Catholic Charities
North Dakota
Annual Report
2017-2018

Forever
Grateful

95 years
Forever Grateful Since 1923
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Catholic Charities North Dakota celebrates 95 years of service to the people of God, we are “Forever Grateful” for the many ways our Lord has been present to us. For 95 years, Catholic Charities has reached out to those in need, whether that need is material or spiritual, and has extended the compassion of Christ and his Church to all.

I am personally grateful to the staff, board members, and the many supporters who have made possible the ongoing work of Catholic Charities. This heritage of charity is one of the hallmarks of our mission as Catholics, and it is a joy to share with you the story of Catholic Charities in this annual report. It is our story, because Jesus has called each one of us to service and compassion for our brothers and sisters.

The programs sponsored by Catholic Charities North Dakota, such as adoption and counseling services, are works that no one parish can accomplish on their own. But Catholic Charities demonstrates how together we can make a great difference in the lives of many others in the larger community. Through Catholic Charities we can collaborate to assist the poor and most vulnerable, recognizing each person as loved and precious to our Lord. Thank you for your support of Catholic Charities North Dakota, and may God bless you and your families.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

†Most Reverend John T. Folda
Bishop of Fargo Diocese
Dear Brother and Sisters,

As Jesus speaks to the hearts of His apostles so too does He speak to ours, “I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you” (Jn 14:20). When we encounter the other we encounter Christ, for Christ dwells within each of us. Through your “yes” Catholic Charities North Dakota cares for those who are most in need, the poor and the vulnerable among us.

I am pleased to present you with this 95th Annual Report for Catholic Charities North Dakota. For 95 years they have served the poor and most vulnerable, who are most especially loved by Christ. Their work is of the utmost importance for us as Catholics because Christ set before us an example, “For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve” (Mk 10:45).

I am grateful to Catholic Charities North Dakota and their presence in the Bismarck Diocese. Thank you to the Board, Staff, and supporters of Catholic Charities North Dakota for your generous response, your faithful “yes”, and your love of Christ. This mission would not be sustainable without your support. Let us join our hearts together and thank the Lord for the grace He has given us in providing Catholic Charities North Dakota!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

†Most Reverend Bishop David D. Kagan
Bishop of Bismarck Diocese
It is with great pride and pleasure that I acknowledge the 95th Anniversary of Catholic Charities North Dakota. I am sure many preceding me and many to follow me will agree everything we have accomplished over the years has undoubtedly been a ‘Labor of Love’. Catholic Charities began as a response to a need to find forever homes for infants and support for their families. Now after 95 years the mission remains the same: to serve people in need and advocate for the common good of all.

- 1923 Catholic Welfare Bureau was founded as a child placing agency to support St. John’s Orphanage
- 1926 Catholic Welfare Bureau was incorporated into Catholic Family Service
- 1956 Grand Forks office was established creating the 2nd office in addition to Fargo; 1958 Bismarck office was opened and in 1977 the Minot office was opened

15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 4: 15; 9:12

Executive Director
Dianne Nechiporenko
• Parenting, Pregnancy and Adoption Services is our longest running program focusing on infant adoption; Guardianship Services has reached a 30 year milestone providing court appointed guardianship services for adults with intellectual disabilities; Catholic Charities also has added the services of Counseling; and Adults Adopting Special Kids which is a collaboration between Catholic Charities North Dakota and Path ND promoting well-being and permanence for children in foster care through adoption.

We will be Forever Grateful for:

• Everyone involved with Catholic Charities going back to 1923; without the vision, drive and passion of those early pioneers we could not have successfully helped thousands of people change and improve their lives.

• The awesome staff who have demonstrated passion, who focus on opportunities instead of obstacles, who encourage those around them, and who give 110%.

• Our kind, caring, and generous supporters who have trusted us with their gifts of time, talent and treasure. You have helped us, helped those who are most vulnerable, and we could not be successful with you.

• Our clients who have trusted their care in our hands.
More than 2,500 clients served and countless more reached.

Dots signify the 49 of 53 counties in North Dakota where people received direct services from us in 2017-2018.
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Board of Directors

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Fargo
Alice Hoffert
Grand Forks
Dr. Diane Fladeland
Bismarck
Dianne Nechiporenko, Ex Officio
Fargo

Catholic Charities North Dakota
Guided by our values, Catholic Charities North Dakota serves people in need and advocates for the common good of all.
For Fiscal year 2017-2018, 22 AASK, AASK recruitment (WWK) workers and 4 supervisors worked with 841 children and 301 families. Additionally 100 families are waiting for an assessment and an additional 160 in inquiry status. AASK workers facilitated 212 adoptive placements, and 192 adoptive finalizations. Seventy nine of these finalizations were timely, which means finalizations occurred within 12 months of termination of parents’ rights, and 19 of these finalizations were for kids for whom we needed to recruit a family. This is an incredible feat, especially considering we have had 6 new workers join us who needed to learn the job before completing the work.

AASK also was able to increase Post Adopt services. We hired a supervisor for AASK Post Adopt, and an additional position which now gives us 3 full time AASK Post Adopt staff. AASK Post Adopt held support groups across the state, adoption camps, a Mom’s retreat, made over 6,929 contacts and drove 9,271 miles! We reached more than 2,462 people on Facebook and the network continues to build each day.

