

Catholic Charities *North Dakota*

Annual Report 2025-2026



Catholic Charities
NORTH DAKOTA

We Are
HERE



At Catholic Charities North Dakota, those three simple words carry deep meaning.

We are here for children waiting for permanency, parents seeking guidance, individuals facing unexpected challenges, and vulnerable adults who need support and advocacy. We are here in moments of uncertainty, transition, healing, and hope. Most importantly, we are here for the people of North Dakota. This message reflects the organization's continued commitment to serving individuals and families across the state with compassion, dignity, and hope, while remaining rooted in the same mission that has guided the organization for decades.

This year marked an exciting new chapter for Catholic Charities North Dakota as we introduced a refreshed brand identity and redesigned website. Our rebrand was not about changing who we are. Rather, it was about ensuring our identity reflects the growth, statewide reach, and impact of our work today. Our new look helps us more clearly communicate who we are, how we serve, and how North Dakotans can connect with the support and resources they need. While the visuals have changed, our mission remains unchanged.



As our organization has expanded programs, strengthened partnerships, and reached more communities across the state, one thing has remained constant: our commitment to showing up for people when they need us most. From Fargo to Bismarck, Grand Forks to Minot, and in communities across rural North Dakota, we continue to meet people where they are and walk alongside them on their journey.

The stories and impact highlighted throughout this report are possible because of the generosity of our donors, volunteers, community partners, and advocates. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected North Dakota where every person is treated with dignity, supported in times of need, and empowered to build a hopeful future.

As you turn these pages, we invite you to celebrate the lives impacted, the communities strengthened, and the hope made possible through your support. No matter the challenge, no matter the community, and no matter the need, our message remains the same:

*We Are **HERE***





**North Dakota
Adoption Network**
Foster Care Adoptions



**North Dakota
Post Permanency Network**
Adoption and Guardianship Support

The North Dakota Adoption Network (formerly known as Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK)) is a program of Catholic Charities North Dakota that helps children in the foster care system find safe, loving, and permanent families. All of the children we serve are waiting in foster care and need adults who can offer stability, patience, and compassion. Our role is to support both children and families through every step of the adoption journey and well beyond finalization.

Adoption through the ND Adoption Network is more than a placement. It is a lifelong commitment, and we are here to walk with you before, during, and after adoption.

The ND Post Permanency Network (formerly known as ND Post Adopt Network) services are here to support families long after an adoption is finalized or guardianship is established. Through the North Dakota Post Adopt Network, we walk alongside adoptive and guardianship families across the state, offering guidance, connection, and resources for every stage of the journey.

Life after adoption brings joy, growth, and sometimes unexpected challenges. Our team understands the unique experiences families face and provides family-centered support tailored to individual needs. Services are voluntary and provided at no cost, ensuring families can access help when and how they need it.

Program Wins

The North Dakota Adoption Network worked with 306 families in varying stages of the adoption process during the fiscal year.

The Adoption Network team has grown to a total of 43 staff members, reflecting the program's continued expansion and commitment to serving children and families across North Dakota. To support programmatic goals and strengthen overall operations, a new Operations Manager position has been established. This role provides focused leadership and operational oversight, supervising the four Adoption Network Supervisors and two Intake Coordinators. The Operations Manager position was intentionally created to enhance support at the supervisory level, strengthen communication and consistency across teams, and help ensure the effective implementation of program initiatives. This addition also allows the Adoption Network Director and Assistant Director to dedicate greater attention to strategic leadership, program development, quality improvement efforts, and the ongoing advancement of best practices to promote overall program excellence.

The North Dakota Post Permanency Network hosted 146 groups and events across North Dakota during the fiscal year.

2,347 people participated in the groups and events hosted by the North Dakota Post Permanency Network during the fiscal year.



220	Adoptive Placements
222	Adoptive Finalizations
123	Home Assessments
623	Children Served



Counseling

COMPASSIONATE
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Catholic Charities North Dakota provides professional, compassionate counseling services for individuals, couples, and families across the state. Our licensed counselors walk alongside clients through life's challenges, offering a safe and supportive space to heal, grow, and build resilience.

We serve clients of all ages through in-person and telehealth counseling, making care accessible wherever you live in North Dakota.

Program Wins

Welcomed a new Director of Counseling, Sara Fries.

Continued a successful partnership with PEAK Partners, improving billing efficiency and operations.

