



**2017
annual report**

“ There is
nothing like
a dream to
create the
future.”
VICTOR HUGO







Thank you!

Evolve Grand Forks is a nonprofit organization with a mission to support a culture of entrepreneurship in the Greater Grand Forks community. This includes activities inside The 701 Coworking Space, and those outside of the space. We are community builders by trade through support and celebration of entrepreneurs as they follow their dreams.

This annual report recaps a very successful 2017 and highlights some major plans going forward. We are excited to thank you for your support of Evolve Grand Forks and look forward to working with you more in the future.

A very important thank you is made to our sponsors who helped us found Evolve Grand Forks and The 701 Coworking Space, including:

- The Knight Foundation via the Community Foundation
- The Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation
- JLG Architects
- Bremer Bank
- Also Creative, Inc.
- Wells Fargo
- Midco
- Dan and Alyssa Schott



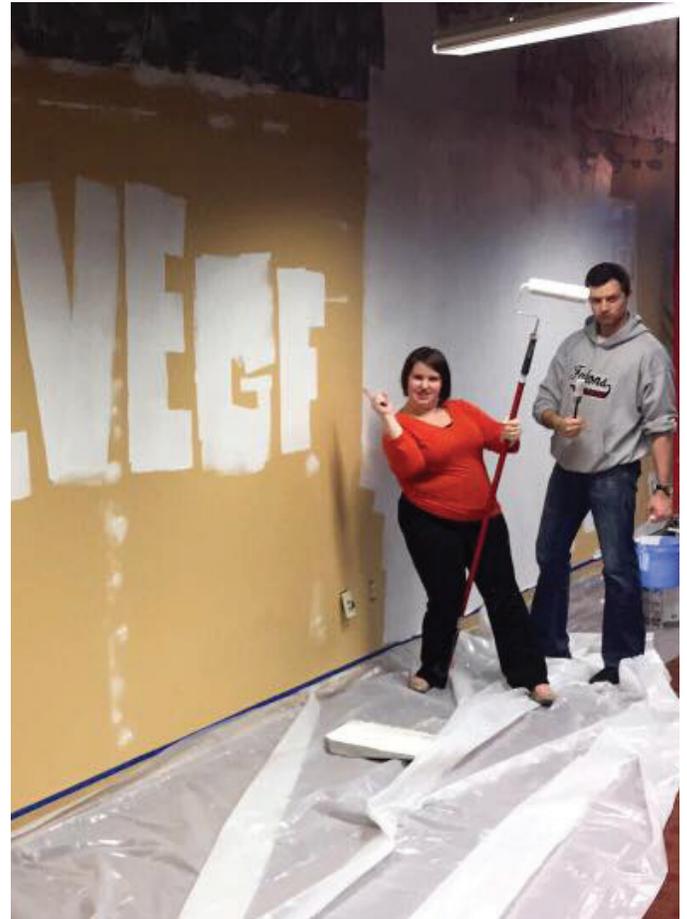
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WORKING BY EVOLVE G





Signed Our Lease

With a great opportunity to lease a truly unique space, we took over the keys on November 1, 2016, to two suites located in the most historic business district of Grand Forks, Old Town, located at 33 South 3rd St. We find meaning in helping entrepreneurs get their start in the very same location from which our city began so long ago.



Remodeled

Once we had the keys in our hands, we needed to put in some elbow grease to create a physical representation of the entrepreneurial culture we support in Grand Forks. This took a great deal of time and volunteer effort, but we still managed to have some fun. We replaced the carpet, painted all walls, and installed new light fixtures, to name the largest components of the remodel. We are very proud, but no words will describe it as well as a few photos.

Thanks to key community partnerships (explicitly, JLG Architects) we completed a full remodel under our \$15,000 budget and within 2 months, positioning us for a January 1 soft opening.





