



**For Immediate
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Williston Runners raise Funds for WARC Scholarships

A group of Williston runners will be raising funds and awareness for a local parks and rec scholarship program this weekend at the Fargo Marathon. About a dozen runners have raised more than \$35,000 through pledges and grants to defray the cost of memberships to the Williston Area Recreation Center (WARC).

The Williston Parks and Recreation District (WPRD) Foundation Scholarship program was started in August of 2017. WPRD Facilities Director Mike Amundson administers the program. Amundson is also organizing the fund drive for the scholarships that will allow children, families and seniors to utilize everything the WARC has to offer.

"All of these donations will be used to allow access for people in need to work out, spend family time, walk, swim or even just have a place to relax and unwind. The WARC provides so many different things to many different people in this community," said Amundson.

The Williston runners include Mike Amundson, Kelsy Amundson, Jeremy Ludlum, Jenn Shanahan, David Tuan, Anthony Dudas, Maria Dudas, Heather Fink, John Bowkus, Rachel Roloff, Brittany Lyons and/or Jeri Truckner. All of the runners have been collecting pledges and spreading awareness about the scholarship program.

"Every day at the WARC we see kids, families and senior citizens from many different circumstances and backgrounds. I thought this might be a perfect opportunity for me and some friends to give back to our local community," said Amundson.

All of the proceeds from the fund drive will benefit the scholarship program. The Williston STAR Fund Community Build/Growth program gave the project a jump start when it allocated \$12,500 earlier this year. Donations are still being accepted.

"I am currently taking donations through checks written to the Williston Parks and Recreation Foundation. Anyone wanting to donate or make a pledge can do so at the WARC," said Amundson.

The scholarship program has already dedicated more than \$100,000 to qualifying individuals and families since the WARC opened in March of 2014. The WARC is a \$75 million world class recreation center in Williston. More than 1.4 million people have visited the facility in the past four years.