

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NORTH DAKOTA

Annual Report 2024-2025

WE CARE.
WE LOVE.
WE SERVE.

THAT'S WHAT WE DO.

WHAT WE DO.



What an incredible year! This annual report is more than just documentation and statistics. It is an impressive story of growth, incredible work, commitment to excellence and a true passion for the mission of Catholic Charities North Dakota. Each goal we have met, each milestone we have surpassed is a direct reflection of our staff's talent, teamwork and unending dedication. Watching this agency continue to evolve has been deeply rewarding. I want to extend my gratitude to our staff, our community partners and each of you whose prayers and support have both blessed and encouraged us this past year. Your belief in our work means everything.

Executive Director
Catholic Charities North Dakota

Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services

Pregnancy/Parenting Services are available to all women experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. Our licensed social workers assist women and their families in planning for their baby's future, providing them with support and education on parenting and adoption.

We also serve those interested in adopting and specialize in the following types of adoption: North Dakota Infant Adoptions, Identified and Relative Adoptions, Out-of-state Adoptions, and International Adoptions.

Social workers can also assist adopted adults, birth parents, and birth siblings of an adopted adult in learning more about and searching for the adoptee/birth parent.

Adults Adopting Special Kids

AASK is a North Dakota program providing adoption services to children in foster care and the families who adopt them. The North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services contracts with Catholic Charities North Dakota to deliver adoption services across the state.

Our mission is to build permanency for children through adoption by stable and nurturing families.

ND Post Adopt Network

A service of the AASK program providing support to international, domestic, infant, and foster care adoptive families as well as families providing guardianship for a child in their home.

Counseling Services

Counseling Services are for individuals, couples, or families who are coping with stress and change. We provide a safe environment with a licensed, professional therapist who will encourage you to discover your strengths and to identify resources to meet your challenges. We accept most insurance and EAP programs as well as offer a reduced sliding fee schedule for eligible participants.

Guardianships Services: Vulnerable

We serve vulnerable elderly persons and adults with mental health issues or any other type of vulnerability. Our work is to provide support and direction for people who have no appropriate source of support and are having difficulty making decisions in their daily lives. We are here to help the person make informed, person-centered decisions through understanding of consequences and dignity of risk on the spectrum of life choices.

Guardianship Division: Intellectual Disabilities

Guardianship Services provide protective options for adults with intellectual disabilities. Guardians act in the best interest of vulnerable adults who need support with decision-making to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Where Small Acts Make a Big Impact

Adoption can be a complex and emotional journey, especially for children in the foster care system. The AASK (Adults Adopting Special Kids) program and the North Dakota Post Adopt Network stand out not because of grand gestures, but because of the intricate and thoughtful things we do every day, making the path to family smoother, warmer, and more memorable for everyone involved.

A key strength of the AASK program is its emphasis on building meaningful relationships with both children and families. Each child entering foster care brings a unique set of experiences and emotions, just as every family has their own

journey. The AASK team provides compassionate guidance, walking alongside them to listen and offer support through their adoption experience. Through open communication and steady encouragement, AASK creates a space where children and families feel valued and understood.

AASK recognizes the importance of celebration in creating lifelong memories. Every year, the program organizes National Adoption Day celebrations, bringing together families, children, and community members to honor new beginnings. These festive events reinforce the idea that adoption is not just a legal process, but a heartfelt celebration meant to be remembered forever.

AASK actively connects with local agencies, forming meaningful partnerships to promote adoption from foster care. Whether co-hosting awareness events, collaborating on ways to showcase children with no adoptive home, or sharing resources, these relationships amplify AASK's reach and foster a culture of support throughout the community.



The Post Adopt Network offers a welcoming space for families and children to receive support after the adoption process is finalized or after a guardianship is established. By providing ongoing resources, the network helps families navigate challenges and celebrate successes during every stage of their post-permanency journey.



Special activities like family camps foster meaningful connections and create lasting memories among adoptive families. Monthly events offer fun opportunities for families to engage with one another and build a sense of community. Additionally, support groups deliver a forum for sharing advice, encouragement, and understanding—helping both parents and children thrive.



The small, personal touches offered by the AASK program combine to create exceptional outcomes—making each adoption journey a little brighter, more understood, and deeply celebrated.



316

ADOPTIVE PLACEMENTS

176

HOME ASSESSMENTS

328

ADOPTION FINALIZATIONS

813

CHILDREN SERVED

Building a Stronger, More Supportive Community

At Catholic Charities North Dakota (CCND), our mission transcends the boundaries of a person's faith and background. We are dedicated to serving all North Dakotans, providing compassionate support and quality services to individuals and families in need. While we often celebrate the larger initiatives and programs that make headlines, it is the small, everyday actions that truly embody our commitment to service.

