Sharing Community Strength

One of the greatest strengths of the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities North Dakota is that the Directors come from communities throughout our state. They bring their experiences as people who desire to follow Christ in their lives, as members of rural communities and bigger cities, as women and men who work in professions (law, education, agriculture, and health) in which they have contact with individuals and families.

Our Board of Directors is a governing board which meets five times a year, in September through May. At their meetings they review policies and finances, receive updates from each of the Program Directors, and work with the Executive Director and Management Team to implement the agency’s Strategic Plan.

Notably about two years ago the Bylaws for Catholic Charities North Dakota were updated making both of our Catholic Bishops the two legal Members of the agency, with Fargo Bishop John Folda and Bismarck Bishop David Kagan serving as the current President and Vice President of the nonprofit organization.

Bishop John Folda and Bishop David Kagan serve as President and Vice-president, respectively, on the Catholic Charities North Dakota Board of Directors.


Our Mission: Guided by our values, Catholic Charities North Dakota serves people in need and advocates for the common good of all.
Strength in Community

When you build a fire to warm many, you do not utilize one log expecting it to warm more than one person; you utilize many logs to warm your entire group. Another example: It takes the sun, wind, bees, butterflies and birds to spread pollen and without pollen our trees and plants do not bear fruit.

Such is the strength Catholic Charities North Dakota experiences through collaboration and partnership with many individuals, groups and organizations.

Through our community partners we are able to assist in finding forever homes for infants and children currently in foster care and/or group homes. Through volunteer groups and organizations we are able to provide blankets, stuffed animals and many other items to assist the transition to forever families.

Through other non-profits, church groups and student groups, we are able to provide charity care assisting those in need with a hand up. This may be as basic as a monthly bus pass or as complex as figuring out transportation, food, phone or other needs to get through a medical emergency or personal crisis.

Through CCUSA and local organizations we are able to assist during and after natural disasters to provide relief for recovery.

Catholic Charities Sunday helps build community through each and every one of you. You become part of our circle of friends, arms to hold us, arms to assist us, arms to strengthen us. Without Catholic Charities Sunday and the connections we make we would not be able to assist nearly the number of brothers and sisters looking for assistance and direction.

Catholic Charities Sunday allows you to direct people to us, to make a connection with people in need that we may not otherwise know. You become part of our strength and direction, you become instrumental in getting people through our doors.

Through the support of our two diocese in North Dakota, we are able to provide services throughout the state and focus our attention where the greatest needs are identified.

Catholic Charities North Dakota continues to live its mission which states: Guided by our values, Catholic Charities North Dakota serves people in need and advocates for the common good of all.

Our ability to live out our mission comes from our staff, our supporters, and our community. Strength in Community.
Catholic Charities North Dakota provides guardianship services on behalf of 468 individuals 18 years or older with intellectual disabilities throughout North Dakota. As guardian, it is crucial that we maintain our independence and objectivity in all actions to ensure that there is never a question of conflict of interest. Our focus must always be on acting in our clients’ best interest without any outside influence. This is not to say that we work alone – in fact, it is just the opposite.

When we are appointed guardian, our guardianship worker assesses our client’s immediate needs for food, clothing, shelter, safety and health. Action is taken to address urgent unmet needs. In addition, the guardianship worker and our client’s residential service provider assist our client in applying for public benefits that he or she is eligible for such as Social Security, Medicaid, food and housing assistance. Collaboration is essential to insure that our clients are receiving the appropriate services and supports to live as independently as possible in the community. Collaboration with residential and vocational service providers, Developmental Disabilities Program Managers, family members, medical professionals, law enforcement and others is vital to meeting the comprehensive needs of each person for whom we serve as guardian.

Recently, we experienced a marvelous example of the impact that collaboration has on a client’s life. Catholic Charities North Dakota has been Jessica’s* legal guardian for 10 years. She lives in the central region of North Dakota and receives residential and vocational services from a provider that focuses on serving people with intellectual disabilities. Jessica was in need of specialized medical services and tests in a Twin Cities hospital due to changes in her very complex medical needs. Jessica is surrounded by a caring team which includes her group home and vocational staff, her Developmental Disabilities Program Manager and our guardianship worker. The team worked closely together to make this happen for Jessica. They teamed up to tackle the paperwork to obtain approval from ND Medicaid for out of state medical services.

