

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSAL

SEN DAVID CLEMENS

DISTRICT 16

THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH DAKOTA PREGNANCY RESOURCE NETWORK AND OTHER LIFE-AFFIRMING ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS OUR STATE. THE PROPOSAL IS REQUESTING FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AS A WAY TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THESE NORTH DAKOTA PRO-FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS.

THESE ORGANIZATIONS COLLECTIVELY MEET THE MANY NEEDS IN OUR STATE RELATED TO CRISIS INTERVENTION, OPTION COUNSELING, PREGNANCY TESTING, 1ST TRIMESTER ULTRASOUNDS, SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE, STI/STD TESTING AND TREATMENT, PARENT EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP, HOUSING, ADOPTION, MATERIAL SUPPORT, ABORTION PILL REVERSAL AND ABORTION RECOVERY SERVICES.

I HEREBY ASK THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO FULLY SUPPORT THE REQUEST OF \$1,500,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED EQUALLY AMONG THE ORGANIZATIONS LISTED IN THE HANDOUT. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE BILLION DOLLARS AWARDED TO NORTH DAKOTA IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, THE AMOUNT BEING REQUESTED IS A SMALL FRACTION OF THE FUNDS AVAILABLE.

BLANKETING OUR STATE WITH SUPPORT IN THIS WAY WILL HELP US BEST SERVE OUR CITIZENS. IT TAKES EACH OF US WORKING IN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES TO BUILD HEALTHY FAMILIES FOR A HEALTHY NORTH DAKOTA.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SENATOR DAVID CLEMENS

NORTH DAKOTA NON-PROFIT PRO-FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS

ND PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER:

Women's Pregnancy Center, Grand Forks

Dakota Hope Clinic, Minot

Connect Medical Center, Dickinson

Women's Care Center, Bismarck

Women's Care Center, Fargo

Women's Care Center, Devils Lake

ND MATERNITY HOMES

The Perry Center, West Fargo

St. Gianna Maternity Home, Minot

ND ADOPTION SERVICES

Christian Adoption Services, Fargo/Bismarck

Catholic Charities, Bismarck/Fargo/Minot

ND POST ABORTION SERVICES

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, Fargo

We Are Everywhere, Fargo



Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the several prolife organizations who are busy serving our state far and wide, I thank you for considering our request for funding.

I am so proud that North Dakota is a prolife state. Having said that, the work I write about today is actually “common ground” territory for all of us. North Dakota’s Pregnancy Resource Network is a non-political arm of the prolife movement – we are the practical helpers – and our work is worthy of bipartisan support.

1. We serve women who face life-altering decisions – we provide the safe, free-from-pressure space where they can sort it all out ... making way for informed decisions.
2. We’re here for women who choose to parent or release for adoption ... providing education ... shelter ... material support ... a mentoring shoulder to lean on.
3. We’re here for women who – following an abortion decision – desire help and healing ... some times in the moment of regret seeking Abortion Pill Reversal, and other times, wanting follow-up medical care when they are afraid or don’t understand their body’s response to a recent abortion. Beyond those immediate needs, we provide post-abortive counseling and support for the unexpected grief that surfaces years later.

As faith-based non-profits, we build our annual budgets primarily through donations. Fundraising has been particularly difficult during Covid, with many signature fundraisers cancelled. This one-time funding provision may act as a lifeline for some of our organizations and for others, it would be an opportunity to increase and/or strengthen services. We make this request as a united front looking to each other’s needs, because that’s what practical helpers do.

Thank you for your service to all North Dakotans!

Respectfully,

Jill Chandler, Executive Director



Should the Women's Pregnancy Center of Grand Forks be awarded funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, said funds would support the following, in part or in full:

1. Increase Nursing Hours and Appointment Availability

Presently, we staff Registered Nurses from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. To better serve our teen clients coming from school, we would extend our Clinic hours to 5 pm. It has also been our desire to staff at least one extended day until 7 pm with a nurse for both medical and educational meetings ... to include opportunities for more youth groups to tour the Center to witness a live ultrasound and receive Sexual Risk Avoidance Education. The extended hours would also help our working parents who want to shop in our boutique or participate in parenting classes. Added nursing hours will be accompanied by increased Admin hours as we require a minimum of 2 staff members present during all office appointment hours.