Every day, our team engages in countless little acts of kindness that collectively create a profound impact on the lives of those we serve. These moments may not always be

visible to the public eye, but they are the heartbeat of our organization. Here are just a few examples of how we embody the theme "That's what we do" through our daily efforts:

Providing Resources and Referrals

Our team is dedicated to connecting individuals with the resources they need. From food assistance to mental health services, we take the time to understand each person's unique situation and guide them to the appropriate support. This may involve making phone calls, filling out forms, or simply offering a warm smile and encouragement.

Listening with Compassion

One of the simplest yet most powerful things we do is listen. Whether it's a client sharing their struggles or a family seeking guidance, our counselors and staff take the time to listen with empathy and understanding. This act of being present can provide comfort and reassurance, helping individuals feel valued and heard.

Building Community Connections

At CCND, we believe in the power of community. We actively work to foster connections among individuals and families, encouraging them to support one another. Whether through support groups, workshops, or community events, we create spaces where people can share their experiences and build lasting relationships.

Embracing Diversity

At CCND, we serve individuals from all walks of life, regardless of their faith or background.

We embrace diversity and strive to create an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome and respected. This commitment to inclusivity is reflected in our daily interactions and the services we provide.



Celebrating Small Victories

Every step forward is worth celebrating. Our team takes the time to acknowledge and celebrate the small victories of our clients, whether it's securing stable housing, finding employment, or simply taking a step towards healing. These moments of recognition can inspire hope and motivate individuals to continue their journey.

Offering a Helping Hand

Sometimes, it's the little things that matter most. Whether it's helping a client navigate a difficult situation, or simply offering a comforting presence, our staff is always ready to lend a helping hand. These gestures may seem small, but they can have a lasting impact on someone's life.

In conclusion, while the larger initiatives at Catholic Charities ND are essential, it is the little things we do every day that truly define our mission. Each act of kindness, every moment of compassion, and all the connections we foster contribute to a stronger, more supportive community. As we continue to serve all North Dakotans, we remain committed to the belief that it's the

small, everyday actions that can lead to significant change. That's what we do at Catholic Charities ND—one small act at a time.

1,105

COUNSELING
SESSIONS COMPLETED

The Guardianship Division/Intellectual Disabilities has provided guardianship services on behalf of adults with intellectual disabilities for 38 years. If the court determines that an individual is unable to make or communicate responsible decisions for his or her own wellbeing, the court will appoint a guardian to make decisions on behalf of the person. We currently serve as guardian for 533 individuals and these services are provided by 16 guardianship workers who are located in Bismarck, Minot, Dickinson, Hazen, Grand Forks, Grafton and Fargo.

Every day, our guardianship workers make important life-changing decisions on behalf of the individuals we serve.

For example, we may be appointed by the court to determine where a person will live, what medical treatments and medications should be approved, how his or her money should be spent or saved, etc. However, it is often the small things that we do as guardian that tend to be the most meaningful.

Our guardianship worker learned that yesterday "Sam" had a tough day at his work program. Today, our guardianship worker called Sam just to say hi and chat. During that call, our

worker listened as Sam vented about the hard time he had yesterday and, by the end of the conversation, his mood had been lifted as he felt heard and supported.

"Kaci's" mom passed away a few years ago and she misses her terribly. On the anniversary of her mom's passing, our guardianship worker drives Kaci to the cemetery to visit her mom which means so much to her.

It takes monumental efforts to help "Glen" stay one step ahead of being kicked out of the homeless shelter because of his struggles with addiction. The highlight of his week is a bag of treats that our guardianship worker brings him at the shelter. Glen looks forward to his BBQ potato chips, candy bars and Mountain Dew pop. It brightens his day and he is very grateful that our worker never misses a week!



The court appointed Catholic Charities ND as "Karen's" emergency guardian. She was living with her sister who was her guardian. Sadly, her sister passed away and she had no one to help her at the apartment they shared. We were appointed emergency guardian late on a Friday afternoon when most service agencies are closed. Our guardianship worker made sure that Karen had food for the weekend and she stopped in on Saturday and Sunday to make sure that she took her medications.

We have been "Candy's" guardian for two years. Her health had taken a turn for the worse and she now needed 24-hour nursing home care. On the day

of the move, our guardianship worker stayed with Candy from morning until after supper to help her adjust to her new home. By the time our guardianship worker left, Candy was on a first name basis with her nurses and nurse aides!

