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BROOKINGS AREA UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE COMPLETES THE CHANGE NETWORK PROGRAM

Brookings, SD – Anne Funderburg, the administrative assistant at Brookings Area United Way, recently completed the Change Network program. Through this journey, Funderburg was able to enact change through the early learning initiative of Born Learning Trails. After applying and being awarded a \$5,000 grant, Funderburg brought two more Born Learning Trails to Brookings County.

“Through this program, I have been able to work with numerous change makers – people seeking opportunities to make a difference in their communities. I am thankful for the opportunity to create equitable early education outlets for those in Brookings County. The Born Learning Trails are a researched based activity and are a way for kids to be active in learning, while connecting with their emotions, friends, and caretakers,” said Funderburg.

The two Born Learning Trails funded through the Change Network were placed at Arthur Graslie City Park in White, South Dakota and at the new Brookings Area United Way building that will house the Brookings Backpack Project and the Food Pantry located behind First Lutheran Church in Brookings, South Dakota. The installations were in collaboration with the city of White and First Lutheran Church.

The Change Network program is a year-long journey around building techniques and networks to make the communities where you live and work equitable, accessible, and welcoming for all members. The program is meant to prepare you to be a strong leader, one who can successfully bring together individuals with different skills, values, beliefs, and understandings to create and maintain positive change within the state.

The Change Network program is funded by the Bush Foundation with leadership provided in South Dakota by National Arts Strategies, Common Sense Consulting, 3E Products, and South Dakota State University Extension. There are roughly 15 cohort members each year selected across South Dakota and North Dakota. Cohort six has now started.

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