

# SRT NEWSletter

## A LASTING IMPACT – DECADES OF BLOOD DRIVES AT SRT



Long-time donor Randy Hysjulien, Right of Way Agent

It's a meaningful tradition that brings dozens of employees together to give a potentially life-saving gift.

Fay Alexander, GIS Specialist, who has been organizing SRT blood drives for more than five years, said donating blood has always been important to her. "Blood is so important for a lot of reasons," she said. "As the coordinator, I see what blood type people have and I get lists that say what kind of blood they need, and so many people need all kinds – from an accident or really for any reason – they need blood."

The impact of a blood donation especially hit home for her during the pandemic. "My husband got COVID in 2021 and the hospital called me and asked if they could give him a blood transfusion because the antibodies would save his life, and they did. The blood saved his life," Fay said.

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## WESTHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDS ON 3D PRINTING PROGRAM WITH \$1500 IN SRT AND RDFC GRANTS

Westhope Public School students have new technology and new STEAM learning opportunities, funded in part by a Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) grant matched by SRT Communications. RDFC awarded \$750, which SRT



matched with additional \$750, to grow and sustain the school's 3D printing program.

The program began when teacher Casey Mills and his 5th grade class started putting an available 3D printer to use. The 5th graders set up their own 3D print shop to sell their items, researching sustainable pricing and the most effective packaging. All proceeds go back into purchasing supplies so they can keep printing in the classroom.

The students' creations grew so popular that the program needed to add printers with newer technology. Casey also wanted to introduce 3D CAD software, so the students could progress from using downloadable templates to designing their own products. Soon they

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## WESTHOPE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDS ON 3D PRINTING PROGRAM WITH GRANTS

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were creating original items such as headphone holders and a clock with a battery.

Branching out from

the classroom setting, students visited local businesses to ask what challenges or needs they have. Then they headed back to class to create solutions, which included a napkin-and-condiment holder, a magnetic paperclip holder, custom-sized shelves, and signs displaying store hours.

Through this school-based enterprise, the students practice technology, creative design, small business operations, marketing, and advertising. "It's been an amazing experience seeing how excited kids are about these skills," Casey said. "We appreciate this opportunity and SRT's support of our vision. These students will be able to take the problem-solving, innovation, and business acumen they develop today into their future careers."



Casey also credits the application of 3D printing to deepening interest and enjoyment in other coursework.

For example, students

learn about the Renaissance and Shakespeare by creating 3D prints of Michelangelo's Pietà sculpture and a Globe Theatre replica.

Kristi Miller, SRT Board President, said about SRT's donation, "We are so impressed with the variety and ingenuity of the work these students are creating. As a technology company, SRT is proud to support STEAM in our local schools. It's inspiring to see the entrepreneurial spirit of Casey's class and how technology is sparking their creativity and opportunities for the future."

Casey was named the 2024 Bottineau County Teacher of the Year, and one of his 3D printing students has been recognized as a STEM All-Star Student. Since achieving his goal of sustainability, Casey is looking at drone technology for the next evolution of his program.

## STENVOLD EARNS EAGLE AWARD



Aaron Stenvold, Combination Technician, received a Minot Area Chamber EDC Eagle Award in June. An SRT member wrote in the nomination, "Aaron replaced my non-working IT equipment, allowing reconnection to the internet. He was very knowledgeable and polite. He knew what was wrong and how to repair it, and was personable while working. Nice man!"

*Thank you, Aaron, for representing SRT with knowledge and pride!*

## UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Is your name on the list? Find out at [SRT.COM/UnclaimedCapitalCredits](https://www.srt.com/UnclaimedCapitalCredits)

If you find your name on the unclaimed capital credit list on the website above, you may have money coming to you. These checks were returned to us by the Post Office when originally mailed.

You may even recognize someone else's name and encourage them to contact us. Individuals or their lawful heirs may claim their checks by contacting SRT at 858-1200 by May 15, 2025.

# SRT CARES



**RENVILLE COUNTY FAIR** – SRT proudly sponsored the annual kids' Coin Hunt and Tractor Pull at the Renville County Fair.