While it is critical that our guardianship workers ensure that the individuals' medical, residential, legal, financial, education needs are met, our workers also strive to bring happiness and contentment into their lives. It is through the many small acts of kindness that our workers share with each person on their caseload where beautiful moments of joy are found!

149

INDIVIDUALS ON THE
WAITING LIST

556

INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY
OUR GUARDIANS

2,765

MEETINGS ON BEHALF
OF THE INDIVIDUALS WE
SERVE

9,732

VISITS WITH THE
INDIVIDUALS WE SERVE

94,232

MILES DRIVEN BY
GUARDIANSHIP WORKERS TO
26 CITIES

22,381

COLLATERAL CONTACTS ON
BEHALF OF THE
INDIVIDUALS WE SERVE

A Year of Quiet Commitment

In our work with vulnerable adults, it's often the little things that matter most—a kind word on a hard day, making sure the heat is on when the weather turns cold, helping to pay a phone bill, or simply showing up for a doctor's appointment so no one has to sit alone. These small, everyday actions don't make headlines, but they make a world of difference to the individuals we serve.

Over the past year, our team in Guardianship Services for the Vulnerable (GSV) has quietly and consistently shown up for our clients in ways that protect their dignity, support their independence, and remind them that they are not alone.

This report reflects that unwavering commitment—one small act at a time.

Many of the individuals we support have little or no family or friends to rely on. For some, their guardian may be the only person they see regularly. It truly takes a small village—our dedicated GSV team—to meet the diverse and often complex needs of the individuals in our program.

Just as every person is unique, so too are the services we provide to meet their daily needs. These can include assistance with grocery shopping, meal preparation, laundry, transportation, medical appointments, understanding healthcare issues, and finding opportunities for social engagement and companionship.



One Small Act at a Time

On the financial side, we may be helping someone pay monthly bills, apply for Medicare or Medicaid, access Social Security or pension benefits, manage debt from medical expenses, or transition out of a home they can no longer maintain.

In some cases, we support individuals who are homeless in their search for safe and stable housing, always working to ensure they can live in the least restrictive setting possible.

Every time we help someone meet a need, it's a victory worth celebrating. These successes may come after months of persistence—navigating the aftermath of a new dementia diagnosis, supporting someone living with untreated mental illness, or helping an individual recover from exploitation by others.

What keeps us going is the smile on a client's face when we show up and share progress on the things we've been working on. It's a warm hug from someone who's just thankful to see a familiar face. These are the moments that make each GSV worker's heart happy. And this—this is why we do what we do.

9

INDIVIDUALS PENDING

140

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

2,697

CLIENT VISITS

251

MEETINGS ON BEHALF
OF CLIENTS

12,037

COLLATERAL CONTACTS

38,310

MILES DRIVEN

The Little Things That Make a Big Difference

In the Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoptions Services program, we believe that small acts of kindness and support can lead to life-changing outcomes. While our mission centers around providing guidance and resources for expectant and adoptive parents, it's often the seemingly small things we do each day that have the most profound impact.

For expectant parents, the journey is often filled with uncertainty, fear, and emotional highs and lows. We understand that showing up with compassion, not just answers, makes all the difference. Something as simple as welcoming her with a smile, offering her a warm cup of coffee during a counseling session, or sitting in silence when words feel too heavy—these are the moments that build trust. We take time to listen without judgment, validating her feelings and reminding her that she's not alone.

We also pay close attention

to personal details. Whether it's providing needed baby supplies, offering transportation to medical appointments, or sharing words of encouragement, we work to meet both emotional and basic needs. These actions might seem small, but to someone feeling overwhelmed or unsupported, they can be a lifeline.

For adoptive parents, the process is equally emotional and often complex. We walk beside them every step of the way, answering questions, calming anxieties, and celebrating milestones. A phone call to check in, a personal email update, or a thoughtful Christmas card—each gesture reinforces our commitment to their journey and their future family.

We want every individual who walks through our doors to feel seen, valued, and supported.

Ultimately, it's not just the services we offer—it's how we offer them. Our team leads with heart, knowing that the road to parenthood,

whether by birth
or adoption, is deeply
personal. The little
things we do—acts of
kindness, empathy, and
encouragement—are what
turn uncertainty into
peace, and fear into
hope.

In the Pregnancy,
Parenting, and
Adoption Services
program, it's
the small things
that make a big
difference, and we
wouldn't have it any other
way.