AASK workers are dedicated to helping children find a forever family and the quality of work is exemplary.

The number of North Dakota children in need of permanency continues to grow every year. In 2010 we worked with approximately 450 children. As stated above, this year the number of children was 841. Fortunately the number of staff continues to increase but we still have a backlog of families waiting for an adoptive home assessment. It is the responsibility of us all to be aware of and prioritize the needs of children who have no permanent family; even one child without a family is unacceptable.

It is on all of us to prioritize the needs of children who have no permanent family, even one child is too many.

If you are interested in learning more about adoption please email us at aask@catholiccharitiesnd.org or call us at 701-235-4457.
192 Youth adoptions finalized

301 Families received AASK services

102 Approved home assessments

17 Children being recruited for

841 Children received AASK services
Counseling Services

476 Clients served
2,248 Counseling sessions
204 Marriage prep couples
253 New clients
Counseling Services

What an amazing year! The services provided by Catholic Charities North Dakota’s Counseling Department is so valuable to the people of North Dakota. CCND counselors guide clients in rebuilding hope, support people as they go through challenging life changes, assist healing in relationships, help clients develop healthy coping skills, and provide effective mental health therapy. Meeting these needs is critical, regardless of how able people are to pay for the services. It is true that you have not truly given until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

During the 2017-18 fiscal year, the counseling department facilitated 2,248 counseling sessions. Our department provided counseling services to individuals, couples, and families for a variety of issues. We were able to accept 253 new individual clients, 29 couples and 1 family throughout the year and serve a total of 381 individual clients, 47 couples, and 2 families. We are blessed to have six caring and competent clinicians on board. CCND now offers counseling services in Bismarck, New England, Dickinson, Wahpeton, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Langdon.

We all know what it is like to struggle. Unfortunately, a number of people do not have people that provide support for them when they are sad, grieving, alone, or struggling. Jesus helps and cares for those people and wants us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)

Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)
Guardsianship Services

During the past year, we have served as guardian for 484 individuals with intellectual disabilities. Serving as a person’s guardian is a serious and demanding job - it is our court appointed responsibility to make complicated, life changing decisions that balance the best interests of our wards while safeguarding each individual’s personal autonomy. In the past 12 months, we have had several key accomplishments. We are grateful to the 2017 Legislature for an increase in funding as we now have 14 full-time guardianship workers. An increase in staff helps ensure that our wards are receiving the necessary services to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Another accomplishment involves improved oversight of guardians. Our program and our guardianship workers are accountable to the courts. Accountability is an essential part of providing quality guardianship services. On March 1, 2018, the North Dakota Supreme Court issued new requirements. For our guardianship program, this meant that all guardianship workers must have a criminal history record check, they must complete on-line guardianship training and our agency must be accredited by the Council on Accreditation. Our program is in full compliance with these requirements. Additionally, the courts now require much more comprehensive reports to the court regarding each ward (Annual Wellbeing Report, Annual Financial Accounting and the Confidential Information Form). Our guardianship workers have spent the past year transitioning to the new forms so that the courts are fully informed of each ward’s status and progress. It has been an amazing and busy year for our staff and program and our focus remains the same – to provide the best guardianship services possible as our wards deserve nothing less.

"Very caring & professional to work with! Level headed and always has the person's best interest at heart!"

-Community Partner
Guardianship

87,974
Miles driven
8,497
Visits with individuals

2,735
Meetings on behalf of individuals

484
Individuals served by our guardians
108
Individuals on waiting list
17 Identifying searches
7 Non-identifying searches
34 Pregnancy counseling clients
13 children placed
Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services

Since its inception in 1923, the Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services (PPAS) program has been a flagship service of Catholic Charities North Dakota. When you think of ‘charity’ your heart automatically goes out to those among us who are the most vulnerable and the most in need. The PPAS program has the prestigious honor of serving women and children who are indeed experiencing a very vulnerable time in their lives.

These women and their families are supported throughout their pregnancies in order to make a life affirming choice for their babies. When we say they are supported, what does that mean? It means that the PPAS program walks hand in hand with these women, educating them, sitting next to them at the doctor’s office, making sure that they have a place to live, nutritious food to eat, and adequate clothing to wear. It means being available to them 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, providing transportation to appointments, connections with others who can help them, and showing them the unconditional love of Jesus. It means holding their hand at 3am as they deliver their child, helping them to decide what is best for their baby, whether it be parenting or adoption, and crying with them as they walk through the valleys of life.

This support means everything to these women and their families and it means a healthy start to life for their children. What it doesn’t mean is a bill. All of the supports offered are free, CCND’s gift of ‘charity’ to these women, as a way to be the hands and feet of Christ and as a way for the large community of donors to actively be a part of making generational changes for these women, their families, and their babies.

"The PPAS program has really helped me with resources and preparing for my daughter. I refer others to PPAS and also donate to Catholic Charities North Dakota."

—New Mom
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Fargo Office
5201 Bishops Blvd, Ste B
Fargo, ND 58104
701.235.4457

Grand Forks Office
311 4th St S, Ste 105
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701.775.4196

Minot Office
216 S Broadway, Ste 103
Minot, ND 58701
701.852.2854

Bismarck Office
600 S 2nd St, Ste 202
Bismarck, ND 58504
701.255.1796

Call us from anywhere at 1.800.450.4457
Or visit us online at CatholicCharitiesND.org