Chamber and EDA Make GROW MN Visits

Paul Gorte, Executive Director of the East Grand Forks Economic Development Authority and Barry Wilfahrt, President of the Chamber of Commerce GF/EGF visited with 13 East Grand Forks Primary sector employers. They reviewed business climate, workforce, sales, future expansion and growth opportunities. There visits took place over the past two months as part of the Minnesota Chamber’s “GROW MN” program.

National Conferences put Grand Forks on the UAS Map

Grand Forks recently played host to its annual UAS Summit organized by UAS Magazine (A Grand Forks based publication) and the Red River Research Corridor. The Summit featured national experts in the UAS field and continues to help keep Grand Forks a leader in the UAS industry.

Coming up in October 10-11, 2017, Grand Forks will host the regional America Defense Communities Forum. Key Department of Defense (DOD) leaders and leaders from defense communities throughout our region will meet to talk about forging innovative partnerships that can strengthen the DOD presence in our region.

Sales Tax Informational Meeting September 12th

Chamber Members are invited to attend a sales tax information session on September 12th at 7:30 a.m. in the Grand Forks Herald’s Community Room. The informational meeting will be hosted by the EDC and Chamber. We have invited City of Grand Forks Administrator Todd Feland to review current funding for infrastructure maintenance and expansion allocations projected, if the measure passes. Along with the way forward based outcome of the election.
Minneapolis Federal Reserve President Will Hold a Business Roundtable

Minneapolis Federal Reserve President, Neel Kashkari, will meet with local business leaders at the Chamber office on Tuesday, September 26th late morning. (Time TBA) If you have an interest in being part of this group please email Barry Wilfahrt at barry@gochamber.org

2017 Operation Thank You

Operation Thank You 2017 took place August 2nd & 3rd (see results below). 47 volunteers and 4 Chamber staff participated. The event kicked off at The Chamber with a light breakfast and Thank You Packet pickup Wednesday morning. 631 Chamber members were visited to thank them for their support of The Chamber. The event wrapped up Thursday evening with a Volunteer Appreciation Social & Picnic. OTY 2018 we will visit the rest of our current and new members.

OPERATION THANK YOU FEEDBACK

NO FEEDBACK OR WASN’T IN AT THE TIME OF VISIT..................484
UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION .......................................................58
POSITIVE FEEDBACK...............................................................................71
NEGATIVE FEEDBACK ..............................................................................0
SUGGESTED A CHANGE OR PARTNERSHIP .......................................10
WANTS MORE CHAMBER INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION.....8

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBER VISITS MADE..........................631
The Chamber Ambassadors would love to meet you and celebrate your business with a ribbon cutting ceremony. If you are interested, please contact our membership director at 772-7271 or emberlyL@gochamber.org to schedule a ribbon cutting event.

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GIVEAWAY! Stop by to register for (2) UND Hockey tickets!

Formerly Gaffaney’s of Grand Forks
We are the welcoming arm of The Chamber. We welcome new chamber members and businesses with ribbon cutting ceremonies. We assist with registration and greeting at Chamber functions, and we participate in The Chamber’s annual Membership Drive.

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The Alerus Center invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun “Trade Show Style” Business After Hours event located on the 2nd floor concourse area.

The following chamber member businesses are featured:

Stop in...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities. You might even win $500 in our progressive cash drawing! We’ll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Because of the business nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.

FREE ADMISSION
• Complimentary hors d’oeuvres
• Cash Bar
• Great Door Prizes
• Progressive cash drawing is at 500!

Thursday, September 21
4:45pm ~ 7:00pm

UND held their Business After Hours at EERC. Progressive Cash was won in August.
Choice Financial Hires Tylar Johnson & Allysia Gapp

Grand Forks N.D., August 21, 2017 – Tylar Johnson recently joined Choice Financial as a Frontline Specialist.

Johnson received an Associate of Science Degree in Psychology from Itasca Community College and is currently attending University of North Dakota for a major yet to be determined. Johnson was on the Deans List at Itasca.

Johnson enjoys the outdoors, hiking, fishing, and hunting. She also really loves traveling and has been to almost every state in the U.S. She tries to travel somewhere at least once a year and has a goal of making it to as many different countries as possible and learning several different languages.

Allysia Gapp recently joined Choice Financial as a Frontline Specialist.

Gapp is currently working towards a Bachelor’s in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Deaf Studies at the University of North Dakota with the goal of earning a Master’s in Speech Pathology.

Gapp was a member of the UND Athletic Director’s Honor Roll as well as the UND cheerleading team for four years while attending college. She has also been an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State counselor every summer since 2013. Outside of work and school, Gapp enjoys reading, spending time with her family, being outside and of course, watching hockey!