11

**FAMILIES CREATED
THROUGH ADOPTION
WITH 13 CHILDREN**

13

**BABIES BORN TO
CCND MOMS**

23

MOMS SERVED

1,423

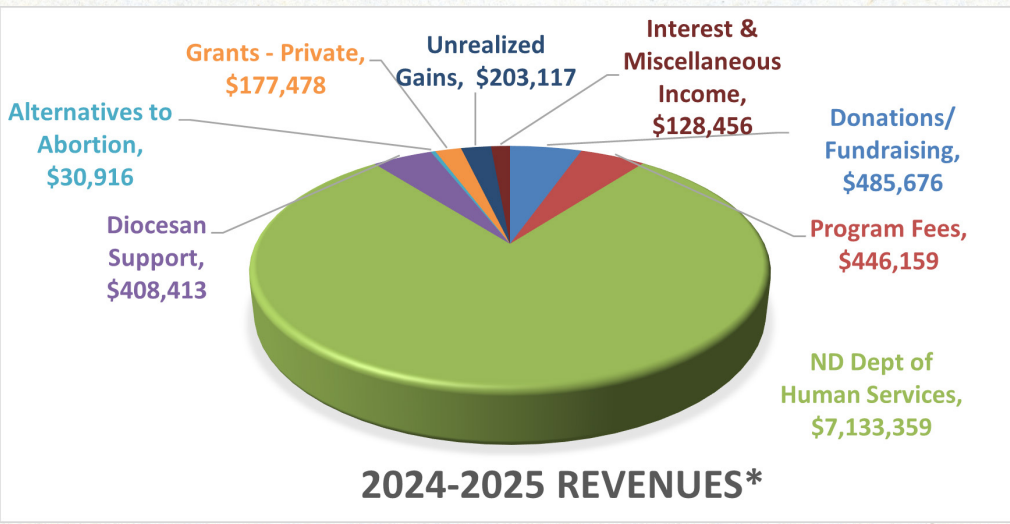
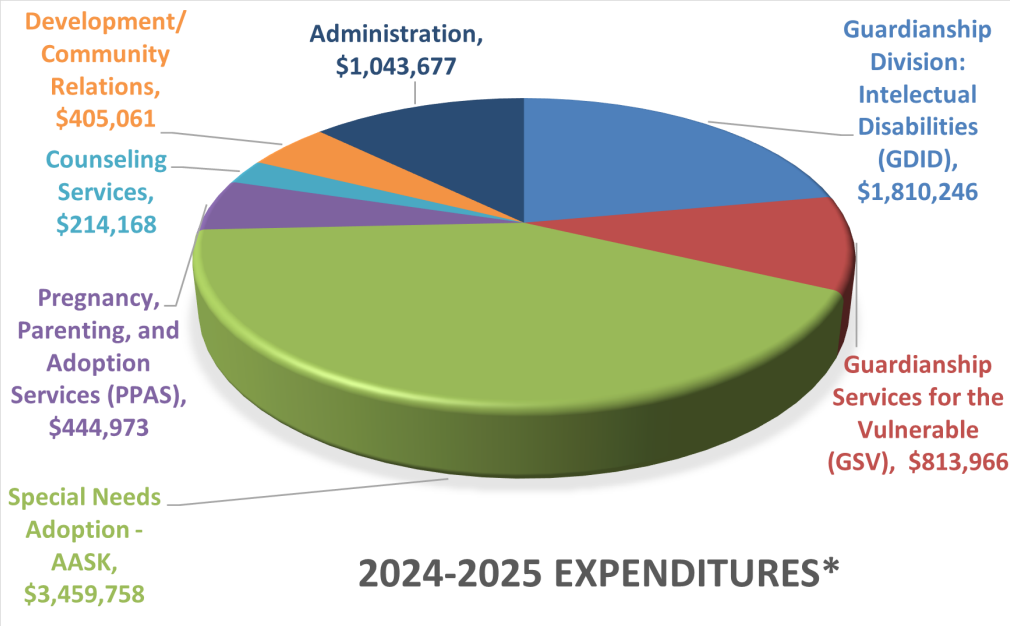
**PARTICIPANTS SERVED AT
BUNDLE UP YOUR
BABY BUMP EVENTS**

5

**NON-IDENTIFIED ADOPTION
SEARCHES COMPLETED**

19

**IDENTIFIED ADOPTION
SEARCHES COMPLETED**



***Preaudited Numbers**

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NORTH DAKOTA SERVES PEOPLE IN NEED AND
ADVOCATES FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL.

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