Hired Our ED

Perhaps one of our greatest accomplishments to date was the hiring of our Executive Director, Collin Hanson. He began the half time position on January 1, stepping right in to lead Evolve Grand Forks from the recently completed space. Collin is nationally credentialed by the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, and has worked and volunteered for the University of North Dakota Nonprofit Leadership Program, the Grand Forks Downtown Development Association, the New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation, and the North Dakota American Legion Boys State. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in nonprofit leadership from the University of North Dakota, where he received the Lillian Elsinga Outstanding Student Leader Award and the Crockett Award for University Leadership.



Opened, Grandly

On February 23, 2017, The 701 Coworking Space held its Grand Opening, and with some noteworthy company. We had U.S. Senator Hoeven, U.S. Senator Heitkamp, a representative from U.S. Congressman Cramer's office, North Dakota Commerce Commissioner Jay Schuler, and Mayor of Grand Forks Michael Brown present.

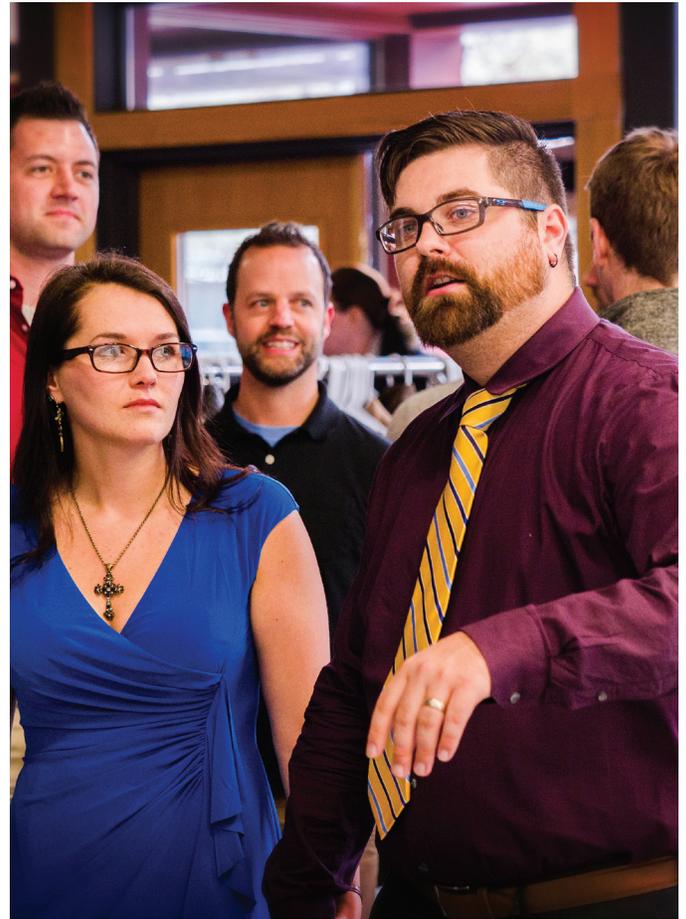


Supported Community

Since the doors opened, The 701 has become a home base to many community groups, events, and classes including:

- Alley Alive
- Art on the Red (formerly Art Fest)
- Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals
- Political Science 492 UND Class
- 1 Million Cups
- Numerous other nonprofit groups

These groups and community leaders now have a place to coordinate important volunteer activities that often don't have access to meeting space. Furthermore, the availability of this space for the community improves the sustainability of these groups to continue the good work they do.



Expanded Out

Evolve Grand Forks has been working to expand its operations outside the walls of The 701 Coworking Space. A great example of this has been a monthly DroneBiz luncheon that has seen more than 600 guests over its first year of existence. Each month Evolve Grand Forks, in collaboration with the Grand Forks Economic Development Corporation, hosts a forum that brings together progressions within the growing Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones) industry and Grand Forks business owners seeking their own opportunity to enter the industry.