Kelsey Adams, FNP-C & Dr. Bethany Gourneau Join Altru Family Medicine Center

Grand Forks, N.D. – Kelsey Adams, FNP-C, joins the pediatric team at Altru Health System and provides primary care to patients from birth to 20 years old. Kelsey is inspired by the joy that happy, healthy children bring to the world, and ensuring that children have quality care and the ability to maintain a healthy future is what motivates her to do her best every day.

“I believe it is my responsibility to educate families to help them make the best-informed decisions about their child’s care. Empowering patients and parents alike, with health care education, is the best form of preventative medicine. I believe in a patient-provider relationship that consists of open communication, trust and benevolence,” states Kelsey.

Kelsey earned her bachelor of science degrees in nursing and biology from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She went on to complete the Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner, also at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Grand Forks, N.D. – Bethany Gourneau, MD, joins the anesthesia team at Altru Health System. “I treat each patient as if they were my mother, father, brother, sister or child,” states Dr. Gourneau. “Each patient is an individual who is allowing me the opportunity to care for them. I strive for the perioperative experience to be the best it can be.”

Dr. Gourneau earned her medical degree from University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She also earned a Master of Public Health degree from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. She completed her anesthesiology residency at the University of Kansas in Kansas City, Kansas. Outside of work, Dr. Gourneau enjoys spending time at the lake, reading, travel and exploring the outdoors with her family.

Altru Designated as a Breastfeeding-Friendly Hospital and Infant-Friendly Workplace

Grand Forks, N.D. – Altru Health System was recognized by the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) as being a Breastfeeding-Friendly Hospital and Infant-Friendly workplace. Both programs were developed to promote breastfeeding and improve support for breastfeeding in all settings.

Based on the national breastfeeding initiative, the NDDoH selected five evidenced-based practices that support breastfeeding mothers that hospitals must follow to be designated as a North Dakota Breastfeeding Friendly Hospital:

1. Train all health care staff in skills necessary to implement a breastfeeding policy.
2. Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding.
3. Help mothers initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth.
4. Show mothers how to breastfeed and how to maintain lactation, even if they are separated from their infant.
5. Give infants no food or drink other than breast milk, unless medically indicated.

Exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life is strongly associated with better health outcomes for mother and child, both short and long term. In 2015, 60.9 percent of new moms practiced exclusive breastfeeding during their stay at Altru Hospital. That number increased to 65.4 percent in 2016, and Altru’s Family Birthing Center team aspires to reach 70 percent exclusive breastfeeding in 2017.

The “Infant Friendly” designation was developed to encourage employers to adopt breastfeeding support policies that would help mothers establish and sustain breastfeeding when returning to work. The recommended policies include flexible break times and appropriate spaces for pumping, access to clean water for washing hands and breast pump equipment, and a place for storing breastmilk. In addition to the health benefits already mentioned for mother and child, employers who support breastfeeding in the workplace tend to see reduced turnover and sick time, as well as higher productivity and employee satisfaction.
Doctor of Medicine Class of 2021 begins studies at UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences with White Coat Ceremony

GRAND FORKS, N.D.—Seventy-nine first-year medical students, members of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) Class of 2021, begin their journey next week to become physicians at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences (UND SMHS).

Medical students’ first week is dedicated to orientation, including introduction to UND’s nationally recognized, four-year, patient-centered curriculum, where biomedical and clinical sciences are taught in the context of an interdisciplinary educational setting. Special emphasis is placed on students’ new roles and expectations of them as health professionals.

Orientation concludes with the White Coat Ceremony at 5 p.m., August 11, in the Alerus Center Ballroom, 1200 S. 42nd St., in Grand Forks where students receive their first white coats, the physician’s traditional garment, which have been donated by the North Dakota Medical Association. Students will also recite the Oath of Hippocrates, a vow physicians have been taking for more than 2,000 years to uphold basic ethical principles of the medical profession. Each student will receive a lapel pin, donated by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, engraved with the phrase “Humanism in Medicine.”

Dr. Anita Bansal Joins Altru Health System

Grand Forks, N.D. – Anita Bansal, MD, joins the psychiatry team at Altru Health System, specializing in treating patients with depression, anxiety and psychosis. “I believe in treating patients as a whole; treating psychosocial and environmental factors are important to consider in addition to psychiatric processes,” states Dr. Bansal. “I find reward in working closely with my patients, getting to know them on a personal level and coming up with treatment plans to help them.”