Five therapists are actively serving clients across North Dakota.

Expanded access to high quality, affordable mental health services for children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families.

Continued to strengthen clinical quality through staff development, supervision, and quality improvement initiatives.

Focused on increasing access to care while maintaining excellent client service and clinical outcomes.



171

Clients Served

937

Counseling Sessions

55

New Clients



GSV

GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES:
VULNERABLE

Catholic Charities North Dakota provides compassionate, professional guardianship services for vulnerable individuals across the state. When adults are unable to safely manage personal, medical, legal, or financial decisions on their own, our guardians step in to provide decision making, advocacy, protection, and support while preserving dignity and independence whenever possible.

We recognize that every situation is unique. Our team carefully evaluates each individual's needs and works collaboratively with families, support systems, care providers, courts, and community partners to ensure informed decisions and consistent care is provided as appropriate for the individual.

Celebrating Our Wins!

"Seeing my clients face as they signed paperwork to purchase a vehicle."

-Crystal

"A client has been wanting to move to Bismarck for about 1 ½ years, and I was finally able to find a basic care opening so the client could move there to be near family."

-Tammy

"My highlight from the past year was helping a client obtain 12 hours of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) in-home care, allowing them to remain in their home safely and comfortably."

-Peace



147

Individuals Served

2,756

Client Visits

280

Meetings on Behalf of Clients

12,215

Collateral Contacts

37,066

Miles Driven



GSID

GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES: INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Catholic Charities North Dakota provides compassionate guardianship services for adults with intellectual disabilities across the state. Our goal is to protect each individual's rights, promote independence, and support a meaningful quality of life through thoughtful advocacy and personalized care.

We understand that every person's abilities, needs, and circumstances are unique. Our experienced team works closely with individuals, families, caregivers, and service providers to ensure decisions are made in the best interest of the individual while honoring dignity and self-determination.

Celebrating Our Wins!

55 individuals were admitted to our program, the highest number in 26 years!

Our waiting list was dramatically reduced from 149 people on 7/1/25 to 115 people on 6/30/26.

Our contract for services was transitioned from the ND Department of Health and Human Services/Developmental Disabilities Division to the Office of Guardianship and Conservatorship (OGC) on 4/1/26 – GSID provides the same great services but are now overseen by the OGC.



589

Individuals Served

10,763

Client Visits

2,939

Meetings on Behalf of Clients

25,809

Collateral Contacts

101,577

Miles Driven



Strong Roots Bright Futures

PREGNANCY - PARENTING - ADOPTION

Strong Roots Bright Futures (formerly known as the PPAS program) offers comprehensive pregnancy, parenting, adoption, and post-adoption services designed to support individuals and families at every stage of life. Whether you are preparing to parent your child, exploring adoption, growing your family through adoption, or seeking information after an adoption has taken place, our team meets you where you are with respect, compassion, and practical support. All services are confidential, open to all faiths, and centered on your unique needs and goals.

Since 1923, Catholic Charities North Dakota has helped create permanent, loving families through adoption. Our experienced social workers provide guidance, education, and support for birth parents, adoptive families, and individuals navigating adoption-related decisions. Services include pregnancy counseling, parenting support, domestic, infant, identified, and international adoption services, as well as Search and Disclosure services for adopted adults, birth parents, and biological siblings seeking information or connection. Through every step of the journey, Strong Roots Bright Futures is committed to providing compassionate care, empowering families, and helping children thrive in safe, stable, and loving homes.

Program Wins

We have an amazing new name (Strong Roots Bright Futures) that reflects our values of a strong foundation and endless possibilities.

Two staff are now certified doulas and even more prepared to help moms throughout their pregnancy including labor and delivery.

We hosted five Bundle Up Events around the state! It is wonderful to see the community's commitment to helping families in need through donations, volunteering, and sponsoring the event

It continues to be a blessing to get to accompany families on their journey to becoming parents!



