

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **State Health Department's Annual Meeting Raises Funds for 'The Banquet'**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health held its annual meeting on December 14, but it was not just a learning event for staff. The meeting is often the only event during the year that most of the department's staff is together at one time. Traditionally, department employees use this meeting to raise money for a charitable cause. The charitable cause that was chosen to receive the funds from this year's meeting is The Banquet, a free community meal that takes place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck.

This year's fundraising activity was, for the first time, a silent auction. Department personnel donated over 40 items to the auction and bidding was done during breaks at the meeting. While organizers were looking to raise about \$400, enough to fund one Saturday luncheon meal, the total donated by department employees was just over \$2,000. The department funded the lunch meal on Saturday, December 19, and will also fund the evening meal on Thursday, May 26, 2016. All proceeds from the auction will go to benefit The Banquet. Volunteers from the department also assist with preparing the food, serving the meal and cleanup afterwards.

"Considering that this was the first time we had organized a silent auction, we were very surprised and pleased by the level of giving that resulted," said Kenan Bullinger, the silent auction organizer. "Our colleagues don't just 'talk the talk' of helping people as part of their jobs, they 'walk the walk' by volunteering and supporting this worthwhile cause," added Bullinger.

For more information, contact Kenan Bullinger at 701.328.1292.

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