Another example is the work Evolve Grand Forks is doing around the Cost of Living Index (COLI) survey. By doing the leg work on conducting the survey, Grand Forks receives an Index that is often used for comparison with other communities. No more will Grand Forks be left off of national Publications such as "Best Cities for Young Entrepreneurs" (NerdWallet) simply because we lack the data.

Finally, Evolve Grand Forks was a big part of establishing a Start-Up Grand Forks fund that loans micro-loans to Grand Forks' newest business ideas that just need a little capital to get them going.

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Kathryn

Keller

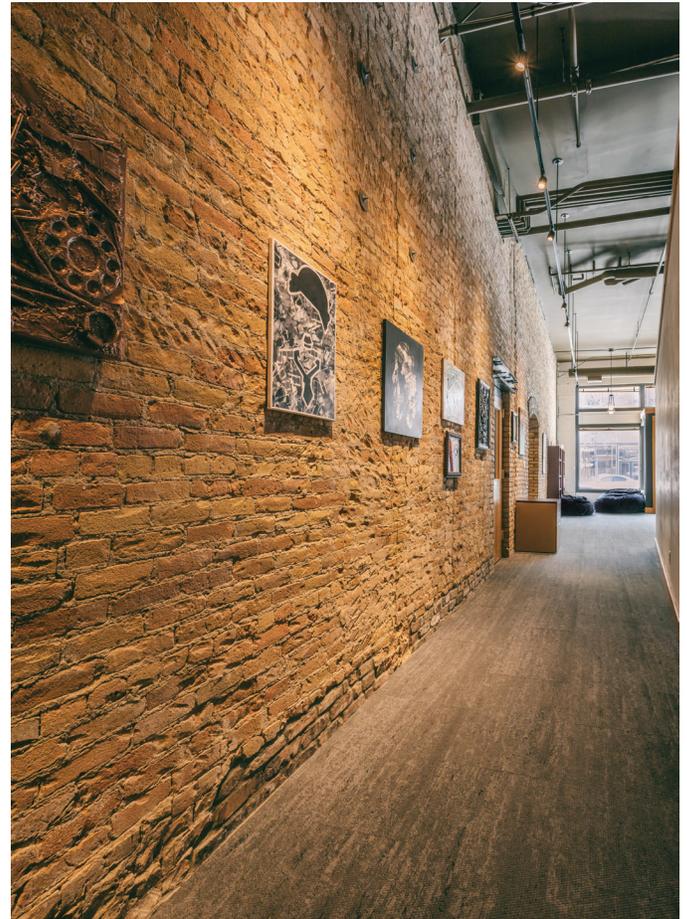
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Bona Fide Non-Profit

On October 25, 2017, Evolve Grand Forks was officially recognized as a charitable nonprofit organization under the IRS 501(c)3 classification. This is tremendously important to our mission to support a culture of entrepreneurship and we are excited to continue our work under this tax-deductible status.



By the Numbers

We now have 35 Coworkers and growing. The membership types and number break down like this:

- 7 Flex
- 12 Full
- 1 Corporate (10 Coworkers)
- 6 Anchor Tenants

We are averaging 3-4 events a week in the Coworking Space and have drawn in more than 1,500 guests into the space. DroneBiz has hosted more than 600 professionals over its first year of operation, averaging 50 people in attendance at each luncheon.

The reach of the Evolve Grand Forks network is beyond that of our city and county. Over the course of this year, we have partnered with 12 other coworking spaces and incubators across the Midwest and Manitoba. We've been able to successfully connect some of our region's entrepreneurs to networks in Fargo, Winnipeg, and Rochester, MN. Our growing network currently spans from Winnipeg to Manhattan, Kansas and this broadened network provides our local entrepreneurs the opportunity to expand their regional footprint and have access to needed office space when they travel.

What's Next?