5

Non-Identified Searches

15

Identified Searches

5

Families Created Through Adoption

14

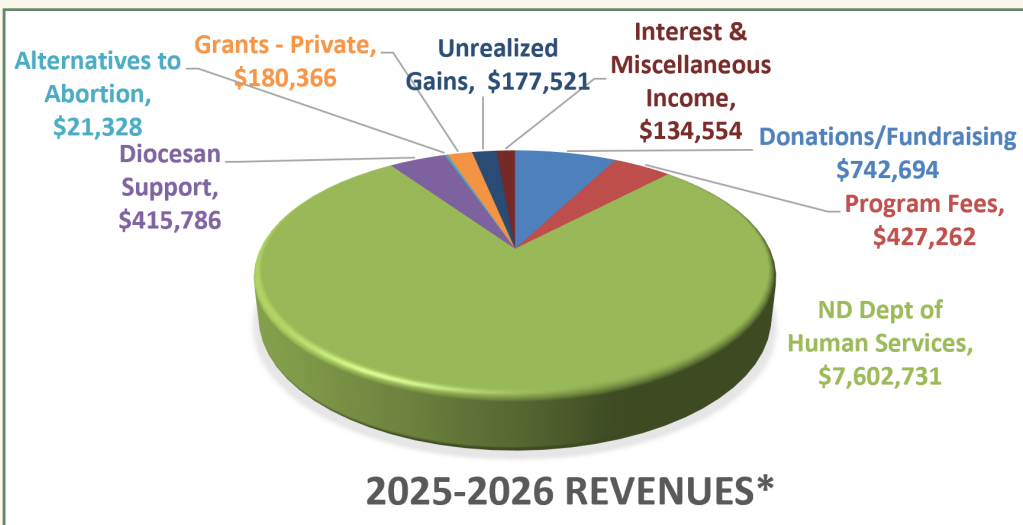
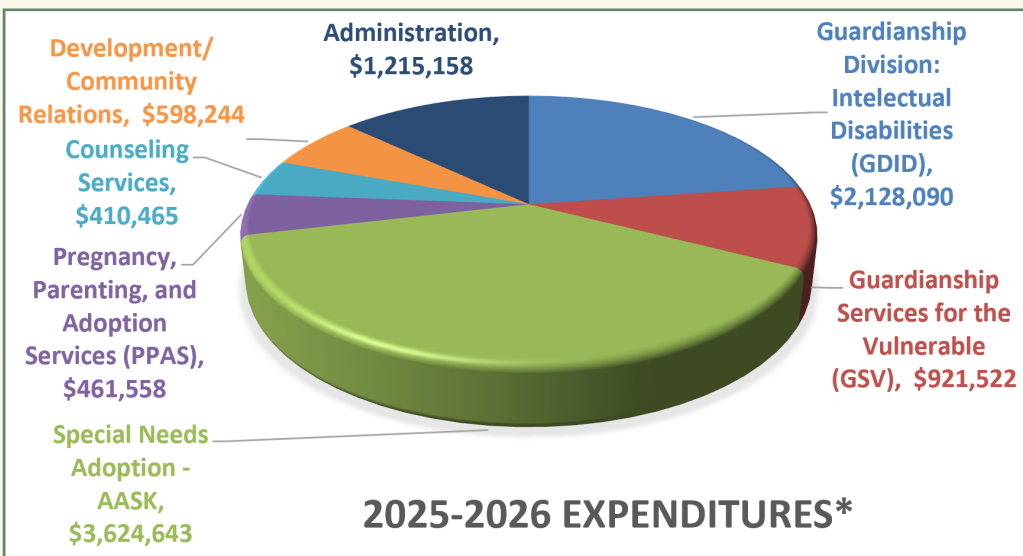
Babies Born to CCND Moms

33

Moms Served

1,374

Bundle Up Participants



***Preaudited Numbers**

GUIDED BY OUR VALUES, CATHOLIC CHARITIES NORTH DAKOTA SERVES PEOPLE IN NEED AND ADVOCATES FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL.

Leadership Team

Kari Dew

Executive Director

Donna Byzewski

Director of Guardianship Services:
Intellectual Disabilities

Kris Haycraft

Director of Strong Roots Bright Futures

Kara Eastlund

Director of ND Adoption Network

Shannon Henrickson

Director of Guardianship Services:
Vulnerable

Stephanie Hagelstrom

Director of Human Resources

Sara Fries

Director of Counseling

Loren Loh

Director of I.T.

Crystal Kloos

Director of Finance

Alyssa Yanish

Director of Marketing

Sara Jangula

Senior Director of Strategic
Engagement

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Grand Forks

Sherri Doll

Hazen

Laura Hall

Williston

Kari Dew

Ex. Officio - Fargo



Catholic Charities

NORTH DAKOTA



Catholic Charities

NORTH DAKOTA

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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