**LAKE METIGOSHE JULY 4 PARADE** – CEO/ General Manager Cassidy Hjelmstad and friends and family represented SRT on Independence Day at Lake Metigoshe.



**ND STATE PARADE** – SRT was one of more than 180 floats in the ND State Parade. Nearly 30 people walked on behalf of SRT.



**KX CO-OP DAY** – SRT Board members volunteered to serve a pancake breakfast in the morning and ice cream sandwiches in the afternoon at the North Dakota State Fair.



**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CEMETERY CHECK PRESENTATION** – SRT Board members and cemetery volunteers held a check presentation for a grant match from SRT and the Rural Development Finance Corporation. Cemetery volunteers used the funding to replace old fencing.



**TRINITY WOMEN'S BUILDING HOPE GOLF TOURNAMENT** – SRT employees swung for hope at the annual Trinity Health Foundation fundraiser.



**SVUW DAY OF CARING** – Employees rolled up their sleeves to demolish the old Knowles Jewelry building. The work contributed to an area-wide Day of Caring through the Souris Valley United Way.



**TOWNER CRAZY DAYS** – Smiles and banana splits were once again served at Towner Crazy Days, one of SRT's favorite traditions!

# A LASTING IMPACT – DECADES OF BLOOD DRIVES AT SRT



Three times a year, Fay reaches out to all SRT employees, asking for donors to schedule a time at one of the blood drives she organizes. Vitalant holds the blood drives at SRT headquarters, where employees are invited to donate at their convenience.

Vitalant and SRT are mutually grateful for their partnership. Vitalant’s willingness and ability to host the blood drive onsite at SRT makes donating easy and accessible to employees. Senior Recruitment Manager at Vitalant, Teresa Johnson, said, “SRT is a very steadfast account that’s always very reliable, has great donors, and is very supportive of our mission. Employees get to take an hour out of their day to be amazing lifesavers.”

Randy Hysjulien, Right of Way Agent, is a long-time donor who volunteers at every SRT blood drive. “I feel it’s important to donate blood to help other individuals that may need this ‘gift of life’ to help someone recuperate from a serious health issue or even save a life,” he said. “It’s easy to do and very convenient when Vitalant comes to our office regularly for a blood drive.”

SRT holds blood drives in February, June, and October each year. October happens to mark Co-op Month, a time to highlight the principles cooperatives are built on. One of those principles is concern for the community. Allowing employees to donate blood is just one way SRT acts as a community steward. Our employees live and work in the communities we serve and SRT believes it’s up to people like us to lend a hand where we can.

# WELCOME SRT’S NEW DIRECTORS!



**Bruce Degenstein**  
District 3



**Cheryl Overby**  
District 1

SRT is pleased to have Bruce Degenstein and Cheryl Overby elected to our Board of Directors. Retired from Walman Optical Company, Bruce works full-time on his family farm and horse breeding program, Degenstein Quarter Horses. He serves on the Voltaire Township Board and Velve Fire Department Board, and lives in Voltaire with his wife, Brenda. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Cheryl is the Mohall City Auditor and the Vice President of the Mohall Chamber of Commerce’s Beautification Committee. She lives in Mohall with her husband, Jason, where they farm and ranch. They have one daughter.

# 2025 SRT DIRECTORY COMING SOON

The 2025 SRT Phone Directory is coming soon! Be on the lookout for directory delivery starting mid-October. Need additional phone books?



2025 SRT Phone Directories will be available at these locations, free of charge:

Berthold .....	State Bank & Trust of Kenmare	Minot.....	SRT Headquarters
Bottineau .....	First National Bank & Trust Company of Bottineau		MarketPlace Foods
	State Bank of Bottineau		Cashwise Foods
Burlington .....	Bravera	Minot AFB.....	North Star Community Credit Union
Butte .....	Heritage Insurance Services	Mohall .....	Gate City Bank
Drake.....	Bravera	Newburg.....	Peoples State Bank
Glenburn.....	City Hall		Newburg Station
Harvey .....	First State Bank of Harvey	Sawyer.....	Sawyer City Hall
	Dakota Heritage Bank	Towner.....	Merchants Bank
Kenmare .....	State Bank & Trust of Kenmare	Velva .....	Peoples State Bank of Velva
Max .....	Max Farm Services / C-Store	Westhope.....	Peoples State Bank