2. Reach potential clients via Paid Search Ads on Google

Word of mouth will always be our best advertising but overall, reaching potential clients has become increasingly challenging. If it's not on their phone, it doesn't exist. To further complicate matters, on-line advertising is seriously hampered by big tech and their anti-life slant. To stay "legal" we will need to contract for marketing that is very specific. That comes at a high, but worthwhile price. **Did you know** that Google has banned all advertising about Abortion Pill Reversal? And yet a quick search for abortion from my desktop in GF resulted in "Abortion Pill by Mail" as the top ad, second only to the late term abortion facility in the cities. When a young woman is searching for help, we want to be the ad that rises to the top.

3. Increase Training Opportunities for Staff and Volunteer Mentors working with Direct Client Care

In just the last year, we have seen a rapid increase in serious issues affecting some of the clients in our Parent Education Program. While we are not professional counselors, we are professional listeners and mentoring involves going deeper than merely discussing parenting curriculum. We need training as we carry burdens for clients who are facing addictions, anxiety, abuse, lack of guidance and support from their own parents, incarceration, hook-up culture, gender confusion, etc. It has gotten very complicated as mental health in general seems to have declined for about 30% of our new parents.

At the Women's Pregnancy Center, we provide unconditional care and we do it all free of charge—with a budget that is 96% funded by donations ... many small donations. While we are grateful for the Abortion Alternatives program, that funding stops upon birth, and our services walk alongside families until the child is 2 ... sometimes longer.

We truly are practical helpers – providing care that every political persuasion can support.

Thank you for considering our request.

Jill Chandler, Executive Director



Dakota Hope

315 MAIN ST. S. SUITE 205, MINOT, ND 58701
OFFICE LINE 701-852-4675 CLIENT LINE 701-852-4673
INFO@DAKOTAHOPE.ORG WWW.DAKOTAHOPE.ORG

10/05/21

Dear Senator Clemens:

I have listed my thoughts on priorities for needs that could be met at least in part by funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. As I told you on the phone, before these funds are used for any of these projects, we would need to know what strings are attached. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Funding For Pregnancy Help Centers, Adoption Agencies and Maternity Homes

If Dakota Hope Clinic, a Pregnancy Help Center were to receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, we would use it to expand our services, so we could reach more women and men who are experiencing an unintended or otherwise stressful pregnancy. Some of the specific ways we could use the extra funds would be to

- Hire a part-time social worker or counselor
- Hire a part-time mid-level provider so we could add early pre-natal care to our services
- Hire staff to teach sexual-risk avoidance and fertility appreciation classes in area schools. This is the type of sex education that encourages students to wait until marriage to become sexually active. It meets the requirements of ND law.
- Use funds to grant low or zero interest loans to clients who are at risk for choosing abortion due to lack of housing, healthcare, or education.

Increase Awareness of Abortion Pill Reversal

In 2019, the ND Legislature passed HB 1336, relating to informed consent requirements before an abortion. This bill would have mandated that the ND abortion providers inform a woman that if she regrets taking the first abortion pill, there is a possibility of reversal and where she can get help for this. This law has never gone into effect because of a judge granting an injunction until a lawsuit is settled. The ND Pregnancy Resource Network has been formed to spearhead the effort to raise awareness of Abortion Pill Reversal in ND. Funds to do this would be used to:

- Pay for online and billboard advertising of Abortion Pill Reversal in ND
- Sponsor displays and national speakers about Abortion Pill Reversal at local, regional and state conferences for health care providers, educators, church leaders, mental health professionals, student groups, cosmetology, hospitality, and entertainment industry, women's and men's groups, and more.
- Work to increase the number of Abortion Pill Reversal prescribers in ND.