Dr. Bansal earned her medical degree from American University of Antigua School of Medicine in Antigua. She completed her psychiatry residency at Creighton University-University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Outside of work, Dr. Bansal enjoys reading, cycling, running and baking.

Dr. Edwin Kwakugah Joins Altru Health System

Grand Forks, N.D. – Edwin Kwakugah, MD, joins the hospitalist team at Altru Health System. “I put a lot of emphasis on the physician-patient relationship and always strive for the best relationship between my patients and myself. This is central to the practice of healthcare and essential for the delivery of high-quality health care,” states Dr. Kwakugah. He believes that every patient should be treated as a dignified human being, a close friend or family member or as someone we love.

Dr. Kwakugah earned his medical degree from University of Ghana Medical School in Accra, Ghana. He completed his internal medicine residency and internship at Harlem Hospital Center, Columbia University in New York, New York. Outside of work, Dr. Kwakugah enjoys working out in the gym, reading and politics.

Widseth Smith Nolting Congratulates Fanfulik

Dustin Fanfulik recently passed his PE exam, becoming a licensed civil engineer in the state of Minnesota. He earned his bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of North Dakota.

Fanfulik has worked at WSN’s East Grand Forks office for more than three years as an Engineer in Training. He will continue to interpret design criteria, analyze construction budgets, and develop site plans as well as apply to receive his North Dakota license.

Widseth Smith Nolting is a multi-disciplined firm of more than 200 employees providing engineering, architecture, land surveying and environmental services. Its offices are located in East Grand Forks, Alexandria, Bemidji, Brainerd, Crookston, Forest Lake, and Rochester Minnesota, and Grand Forks, North Dakota. More information is available at WidsethSmithNolting.com.

Altru Health Foundation Receives $22,300 Grant for Ambulance Services
Grand Forks, ND – Altru Health Foundation was awarded a $22,300 grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation for the purchase of a 2017 Polaris Sunset Red 1000XP and 2017 Mission trailer. This equipment will be utilized by Altru’s Ambulance Services to provide emergency medical care at events in the community. This equipment will improve the response time to emergency calls in locations an ambulance cannot reach, decrease the risk of injury to paramedics running over rough terrain while carrying the equipment needed for the call, and increase the paramedic’s ability to safely transport a patient to the waiting ambulance for transport to the hospital.

“Rapid response is vital to providing care to sick and injured individuals during emergency situations,” says Sherry Burg, director of critical care and trauma services at Altru Health System. “Lives depend on this response and the care they receive from the paramedics.”

Altru’s Ambulance Services provides care to the majority of Grand Forks County, and portions of Marshall County, MN and Polk County, MN. Altru also provides emergency medical care to all spectators, athletes and staff at University of North Dakota hockey and football games. Altru provides similar coverage at other large community events, such as concerts at Ralph Engelstad Arena and Alerus Center. The list of community events is extensive.

Vetos and Shover join Liberty Business Systems, Inc.
Brandyn Vetos and Wes Shover have joined Liberty Business Systems, Inc. as Sales Associates. Vetos lives in West Fargo and will work with clients in the southeastern part of North Dakota and Clay and Wilkin counties in MN. Shover resides in Grand Forks and will work with clients in Grand Forks and the surrounding areas.

Vetos is a native of South Dakota, graduating from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion with a BA degree in Marketing. He has over four years of experience selling multi-function machines, managed print solutions and document management software.

Shover grew up in Vermont and joined the United States Air Force as a TACP (JTAC). He received degrees in International Business and Criminal Justice from Colorado Technical University and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in project management. He and his wife have three children and recently returned to Grand Forks where he has been working as a program manager for Rally Point Management, LLC.

Hansen says patients often struggle with finding motivation for working on reading and writing, but she has already seen increased motivation since incorporating the OG approach. “It’s great to see that the tools I am using in therapy are not only helpful, but something that my patients look forward to within the sessions,” she shared. “I feel that this training is something I can use with every patient whether they are just learning to read or simply refining their skills.”

Hansen is now trained in the Institute of Multi-Sensory Education’s Orton-Gillingham (OG) approach which provides a unique type of instruction to help children with dyslexia learn and improve reading and writing skills. The approach incorporates phonological awareness activities, phonics, promotes vocabulary development, improves fluency, and uses reading comprehension strategies. The OG approach teaches children using three main sensory pathways: sight, sound, and movement. Using these sensory pathways allows the learning process to be active rather than passive. The approach allows for the program to be unique to each child’s needs.

Hansen is part of a comprehensive therapy team that also offers occupational and physical therapy at RiverView’s Rehab Services Department in EGF. She also sees patients in Crookston and Red Lake Falls. For more information on the OG approach or any other services offered in East Grand Forks, please call 218-773-1390.

