In 2018-2019, services were provided in 50 of the 53 counties in North Dakota.
Dear Friends,

Most of us belong to several different types of communities. We have our home communities – the people we live and eat with. We have our work communities – coworkers, clients, even competitors. We have our faith communities – the people we pray and worship with. We have our larger communities – our city, state and country. We also may have other personal communities – the people who support us or that we share interests with.

However, our faith teaches us that we are connected much more deeply than by any shared interest. All of us are invited to be brothers and sisters in Christ, and so we are called to community with God and with others. Being present in each other’s lives is important, but real community means much more than sitting next to someone. Only by taking the time and effort to form deep bonds with each other do we enrich our lives and work toward the common good – the conditions in our world that allow people to flourish – so that by following Christ we can help others have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

We can’t create a community by ourselves. If we are not part of a community, we are each an island. By working together we can accomplish more than any of us could on our own. Thank you for your contributions this past year. I can’t tell you how appreciative we are. Truly there is great strength in community!

Dianne Nechiporenko
Executive Director

8
Different races represented in our clients

25
Religions and faiths were represented in our clients

2,286
Clients were served during the fiscal year
The services provided to individuals, couples, and families by the counselors at Catholic Charities North Dakota are so important and valuable to the residents of North Dakota. CCND counselors assist clients with rebuilding hope, increasing supports and skills, and guiding clients as they navigate through many of life’s changes. Being able to meet these needs regardless of a person’s ability to pay truly allows for CCND to provide a charity that many other communities and organizations are unable to provide. This gives a new meaning to the word charity when working in the mental health profession.

With the understanding that we all have times in our life where we may struggle and benefit from additional support, the counseling department is blessed to have such experienced and knowledgeable counselors that are able to help provide such services to the residents of North Dakota.

We are so blessed to have the 7 clinical counselors in our department with a variety of skills sets and endless knowledge. CCND is now providing counseling services in the following cities: Bismarck, New England, Dickinson, Valley City, Fargo, Wahpeton, and Grand Forks. We hope to continue to grow and build a larger presence in the western part of North Dakota in the years to come.
Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) is North Dakota’s primary adoption program providing adoption services to children in foster care and the families who adopt them. AASK is so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such incredible children and families every day in order to prepare them for a lifelong commitment.

Children referred to the AASK program have often experienced significant trauma in their lifetime and AASK works with both the child and the adoptive family comprehensively to ensure that the child’s needs are met and maintained long term. Understanding an adoption story is extremely important, especially for children in foster care who have endured an incredible amount of loss, grief, and instability. AASK focuses on preparing children throughout their time in foster care to help them understand their own story and how adoption fits into their life journey.

Impact of the AASK Program

Children waiting for their forever family
During the past 32 years, the Guardianship Division has provided services for more than 950 adults with intellectual disabilities across North Dakota. Our program is unique as it is the only guardianship provider in North Dakota solely dedicated to serving vulnerable people with intellectual disabilities. We provide court appointed guardianship services on behalf of individuals with intellectual disabilities who are 18 years old or older who do not have family or friends available.

As guardian, our decision making authority and responsibilities typically include the following: determining the ward’s living arrangements; assuring that the ward’s medical needs are met and providing consent for all medical procedures, surgeries, treatments, medications, etc.; arranging and authorizing educational and vocational opportunities; legal decision making; and making financial decisions as well as overseeing the ward’s assets and social security. Throughout North Dakota, we have fourteen (14) dedicated and highly skilled guardianship workers who are responsible to fulfill guardianship duties for our current caseload of 465 wards. It is the goal of our guardianship workers to surround our wards with the needed services and supports to help ensure that their health and safety needs are met while working to maximize each person’s independence.
The Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services Program (PPAS) focuses on three main service areas.

**Adoption Services:** Families who live in North Dakota and want to grow their family through adoption can do so through the PPAS program. There are four main types of adoptions that families choose from: North Dakota Infant adoption, Out of State adoption, Intercountry adoption, and Identified adoption. Our adoption services are tailored to meet the needs of each family and situation.

**Pregnancy Services:** Anyone in the state of North Dakota who is experiencing an unexpected pregnancy can access free Pregnancy Services through CCND. Our compassionate social workers assist women and men in making the best possible plan for themselves and their babies. Women/men are supported in their choice to parent their child or to make an adoption plan. If they choose to make an adoption plan, the PPAS program connects them with a qualified, home study approved family, and walks them through the legal aspects of adoption. If they choose to parent their child, the PPAS program helps them to prepare for their baby. Expectant families are supported in their decision, and help is offered throughout their pregnancy, labor and delivery, and after the baby is born.

**Post-adoption Search and Disclosure Services:** Search and disclosure services are offered to adopted adults, birth parents, and biological siblings of adopted adults whose adoptions were completed through CCND. Our social workers share in this emotional journey with clients as they learn non-identifying information, obtain updated medical information, and/or explore new relationships with their birth families.

### Impact of the PPAS Program

- **15 Children Placed**
- **18 Identifying Searches**
- **38 Pregnancy counseling clients**
- **3 Non-Identifying Searches**
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
701.255.17963

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