# 2024 SRT ANNUAL MEETING

The 2024 SRT Annual Meeting occurred Thursday, June 20, 2024, at the North Dakota State Fair Center in Minot. Nominations of directors' petitions were distributed and accepted at SRT's headquarters from April 22, 2024, through May 21, 2024. Seven petitions were qualified and verified, which authorized the names to be placed on the official election ballots distributed at the meeting. Four directors were elected to serve a three-year term on SRT's Board of Directors: District 1: Cheryl Overby, Mohall; District 2: Dennis Erber, Glenburn; District 3: Bruce Degenstein, Voltaire; and District 4: Stacey Diehl, Minot. Members also voted to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Thank you for attending and for your membership with SRT.**

## 2024 ELECTION RESULTS

<b>District 1:</b> (32 total votes)	
Cheryl Overby .....	32
Spoiled ballots.....	0
<b>District 2:</b> (63 total votes)	
Dennis Erber.....	61
Spoiled ballots.....	2
<b>District 3:</b> (71 total votes)	
Bruce Degenstein .....	27
Faith Fahnestock .....	24
Shawn Vedaa.....	18
Spoiled ballots.....	2
<b>District 4:</b> (471 total votes)	
Stacey Diehl .....	286
Deven Mantz.....	174
Spoiled ballots.....	11

**2024 Board of Director officer positions** are as follows: Kristi Miller, President; Stanley Vangsness, Vice President; Stacey Diehl, Secretary/Treasurer; Benjamin Robertson, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.



## USDA Programs Encourage Rural Development in Partnership with SRT

SRT participates in the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. This federal program provides funding to create economic development opportunities in rural communities. SRT aids in the process by assisting with and monitoring loans to qualifying rural organizations.

The first recipient of the SRT REDLG program was the Mohall Ambulance Service in 2009 to fund a portion of a new emergency services building. Mohall Ambulance paid off the loan in 2019 and continues to offer emergency services to the community. In 2015, USDA provided a zero-interest REDLG pass-through loan to SRT for Gooseneck Implement in Velva, funding part of Gooseneck's new facility construction. Another zero-interest loan was awarded in 2017 to the United Rural Ambulance District in Berthold to assist in funding

a new ambulance services building for the community. The most recent loan was awarded to Precision Farm Parts in Sherwood to expand their business, which makes custom parts for farm equipment.

SRT is proud to support local economic development and encourages businesses to apply for the REDLG program. Applicants can apply for loans starting at \$5,000, for projects that bring economic development to the area.

The program is not meant to compete with local banks; instead, it is meant as a supplement to other financing options. SRT cannot be a lender of last resort. SRT offers a pre-application at [www.srt.com/srtcares](http://www.srt.com/srtcares) or by contacting Becky Towery at 701-858-5168.

# OFFICIAL NOTICES

## LIFELINE AND LINK UP

Lifeline is a government benefit program supported by the Universal Service Fund that provides a discount on broadband service for qualifying consumers. Lifeline helps ensure that eligible consumers have the opportunities and security that broadband service brings, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and emergency services.

### Qualifying for Lifeline Support

For all of the following, please visit [lifelinesupport.org/do-i-qualify](https://lifelinesupport.org/do-i-qualify) for more information.

**Based on Your Income.** You can get Lifeline if your income is 135% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The guideline is based on your household size and state.

### Based on If You Use SNAP, Medicaid, or Other Programs

**Federal Assistance Programs.** You can get Lifeline if you (or someone in your household) participate in one of these programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps; Medicaid; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA); or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit.

**Tribal Assistance Programs.** If you live on Tribal lands, you can get Lifeline if your household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if you (or someone in your household) participate in: Any of the federal assistance programs listed above; Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance; Head Start (only households meeting the income qualifying standard); Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF); or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

**Based on If You Are a Survivor.** The Safe Connections Act (SCA) helps survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and related crimes get discounted phone, internet, or bundled services. Survivors experiencing financial hardship may qualify through existing Lifeline program requirements or through one of these SCA-specific methods: If your household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; enrollment in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); enrollment in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch or Breakfast program, including enrollment at a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school or school district; or if you received a Federal Pell Grant in the current award year.