Seed Money to Build Maternity Home(s) in Western ND

There are only 2 Maternity Homes in ND, both of them in Eastern, ND. There is a need for one or more in western ND. These homes would potentially reduce abortion rates and provide a safe and nurturing place for women who are in need during pregnancy.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nadia Smetana".

Nadia Smetana, RN, BSN
Clinic Director
Dakota Hope Clinic

CONNECT MEDICAL CLINIC

For Sexual Health & Pregnancy

October 11, 2021

Dear Senator David A. Clemens (R-West Fargo),

My name is Tara Zettel, I'm an RN and the Executive Director of Connect Medical Clinic.

Connect is a faith-based, donor-funded 501(c)3 medical and educational nonprofit in Dickinson. Connect is the only sexual health facility within 100 miles, making our region truly the southwest corner of our state. We provide accessible, affordable evidence-based sexual health services and education to men and women who are most at-risk for unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, or who experience unwanted sexual encounters exposing them to unplanned pregnancy and STIs. We serve our patients from a physical, spiritual, emotional, mental, and practical perspective, plus provide community referrals, and maternal/child safety net services.

Our mission statement is: Connect Medical Clinic is a sexual health clinic dedicated to providing evidenced-based medical services and education in a respectful, professional environment.

Our medical and educational services are:

- Free Pregnancy Testing and Decision-Making Services
- Free Limited OB Ultrasound
- Free Pregnancy/Parenting Education & Support
- Low-cost STI Testing and Treatment
- Free Fertility Education for Teens and Adults
- Free Sexual Health Education for Individuals and Classrooms

At this time, we are requesting funding of \$115,000 to expand our medical and educational services, expand our personnel, and update our medical equipment and facility. Specific projects include:

1. Expansion of medical services (\$46,000):

- a. Invest in providing Well Woman Exams and pap testing. Since the Title X Family Planning facility in our area has closed, our community is in need of affordable, accessible women's healthcare. To add this service, we are requesting funds to:
 - i. Hire a Nurse Practitioner;
 - ii. Purchase the additional medical supplies for gyn exams and lab fees.



Tara Zettel, RN
Executive Director

683 State Avenue, Suite E • Dickinson, ND 58601

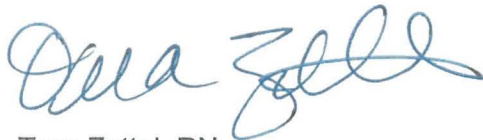
Phone: 701.483.9353 • Text: 701.840.6280 • Email: info@connectmedicalclinic.com

connectmedicalclinic.com

CONNECT MEDICAL CLINIC

- b. Upgrade ultrasound machine to ensure cutting edge capabilities for our patients *For Sexual Health & Pregnancy*
2. Expansion of educational services: Outreach to rural schools; initiate outreach to the growing Hispanic community in our area (\$59,000).
- Hire an additional RN;
 - Hire a Spanish speaking interpreter/clinic assistant.
 - Create Spanish materials in media and print
 - Trainings and staff development;
 - Promotional and marketing materials highlighting expanded services.
3. Invest in upgrades to our facility to increase patient and staff safety (\$10,000).
- Including installation of a safety door and window between the public and patient areas;
 - Ensure ergonomic workstations for all staff;

Thank you for your consideration!



Tara Zettel, RN

Executive Director

Connect Medical Clinic



Tara Zettel, RN
Executive Director

683 State Avenue, Suite E • Dickinson, ND 58601

Phone: 701.483.9353 • Text: 701.840.6280 • Email: info@connectmedicalclinic.com

connectmedicalclinic.com



Formerly FirstChoice Clinic

614 N. 4th Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
(701) 751-4575

Women's Care Center Bismarck is honored to serve the families of central and western North Dakota. In the last year alone, we have provided services to almost 500 clients. Families from every walk of life are welcome to access the free and confidential resources we provide. We offer free medical grade pregnancy testing, limited first trimester ultrasounds, and pregnancy counseling. We also offer parenting classes including first time parents and a special class called Building Kids with Character. We support our families from the time they find out they are expecting until the child is ready for kindergarten. We are also a provider of the ND Sleep Safe program. Support persons are always welcome and encouraged to attend our programs with our clients. Through their education, clients can earn incentives which can be used for new items for their babies from diapers and wipes to car seats and cribs. One in 6 babies in Burleigh County get their start with us and we currently have 150 babies due to our clients. We have given away over 12,000 diapers in the last year.

