Donor Advised Funds with existing community foundations or charities a more efficient alternative.

Vessel Christian Foundation is in the form of a tax-exempt public charity and structured much like a community foundation with the body of Christ being the community. Though much of the money given each year will be used to support existing charitable organizations, Vessel is not directly controlled or legally affiliated with any specific charity. Vessel is also able to act as trustee for charitable trusts and supporting organizations. By pooling resources for many charitable projects, the foundation can support one joint staff and take advantage of the obvious economies of scale. When a donor funds a project with Vessel Christian Foundation, their charitable goals become the foundation's goals as long as they fall within the legal parameters allowed by the IRS and the policies established by the Board of Directors of the foundation.

There are several types of charitable projects in the foundation; Operating Projects, Giving Fund Projects (Donor Advised Funds), Supporting Organizations and Future Funding Projects. Individuals establishing a project can act as the manager of the project or appoint another individual or group of individuals to serve as manager. Administration services for Vessel Christian Foundation are provided at a very reasonable cost.