### Qualify Through Your Child or Dependent

You can get Lifeline if your child or dependent participates in any of the programs listed above.

### Important Notes for Eligible Consumers Nationwide

Lifeline is available for SRT broadband service. One discount per household is allowed. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

### Tribal Link Up

Link Up assistance provides a 100% reduction (up to \$100) of the charge for starting telecommunications service at a Tribal Lifeline subscriber's primary residence. Link Up is available to subscribers who reside on Tribal lands and use a facilities-based service provider that receives High Cost program support. Link Up is a one-time benefit per address; subscribers can request Link Up once for each change of primary residential address.

For service initiation charges of up to \$200, Link Up also provides a deferred, no-interest payment plan to the subscriber for up to one year.

### Minimum Service Standards

Broadband – speed of 25x3 Mbps, and usage allowance to 1280 GB. If 25x3 Mbps is not offered, any generally available residential package that meets the minimum service standard qualifies for Lifeline.

### How Can I Sign Up?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is now using a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier to review an applicant's Lifeline eligibility. You can apply for Lifeline by visiting [www.CheckLifeline.org](https://www.CheckLifeline.org) by selecting your state in the drop down menu on that site. Once the National Verifier approves your application, contact SRT to activate your Lifeline benefits.

For more details, contact the FCC at 1-888-225-5322 voice, 1-888-835-5322 TTY, or by mail at FCC, 445 12th ST SW, Washington, DC 20554. You may also visit the FCC's website at [www.fcc.gov](https://www.fcc.gov) and search for Lifeline.

## CUSTOMER PROPRIETARY NETWORK INFORMATION

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In the course of providing service to telephone customers, SRT collects information concerning the telephone services you purchase and how you use them. This information is known as “customer proprietary network information,” or “CPNI.” CPNI includes any information on the quantity, technical configuration, type, destination, location, and amount of use of your service that we obtain because we are your telephone carrier. CPNI does not include the names and telephone numbers published in telephone directories or information we obtain as a result of providing your other SRT services. We use CPNI to monitor the quality of the service we provide and to prepare your bills.

You have a right, and we have a duty, under federal law to protect the confidentiality of CPNI. We have the right under federal law to use your CPNI to provide telephone service, to bill you, to market services related to services you already buy from us, and to protect our facilities and property. You have the right to disapprove of our use of CPNI for marketing services other than those that are related

to services you already buy from us and to withdraw access to CPNI at any time. Withdrawing access to CPNI will not affect our ability to provide telephone services to you, or the quality of the service we provide.

If you want to restrict use of your CPNI, you must contact SRT at 701-858-1200 within 30 days of receipt of this notice. Your denial or approval for SRT to use this data will not affect the provision of any services to which you subscribe. You may change your decision at any time and your decision will remain valid until you tell us otherwise. Again, we will only use your account information to market other telecommunications services and products SRT offers, and no action is required unless you wish to restrict our use of your CPNI. You will still receive monthly bill inserts, newsletters, and other publications that are sent to all customers so that you are kept up to date on what is happening at SRT.

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## STOP TELEMARKETING CALLS

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The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) launched the National Do Not Call Registry to give Americans a choice about getting telemarketing calls at home.

To register your number on the Internet: log on to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) and click on Register Now. If you register online, you will receive an email from [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) as part of the confirmation process and you will need to click on the link in that email within 72 hours after you receive it to complete your registration.

To register your number by telephone: call 1-888-382-1222; TTY call 1-866-290-4236. You must call from the number you want to register.

After 31 days, most telemarketing calls will stop. However some calls are not covered, such as:

- calls from, or on behalf of political organizations, charities, and telephone surveyors

- calls from companies with whom you have an existing business relationship
- calls from companies you've given permission to call

Once you register, your registration will not expire. Telephone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008. And you only need to register once to be on both North Dakota's list and the national do not call list, as one registration simultaneously adds your number to both.

To file a complaint: If your number has been on the registry for at least 31 days, and a telemarketer calls, you may file a complaint with the FTC. Visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). You'll need to provide the date of the call and the phone number or name of the company that called you.



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