Once this was achieved, they needed to sort out transportation issues for the 600 mile round trip to the Twin Cities. The group home really stepped up to the plate – they provided an accessible van plus staff to accompany Jessica on the trip. The residential staff and our guardianship worker stayed with Jessica for the first few days to meet with the medical professionals at the beginning of her hospitalization. After that time, our worker was in frequent contact by phone with Jessica’s medical staff after. When Jessica was ready to be discharged more than a week later, residential staff returned to bring her back home. Because of the collaboration of Jessica’s team, they were able to make sure that she received the best medical services possible to address her needs.

*Not her real name

Have you seen any of these names in your community?

Development Homes  Support Systems  REM  Kayd  Listen
Opportunity Foundation  Lake Region Corporation  Life Skills and Transition Center
HAV-IT  Easter Seals  Fraser  Friendship  Kalix
Hit  Pride  Enable  Open Door Center  Red River Human Services Foundation
ABLE  4th Corp  Alpha Opportunities  Community Options  VTC  Community Living Services

They are residential and vocational service providers with whom we work closely to serve guardianship clients!
The Fruits of Collaboration

Kris Haycraft
Director

As I am deeply moved by the sense of community I feel within Catholic Charities North Dakota and within the Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Service Program, I decided to take a harder look into what “community” really means. The definition of "community," provided by Google, is “a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.”

Well, that hit it right on the head! That is exactly what I believe the Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services Program (PPAS) is built on. It’s the connection with you, the reader, who supports our program and prays for those in need of our services. It’s the connection with the medical staff who so lovingly take care of our client’s medical needs and who refer those in need to our program. It’s the connection with the local pregnancy centers which offer pregnancy education to our clients and which help women interested in finding out more about adoption get through our doors. It’s the staff of St. Gianna Maternity Home who care so wholeheartedly for the women they serve and who work hand-in-hand with our program to support expectant moms. These are just a few of many wonderful resources that generate the feeling of fellowship and support for the families that the PPAS program serves. The common attitudes, interests, and beliefs of supporting birth parents and helping women chose life for their child are the foundation for the work that we do.

It is because of “community” that the women our program served this year received excellent medical care, housing assistance, education, diapers, bottles, clothing, and unconditional support. The PPAS program takes pride in finding out what our client’s needs are and finding a way to meet those needs, but we don’t do it alone. Thank you for the referrals, thank you for your support, and thank you for your prayers. Together, we are making a “community” of difference.

The Sts. Anne and Joachim Church Community (Fargo) came together to provide these needed baby items through the Crib Project. If your parish is interested in hosting this effort, please call Kris at 701-235-4457.

In Memory of

Peter Richman
Peter Richman
Ginger Kjelland
Denis Montplaisir
Fr. Len Loegering
Dean Feil
Nicholas Wuolo
Denver Lee Larson
Lester Pritchard
Lester Pritchard
Jim Kirkeide
Louis Klocke
Arlene Albrecht
Robert Aberle
Jennifer Rohrich
Rita and Ed Mauch

By

Diane and Howard Trapp
Margaret and Lloyd Thilmony
Margaret and Lloyd Thilmony
Jane and Clayton Day
Becky Gellner
Anne Marie and Robert Wuolo
Codie and Larry Larson, Jr.
Mary Anne Schuster
Ann and Keith Hopp
David Lill
David Lill
David Lill
Janice Aberle
Allan Rohrich
Ronald F. Mauch

In Memory of

Bev and Art Jacobson
Justin Kruk
Regina & Vincent Seefeld
Reiker Logan
Matt Rudnick
Dianne & Ray Hoffman
Leonard Buresh
Tony Walz
David Larson
Donald C. Streitz
Andrew Kuylen
Michael W.Gallagher
Anastasia Fortney
Janice Bruns
Irene Gion
Kaye Louise Schoeder

