



**SONS of  
NORWAY**  
FOUNDATION



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

# Dear Sons of Norway Foundation supporters,

2020 is certainly a year that none of us will forget anytime soon. Like every other organization, we at the Sons of Norway Foundation had to adjust our operations nearly overnight in March 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Despite the challenges and changes that last year brought, we have still managed to award over \$140,000 in grants to lodges and community partners and scholarships to support young scholars as they head to post-secondary education in the U.S. and Norway. These programs are critical to maintaining a link to contemporary Norway, providing cultural and learning opportunities to many, and supporting members of our community in need. The economic and social effects of the pandemic have only increased the need for these vital opportunities.

We are excited about the future of the Foundation and about finding ways we can work together with you—our friends and supporters—to produce a lasting impact.

Thank you for your generous support of the Sons of Norway Foundation!

Sincerely,

Emily Stark, Foundation Development Manager

# 2020 Financial Report

The financial information contained in this report is a condensed version of the fiscal year 2020 unaudited financial statements for the Sons of Norway Foundation. A complete set of all audited financial statements is available by contacting the Sons of Norway Foundation.

The Sons of Norway Foundation is primarily an endowment foundation. Grant and scholarship payouts are based on a percentage of the total assets that are determined by the board of directors. Our commitment is to maintain and grow the charitable assets entrusted to us in a fiscally responsible way. Your financial support helps us achieve this goal and maximize the impact we make.

## Statement of Activities Year Ended 12/31/2020

### Revenues

Contributions	\$566,615
Investment/sales income	\$168,775

Realized net capital gains	\$7,581
Unrealized net capital gains	\$747,245
Other assets	\$63,928
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$1,554,137</b>

### Deductions

Scholarship and grant awards	\$132,166
General and administration expenses	\$380,008

<b>Increase in net assets</b>	<b>\$1,041,968</b>
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<b>Net fund value as of 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$9,864,547</b>
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## In 2020 we awarded:

**\$10,742** in camperships for youth to attend Norwegian cultural camps across the US

**\$27,330** in grants to local lodges, community partners, and members in need



## Grants highlight

### **Cordova Senior High School Homeless Students Assistance**

When Ann Sandner saw a problem in her community, not only did she take action, but she recruited the rest of her lodge, Roald Amundsen 4-048, to help her. The Folsom Cordova Unified School District has approximately 1,000 students classified as homeless, and about 150 of these attend Cordova High School. Ann wanted to help teens who are classified as homeless so they could have as close to a normal school experience as possible. She fundraised by collecting donations at lodge meetings and applying for matching grants, like the Helping Hands to Children Grant at the Sons of Norway Foundation, to put together supplies for this resilient group of students. Supplies ranged from backpacks and folders to often-overlooked expenses like AP test fees and graduation robes.

The lodge invited school officials to a dinner to receive the supplies and to say a few words about the impact the donation had made. Ann also donated a video about Norway to the school library and baked rosettes for the students in the program—a small taste of Norway.



# Scholarship highlight

## Grace Williamson

Sons of Norway has held a special place in my heart since I was seven years old. It was in this year that my grandfather, a long-standing member, learned about Skogfjorden Norwegian language village and decided that my brother and I would go. Growing up with my Norwegian heritage prevalent in the foods we eat, sweaters we wear, and through the language I learned to speak has truly shaped me into the woman I am today.



Norway was such a large part of my life that I decided to move there for a year and attend Ringerike Folkehøgskole, a folk high school northwest of Oslo. I spent a year volunteering with the local Red Cross and special needs kids and adults who would visit our school multiple times per week. Taking this year off from school allowed me to learn so much about myself and the world that I was ready to come back to university in America with a new perspective. I found myself excited to begin taking upper-level math classes and chemistry courses to become an engineer.

