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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW PUBLIC ART CAPTURES SPIRIT OF BROOKINGS

BROOKINGS, S.D. — The Brookings Council of Nonprofits (BCNP) invites community members to celebrate the unveiling of a new public art installation honoring the spirit of generosity in Brookings. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place Monday, June 22, at 1:00 p.m. at the utility box located at the intersection of Main Avenue and 6th Street in Downtown Brookings.

The project transformed a highly visible downtown utility box into a public art piece inspired by the values that unite Brookings' nonprofit community: hope, compassion, impact, service, resilience, and connection. The installation serves as a tribute to the nonprofits, volunteers, donors, and community members who work every day to strengthen Brookings and Brookings County.

Funded through the Rural Philanthropy Institute's South Dakota Gives Communities of Generosity Award, the project was designed to celebrate local giving in a joyful and visible way. Participating nonprofit organizations collaborated to identify shared values that would guide the artwork and create a common message of generosity.

The Brookings Council of Nonprofits issued a call for proposals earlier this year, inviting artists to interpret these themes through original artwork designed specifically for the utility box installation. Nancy Rasmussen was selected from a pool of talented artists and created four paintings named *The Good Stuff*, *On Our Way*, *Love Grows Here*, and *Lifting Love*. These pieces were then adapted into a vinyl wrap and installed at one of the busiest intersections in Downtown Brookings, where it will be viewed by thousands of residents and visitors each day.

“This artwork is a powerful reminder that generosity has the ability to connect people, strengthen communities, and create lasting impact.” said Hunter Harvey, chair of the Brookings Council of Nonprofits. “We are proud to be a part of a project that celebrates the spirit of giving.”

The Brookings Council of Nonprofits is a coalition open to all Brookings County nonprofit organizations. Established in 2018, the council brings organizations together to network, collaborate, explore local issues, and share stories of community impact. Through monthly meetings and events, BCNP works to strengthen relationships across the nonprofit sector and foster a stronger, more connected community.

Community members are encouraged to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and help celebrate the organizations and individuals whose generosity helps Brookings thrive.

Event Details:

Communities of Generosity Ribbon Cutting

Monday, June 22

1:00 p.m.

Main Avenue & 6th Street Utility Box - near 527 Main Ave

Downtown Brookings

For more information about the Brookings Council of Nonprofits, contact Brookings Area United Way at uw@brookingsunitedway.org. For more information on the Communities of Generosity utility box art project, contact Brookings Regional Growth Alliance at kirsten@growthalliance.org.

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