By

Judy Jacobson
Deanne and Lloyd Boesl
LaVerne Seefeld
Rachel Logan
June and Tony Prom
Lisa and Devon Gillett
Anna Marie Buresh
Geri Walz
Joleen Thomas
Barbara and Corwin Jones
LaRae and David Kuylen
Marlys Gallagher
Lisa and Aaron Fortney
Jolyn Krabbenhoft
Cindy and Aaron Krauter
Cindy and Aaron Krauter

In Memory of

Lillian Welle
William Teske
Matthew Williams
Dennis Hogan
Dennis Hogan
Dennis Hogan
Dennis Hogan
Verna and Ole Johnson
Lillian and Robert Stoffel
Leona and Ed Doom
Christopher P. Jacobs
Bev Mayo
Richard Elsperger
Lois Stanislovs
Fr. Don Braukmann
Margaret Haugen

Tributes
Commemorative Gifts from March 1 to September 30, 2019
Bringing Joy and Happiness

Over the past 10 years, the Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) program has grown tremendously due to an increased number of children from foster care needing adoption services. With that increased need, we more than doubled our staff. We have been blessed to serve these children and their adoptive families through the many components of the program. These components consist of:

**The Collaborative**

AASK became a collaborative program between Catholic Charities North Dakota (CCND) and PATH, ND (PATH) in the year 2005, working with the ND Department of Human Services. Within the collaborative, approximately half of AASK staff are employed through CCND and half are employed through PATH, but all AASK workers from both agencies provide adoption services under the same policies and procedures. In accordance with the state contract, any and all types of families are considered for foster care adoption through AASK. Couples wishing to adopt who co-habitate or identify as a gay or lesbian couple are served by AASK workers employed through PATH.

**Wendy’s Wonderful Kids**

The AASK program has two grant funded positions through the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, who are known as Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Recruiters. These two positions have a sole, primary focus of working with kids who do not yet have an identified adoptive family, or kids who are in need of intense recruitment services. The intent of the *evidenced-based child-specific recruitment model* is to find known connections to a child who may be interested in maintaining a relationship with the child long-term, or who may consider a more permanent option like adoption.

**AASK North Dakota Post Adopt Network**

The ND Post Adopt Network started in 2016, and provides support to families who have adopted from foster care, families who have adopted infants or children internationally or domestically, and to families who serve as guardians to a child in their home. Life after permanency comes with great joy and happiness, but also comes with typical, expected challenges. Services include support groups, information and referral to various service providers, outreach events, trainings for professionals, summer camps and winter retreats for kids and families, and much more.

With many moving components, we look forward to the upcoming year working with the bravest, most vulnerable children, and are excited to meet with many new, wonderful families across the state. We are incredibly fortunate to do the work we do!

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Thank you for your thoughtful gifts in memory of, or in honor of, family and friends.

**By**

Marlene Baasch  
Shirley Hogan  
Reah and Bryan Tykwinski  
James Pender  
Mary and Dave Goeddertz  
Shirley and all the Hogans  
Kelli and Tom Adams  
Roberta and Richard Johnson  
Roberta and Richard Johnson  
Margaret and Jim Rundlett-Doom  
Dorothy C. Jacobs  
Mary Lou and James Sott  
Connie Elspberger  
Bailey Hansen  
Bernadette and DuWayne Schwindt  
Susanne and Ferank Argenziano

**In Memory of**

Joanie Agamenoni  
Tim J. Horak  
Alice and Edward Ouradnik  
Marlys Haman  
Harley Smith

**In Honor of**

My grandparents, Leota and Henry (dec.) Leintz  
Marriage of Reanna Leier and Jacob Doele  
Diane Christianson  
Corbyn and Emersyn  
Counseling Department  
Jean and Stan Walos  
Priests of Fargo Diocese

**By**

Mary Jahner  
Clara Horak  
Lynda and Walter Ouradnik  
Judy and James Haman  
Dawn Smith

**By**

Melissa and Brandon Johnson  
Christine and Curtis Marshall  
Vicki and Ron Wiisanen  
Betty Lou and Gary Schell  
Marjorie Baumgartner-Hill and Robert Hill  
Arls and Gerald Walters  
Teresa and John Gorman
Have you considered these options to really make a big difference?

