

# Dakota Harvest Bakers, Corporate Support of the Arts award

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Dakota Harvest Bakers, owned by George Kelley

*Photo by: left*

Their efforts will be recognized Tuesday night, when Dakota Harvest Bakers receives the 2009 Corporate Support of the Arts award from North Valley Arts Council.

Holje, a licensed architect, and Kelley, an air traffic controller, attended Vocation Vacation, an internship with a master baker in Portland, Ore., to experiment with a new career. This experience helped them solidify their plans.

They named their business Dakota Harvest Bakers -- not Bakery -- to focus on the people who worked at the bakery and the processes they used and to emphasize the use of local ingredients. Their business offers baked goods, sandwiches, soups and other food items from scratch.

Not only did Holje and Kelley insist on using high-quality, locally produced ingredients, they also incorporating the arts into the bakery space and into the business's philanthropic priorities. Holje, who plays the trumpet and sings, honed his drawing skills as an architect. Kelly is a patron of the arts and especially interested in symphonic music, theater and ceramics.

They transformed the walls of the bakery into a gallery space and have been a key participant in the Art & Wine Walk. They have donated baked goods to a wide variety of arts organizations and events, including the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, Backstage with the Arts, gallery

openings at the Third Street Gallery and many other arts events.

1 Item added