Chemical engineering is an especially demanding major that requires 17+ hours per semester to graduate in four years. The Nancy Lorraine Jensen scholarship has allowed me to focus solely on my studies without having to find a part-time job. I was able to take an unpaid research position in one of my professor's labs starting the summer after my freshman year. I could not have done this without the funding provided by the Sons of Norway Foundation. Because I have been working in the lab as long as I have, I was able to transition my position into a paid fellowship for this summer, where I am now in charge of my own project and will present my research at upcoming events both at the University of Iowa and nationally. I cannot begin to express how much this opportunity will help me as I look for graduate programs for my Ph.D.

I am incredibly proud of finishing my undergraduate studies with this much lab experience. My goal is to get a Ph.D. in chemical engineering and work for a pharmaceutical or biotechnology company to make therapeutics and drugs for infectious and genetic diseases. I am inspired every day by my grandfather, a former pharmacology professor at the University of Iowa. I know I will make him proud as I follow in his footsteps and take my first pharmacology class this fall. I feel so lucky to call him my grandpa and, honestly, one of my best friends. The Sons of Norway lodge he is part of, Restauration 1-548, has also fully embraced me as a visitor for many events. It has been a privilege to give multiple presentations about how the Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial Scholarship has supported my endeavors at the University of Iowa.

I am so thankful for everything I have received and hope to make everyone proud that I was chosen to be a recipient of these scholarships by making a difference in the world and never forgetting my Norwegian roots.

**\$17,170** awarded for American students to study in Norway

**\$89,100** awarded for students to study in the USA and Canada

**\$108,270** total scholarships awarded

# Inspiring a legacy of philanthropy in the Nordic community



## Elaine Nelson

Sometimes our family extends beyond who we are related to by birth. Families are created in different ways and evolve throughout life. To Elaine Nelson, Sons of Norway has become an important part of her larger family as she treasures the bonds she has built with fellow members based on their shared heritage and values. Ever since she joined the Odin Lodge 4-087 in Rugby, ND in 1969, Elaine has found camaraderie at every level of the organization. She is currently the Treasurer on the International Board of Directors and an active member of Kringen Lodge 4-025. Additionally, Elaine has served on the Foundation Board of Governors and has a deep appreciation for the support the Foundation provides to fellow members.

When the time came for Elaine to think about her legacy and the impact she wanted to make on her community, the choice became clear, and she established the Elaine Nelson Scholarship at the Sons of Norway Foundation. This fall, Sons of Norway members studying business, agriculture, or education will be able to apply for the scholarship. Elaine chose these criteria to honor her mother who was a teacher, her father who was a farmer, and her own successful career in banking. She is excited to see her scholarship in action and encourages others thinking about making similar gifts to do so while they are alive so that they can witness the power of philanthropy in action. By establishing the Elaine Nelson Scholarship, Elaine's legacy will continue forever within the Sons of Norway family.

## The Sons of Norway Foundation's total assets:

**\$5.2M** in named endowment funds to support scholarships that were started by members and their families

**\$242,000** in district- and lodge-specific funds

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## **LODGES \$1000+**

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Oslo Lodge 2-035  
Kringen Lodge 4-025  
Sverdrup Lodge 4-107  
Mandt Lodge 5-314  
Nordland Lodge 5-544  
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Roald Amundsen Lodge 6-048  
Solbakken Lodge 6-064

## **LODGES \$500 - \$999**

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Solglimt Lodge 1-547  
Maihaugen Lodge 1-665  
Harald Haarfager Lodge 2-011  
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Bernt Balchen Lodge 2-046  
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Normanna Lodge 1-052  
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Kong Sverre Lodge 1-482  
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Vikingland Lodge 1-495  
Nordic Lodge 1-502

# Donor Listing

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Fjell Syn Lodge 1-667  
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Hovedstad Lodge 2-094  
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Vidda Lodge 4-663  
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Vikings Of Lake Lodge 6-166

# Mission Statement

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At the Sons of Norway Foundation, our mission is to share and preserve Nordic heritage, to positively affect our members' lives, and to make Sons of Norway communities better places to live.

Since 1966, we have pursued this mission by supporting our members through scholarship and cultural exchange opportunities providing disaster relief to members in need and funding community programs that celebrate Norwegian heritage and culture.

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**SONS** of  
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1455 West Lake Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55408  
612-821-4655

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