Monthly Giving? It’s quick and easy to set up a monthly gift of any amount that you can change at any time. Call us or visit: www.CatholicCharitiesND.org and click on “Donate” to learn more!

Endowment Tax Credit? North Dakota has a generous tax credit where you may be eligible to get up to 40% back toward your state taxes on a gift of $5,000 to $25,000 to our endowment!

Planned Giving? Please call us at (701) 235-4457 to learn about naming us in your will or trust, or as a beneficiary of your investment account, retirement account, or an insurance policy.

IRA Charitable Rollover? If you are 70½ or older funds may be given directly to us as a tax-exempt distribution that could also satisfy the mandatory minimum distribution requirement.

Please keep Catholic Charities in mind as you consult your own advisors for financial, tax or legal advice. Together we can help those in need and build up the common good. That’s the strength of community!
Being Present in the Community

Where does the time go? It seems like it was just yesterday that I was writing my first article for The Networker. Wow what a year! The Counseling Program has had some changes in staff and we look towards the future as we build our program in the western and central part of the state. We are blessed to provide services to such wonderful people, and I am blessed to supervise such skilled clinicians committed to our mission of serving people in need.

In the past year, we have opened a satellite office in Valley City as well as seeing clients in New England, Dickinson and Wahpeton. In providing these outreach locations, we are able to connect with community members who may not have the ability or resources to travel to one of our main locations (Bismarck, Fargo and Grand Forks).

In one outreach location an elderly client receives mental health services because the services are located in the community and his neighbors and church members are able and willing to assist with rides. Another client was in need of services on a weekly basis but because of cost, travel and weather, this was not an option. With Catholic Charities North Dakota opening an outreach office in her community, this client now receives services as needed without the additional physical and financial barriers.

As our program grows in different communities in ND, we continue to live our mission through the work done through Catholic Charities North Dakota by providing individual, couples and family counseling. As caring professional counselors, our goal is to help you discover your true potential by focusing on your strengths and helping you improve your limitations.

Is your parish or community group looking for a speaker on mental health topics? We are available to speak on such topics as grief and loss, bullying, depression and anxiety, communication and conflict resolution which may impact one’s mental health and support. To arrange for a speaker, call 701-235-4457.

Please keep us in mind if you or someone you know could benefit from the services provided by our counseling department.

For appointments in the western part of the state (Bismarck Diocese) call our Bismarck office at 701-255-1793.

To make an appointment in the eastern part of the state (Fargo Diocese) call our Fargo office at 701-235-4457.

We are actively recruiting for counselors throughout the state of North Dakota. If you or someone you know is qualified and interested, please encourage them to contact us at 701-235-4457. Catholic Charities North Dakota provides a positive and supportive work environment that allows for flexibility in scheduling and benefits. We are seeking both part-time and full-time counselors. Please pray that we are able to add counselors that will help us to serve more communities throughout the state, especially out west.
Nancy Germain was recently named as an Angels in Adoption Honoree through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. She was nominated by North Dakota Senator John Hoeven.

Nancy's social work career has spanned over thirty-two years, working in the areas of developmental disabilities case management, mental health case management, and children and family services. She grew up on a farm outside of Galesburg, North Dakota and then attended the University of North Dakota, majoring in social work and pursuing her passion for music as a member of the UND Concert Choir. Nancy has been married to her husband Mike for over twenty-eight years, and they have three adult children… Mitch, Nick, and Katie.

Since 2003, Nancy has worked as an adoption specialist with the Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK) program in Fargo, first with The Village Family Service Center and, since 2005, with Catholic Charities North Dakota. Nancy currently serves as AASK’s Lead Adoption Worker, and trains new staff through a curriculum that she helped create. Nancy supervises student interns and manages a caseload of children and families as well.

After many years of membership on the North Dakota Family Based Services Association, Nancy served on the organization’s board of directors for seven years and was honored with their Lifetime Award in 2013. Nancy has been a true advocate for children and families throughout her career. She has been a part of finding permanency for many children and families over the years, having helped finalize the adoptions of over 250 children in foster care during her years with AASK.

Nancy will be attending the Angels in Adoption leadership program and celebratory gala on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on November 13th and 14th, 2019.