

ASPIRE CREDIT UNION



Upcoming Holiday Closures

Independence Day

Thursday, July 4
CLOSED

Labor Day

Monday, September 2
CLOSED

Be sure to check out our Food Truck Fridays at the credit union. Find what's happening at:

www.aspire.creditunion/events

Impact Report Released

<https://aspire.creditunion/2023-impact-report/>

Report Highlights:

- 1,023+ Hours of volunteering by team
- 851 Additional training hours completed by staff
- 622 Loans completed
- Launched the FirstHome Buyer Program with NDHFA



Did you miss our Member Week activities?

We send out messages to keep you up to date on what's happening. You can call or text us on the same number. Sign up by texting "Join" to 701-837-5353.

DYK

Did you know we welcome organizations and groups to our parking lot to do carwash fundraisers? The date needs to be booked with the marketing department, and the group must supply their own car washing materials/soaps and hose. Aspire donates the water.



Aspire Credit Union is delighted to back Prairie Grit, an exceptional nonprofit in our community dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. Established in 2016, this organization offers remarkable opportunities for individuals in and around the Minot area through its Adaptive Sports and therapy programs.

- The Adaptive Sports Program provides over 40 opportunities and activities, including wheelchair basketball, sled hockey, hunting, golf, fishing, rock climbing, dance, and more.
- They have adapted various activities and services to create a more sensory-friendly and inclusive experience.
- Serving the community beyond North Dakota, they have impacted over 300 individuals through their adaptive sports programs.

In addition to the sports programs, Prairie Grit offers therapy services, including occupational, physical, and speech therapies. Their occupational therapy department includes feeding therapy and self-care support.

Over the coming months, we at the credit union are actively supporting Prairie Grit, we invite you to join us by participating in item and food drives or making cash/check donations at the teller line.

Starting this June, our focus is on Feeding Therapy. Prairie Grit's licensed professionals assist individuals of all ages, particularly children, in group settings to overcome feeding difficulties. By providing tailored interventions and promoting positive eating experiences, their team helps participants build confidence and enjoy mealtime.

Required items include pudding, ranch/ketchup, teething crackers, cheerios, oatmeal, and individual servings of mashed potatoes or mac and cheese cups.

In July, our focus will be on addressing the Occupational Therapy needs of Prairie Grit. This area of their business is not just about work; it's about empowering individuals of all ages to engage fully in daily activities.

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PRAIRIE GRIT CONT.

At Prairie Grit, their therapists concentrate on improving fine motor skills, sensory processing, and self-care abilities to support the holistic well-being of their clients. Starting on July 1 in the lobby, we will be collecting various items that can be used in their occupational therapy sessions. These items include crayons, bubbles, pipe cleaners, sidewalk chalk, washable markers, toothbrushes, pencils, construction/white paper, and more.

Moving in to August, we will gather items for their Speech Therapy program. Prairie Grit's therapists employ evidence-based methods and personalized interventions to assist children in enhancing speech clarity, language comprehension, and social communication skills. As we gather items for this specific program, we urge everyone to closely follow their wishlist. The developmental games and toys they have requested are tailored to their Speech Therapy program. You can find the list at: prairiegrittherapy.com/development-friendly-toys. Additionally, to ensure these interactive toys function properly and can be utilized by many, we are collecting Clorox wipes, AA and AAA batteries, and baby wipes.

For a detailed list of needed items for their programs, what we are gathering each month, and how you can support them, please visit our website's event listing, and Facebook, or Instagram pages.

<https://aspire.creditunion/events/>

Aspire Credit Union Scholarships Awarded



This year, we were pleased to award two \$1,000 scholarships to Minot High School seniors. Incidentally, both of these graduates are headed to the University of North Dakota where they will pursue their next steps in higher education.

Please help us congratulate these recent High School graduates: Luke Balas (pictured left) and Sidney Ressler (pictured right) on earning our scholarships this year. We wish both of you the best of luck in college.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Tonya Harden, Chief Financial Officer

Graduating with an Accounting degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2000, she is thrilled about this new opportunity. With 19 years of recent expertise in lending and loans, Harden brings a wealth of experience to Aspire.

Having a history with Aspire Credit Union, she worked there 27 years ago as a Member Service Representative when it was known as Prairie Federal Credit Union. Coming full circle with her hire, Harden recalls the positive office culture that still echoes today, a perk in coming back. Kevin Vigested, Aspire's CEO shared "We are lucky to have Tonya on our team. She is a natural fit to our culture and a positive addition to the credit union movement."



Kayli Olson, Junior Assistant Loan Officer

Olson, a graduate of Minot State University with a major in Business Management brings a diverse skill set and experience in managing contracts to her role.

In her position, Olson will collaborate closely with our dynamic mortgage team to assist members with our wide range of home loan options. Her enthusiasm and eagerness to work with a supportive team that prioritizes helping others and expanding her knowledge in lending make her a valuable addition to the department.



Learn more about Tonya and Kayli on our website at <https://aspire.creditunion/whats-new/>

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to Kelsey Scharmer, Member Experience Coordinator, for being recognized as the Volunteer of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2024.

CEO Kevin Vigested expressed, "Kelsey made significant contributions to organizing and planning the event, managing volunteers, and securing donations for Tyanna Weeks. Moreover, she engaged in activities such as teaching Kindergarten for Junior Achievement, delivering Meals on Wheels, and serving on the Credit Union United Chapter Board in addition to other activities."