Vetos and Shover join Liberty Business Systems, Inc.

Carly Hanson, CCC-SLP

Carly Hanson, CCC-SLP

Crookston, MN — Why not make learning fun? Carly Hansen, CCC-SLP, is doing just that at RiverView Clinic East Grand Forks with recent training she’s completed to help children with dyslexia.
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WAY COOLER THAN YOU THINK
GREAT GRAND FORKS

We know Greater Grand Forks is Way Cool, but we needed a way to share that message with people looking to relocate or people we need to recruit to the area. This campaign and all the tools created are for use by any organization looking to showcase the Greater Grand Forks area in your recruitment efforts.

AVAILABLE TOOLS

WEBSITE
We’ve taken all the cool things Greater Grand Forks has to offer, and created a website that’s easy to share with potential employees. All you have to do is send them to www.grandforksiscooler.com.

SOCIAL MEDIA
We’ve included posts for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram that you can upload from your own accounts. Like/follow us on any of those platforms at @gfiscooler and feel free to reshare content. Also remember to use the hashtag #GFisCooler.

WAY COOLER THAN YOU THINK
GREAT GRAND FORKS
TAGLINE ARTWORK
The tagline was intentionally designed to be as simple as possible so you can use it with your existing materials.

WEB ARTWORK
Whether you want to advertise digitally or in print, we have advertisement artwork ready to go.

WEBSITE BUTTON
Want to share a link to the workforce website? We’ve included a button you can include on your own website or e-newsletter.

STYLE GUIDE
Unsure of how to use the content provided? Easy, just consult the included style guide.

REQUEST YOURS TODAY FROM DORIS: (701)-738-0238 OR DORIS@GRANDFORKS.ORG
September 1 - September 23 Membership Renewals

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber-GF/EGF. GIVE THEM A VISIT!

All About Moving, Inc.                Johnstown Bean Company
Altru Health Foundation               Mayo Manufacturing
Artistic Food & Floral                National Property Inspections - Tim Brown
Brian T. Hardwick P.C.               Norby’s Work Perks
Cirrus Design                         Northwest Tire
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch           Paradiso Mexican Restaurant
East Grand Storage                    Ralph Engelstad Arena
Edward Jones - Bret A. Bentow         Shopko
Farm & Ranch Guide                    University of Mary
First Command Financial Services      Valley Aircraft Services, LLC
Global Safety Network                 Valley Corn Maize

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!
Advertise in the 2018 Community Profile/Membership Directory

We have an advertising opportunity in The Chamber’s award winning Community Profile/Membership Directory!

The full color publication is used as a recruiting tool for new professionals, businesses, area developers and new residents to our area. It is truly the Northern Valley’s leading image piece. The book has a magazine style format with the content written by Pulitzer Prize winner and former GF Herald Editor and Publisher Mike Jacobs. It reads like a story about our region and includes a variety of pictures to highlight our communities. Many of which were submitted by members of the community and chamber.

Click here to view the online version of the current 2017 Profile/Directory book.

SPACE IS LIMITED!
For more information or to place your ad contact Emberly
emberlyL@gochamber.org or call 701-772-7271

Join these Chamber member businesses that have reserved their 2018 ad space.
The Power of Workplace Feedback

With five generations in today’s workplace, the challenge that keeps coming to the forefront is employee feedback. Through this Brown Bag seminar, you will learn how to help your employees meet individual, group and organizational goals through feedback and communications. Through discussion and case studies, participants will learn about the best practices being used today when giving feedback related to job performance and work related behavior.

Presented by: Galen Cariveau, gCariveau & Associates

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017
11:30am – 1:00pm
The Chamber, 202 N 3rd St

$20/Person – Chamber Member (Includes Lunch)
$30/Person – Non-Member (Includes Lunch)

Registrations are available online only.

To register and add the event automatically to your calendar click the register button below.

REGISTER NOW

Reservations not cancelled 3 days prior to event will be billed.
The Chamber GF/EGF and the University of North Dakota invite you to attend

on

Tuesday, September 26th at 7:30am

in the

UND Memorial Union Ballroom

7:30 am Breakfast and Program
(Registration opens at 7:15am)

UND Memorial Union Ballroom

FREE PARKING in the UND parking ramp at the corner of Columbia Road and 2nd Ave North

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UND President, Mark Kennedy

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$160/reserved table of 8

RSVP deadline is September 20, 2017
To RSVP CLICK HERE
or contact Kimberly Strom at kimberlys@gochamber.org or call 701-772-7271
Cancellations not made 3 business days prior to event will be billed