The 701 Coworking Space has been a focal point of Evolve Grand Forks, but 2018 is focused on going further to carry out our non-profit mission. 2018 will bring:

STUDENTS

A portion of an entrepreneur is their willingness to take on risk. Young, educated people not only have a high capacity for risk, but also (especially with the right mentorship) are primed to succeed in taking the risk. Evolve Grand Forks will position students through internships and other opportunities to realize their potential for innovation. In the process, stronger relationships in Grand Forks will be fostered, increasing the likelihood of their long-term residence. This contributes to a healthier workforce and a stronger community.

TRAILING SPOUSES

Whether it is to the University of North Dakota, the Grand Forks Air Force Base, or one of our world-class employers, recruited, high-quality employees often come with high-quality spouses. These trailing spouses need to see that opportunity awaits them. The 701 Coworking Space offers prime tele-commuting capabilities, non-traditional networking events, as well as a great place to launch a new career or business. Through fellowships Evolve Grand Forks aims to support trailing spouses find a reason to fall in love with Grand Forks' professional community.

EVENTS

Building on success events such as 1 Million Cups, DroneBiz, Shark Tank, Entrepreneur Insights, and other various meetups, Evolve Grand Forks will continue to connect talented people around issues of interest. For example, The 701 Coworking Space organically foster the creation and growth of the North Dakota Block Chain growth that is out front of one of the fastest growing technologies. These types of meetings contribute to a long-term effort to diversity our local and state economies.

MORE PARTNERSHIPS

Evolve Grand Forks is more than just an office space and is more than just Us. Evolve Grand Forks will grow its partnerships will community leaders and businesses who want to see continued innovation in Grand Forks. This begins by partnering in a comprehensive conversation identifying roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in Grand Forks' entrepreneurial ecosystem.

With this we are excited to announce a \$25,000 matching grant from the Knight Foundation and ask for your partnership in supporting a culture of entrepreneurship in Greater Grand Forks!

We thank you for all the support that contributed to a great 2017 and look forward to working with you in 2018 and beyond!

Evolve Grand Forks Board of Directors

Keith Lund, Grand Forks Region EDC
Jonathan Holth, Toasted Frog
Amanda Kosior, JLG Architects
Corey Mock, Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals
Justin Auch, Also Creative

Mark Schill, Praxis Strategy Group
Wayne Baumbach, Altru Health System
Nick Jensen, UND Alumni Association
Brandon Baumbach, Grand Forks Region EDC
Collin Hanson, Executive Director



701

Welcome
TO
THE
701

THE CH
S & PARTNERS



ALL EXPENSES INCLUDED IN MONTHLY RATE MULTIPLE WORK STATION OPTIONS LOCKABLE OFFICES AVAILABLE FREE FRESH, LOCALLY ROASTED BULLY BREW COFFEE ONE GIGABYTE HIGH SPEED MIDCO INTERNET EASY-TO-BOOK ONLINE MEETING SPACE CALENDAR EASY-TO-PAY ONLINE SYSTEM DOCUSHRED DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION SERVICES FULL KITCHEN WITH FILTERED WATER DISPENSER ACCESS TO XEROX PRINTER/COPIER 14-SEAT CONFERENCE ROOM WITH POLYCOM PHONE, SURROUND SOUND SYSTEM, FULL WHITE BOARD WALL, AND FLAT SCREEN PRESENTATION SCREEN 24/7/365 SECURE ACCESS TO THE 701 COWORKING SPACE VIA KEY FOB SYSTEM OFF-STREET PARKING FOR YOUR CLIENTS AND GUESTS ACCESS TO VIRTUAL TENANT AND MAILING ADDRESS CAPABILITIES ACCESS TO PEER ENTREPRENEURIAL NETWORK ACCESS TO TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACCESS TO EVENTS HELD IN THE 701 COWORKING SPACE BOOKABLE EVENT SPACE LOCKABLE STORAGE LIBRARY NOOK SECURE DOWNTOWN LOCATION WITH DOZENS OF RESTAURANTS AND SHOPS IN EASILY WALKABLE DISTANCE