Whether it is a free pregnancy test and ultrasound, referrals to other community agencies, or emergency assistance with diapers or formula, Women's Care Center has been open for services during the challenges of the pandemic. There were times during the most severe supply chain issues, that we were one of the only available resources for diapers and formula. As a nonprofit, we would not have been able to provide this assistance without the generosity of this community.

If the committee supports funding for resource centers like Women's Care Center Bismarck, there will be an immediate positive impact on the community. We assist in building strong families, which ultimately builds a stronger community. We will have access to the items our clients most need, like diapers, car seats, cribs and clothing. We will also have more access to the books that we give to our clients to help build a foundation for literacy and a lifelong love of learning.

"I was homeless, I had no friends, no family. Women's Care Center is my home now. This is my family. The way my life is now is all because I came here. I have my own place, a job, I'm financially responsible." -Sade, Women's Care Center Client and mom of 2 boys

Thank you for considering agencies like Women's Care Center Bismarck as worthy of support and funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Miller RN, BSN
Executive Director
Women's Care Center Bismarck
614 N. 4th St. Bismarck ND 58501



Funding Request

Women's Care Center, a 501c3 organization, request from the state through the American Rescue Plan Act. Funds would support the increased needs of the Women's Care Center in downtown Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Project Rationale Overview

Women's Care Center has been operating in our current location in downtown Fargo since June 2019. Since moving to this location, the number of women served monthly increased and then increased even greater with the onset of the Covid pandemic. The increase is in large part due to the visibility and accessibility of our location, but also due to the increased needs of our community.

Our doors were never closed during the pandemic which allowed us to continue to provide for the growing needs of the community. We provide free pregnancy testing and ultrasounds on both an appointment and walk-in basis; counseling and goal setting for expectant parents; cribs and education to anyone in need of a safe sleep space for their infants; material assistance, education, support, guidance, and referrals to other agencies in the community to best meet individual needs; and parenting and life skill classes during which we provide free daycare to the parents in attendance.

Many of our clients are referred by friends or family that we have served in the past, but we also receive referrals from area clinics and agencies.

Financial Need

Meeting the needs of our growing clientele has demonstrated our need to hire more staff and increase our supply of material resources that are provided to clients and the community.

For questions or more information, contact:

Angela Wambach, Executive Director

Women's Care Center

218-591-8403

angela@wccnd.com



10/6/2021

Dear Senator David Clemens,

The Perry Center is at the frontlines of an epidemic that has outlived most disease, financial crisis, and lifespan. In our corner of the Midwest, the probability of you or someone that you know that has been affected by this epidemic is nearly 100%. This epidemic that I am speaking about is unexpected pregnancies and has affected generations of families. Did you know that about 50% of all pregnancies across the United States are considered unexpected? Did you know that about 50% of those pregnancies just mentioned end by an abortion each year? Most women that experience an unexpected pregnancy that is considering an abortion, often feel that there is a lack of support, financial uncertainty, and unaware of resources that promote a healthy life-affirming decision for their child.

Since 1986, The Perry Center has stepped into the lives of women experiencing an unexpected pregnancy by providing shelter, education, life skills, job training, counseling, budgeting, childcare, and much more to assist them in being the best moms God has called them to be. Our life-transforming program does just that, transforms life with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By letting women know their stay is indefinite, we can ensure that they are obtaining their goals and preparing them to live a stable and healthy life outside of The Perry Center's walls.

The Perry Center serves women between the ages from 12 to 30 that come from homelessness, rape, abuse, trafficking, the foster system, as well as parents that either do not support the pregnancy or are not equipped to handle various behavioral issues. Outside of finding The Perry Center online, referrals are received from numerous organizations, social services, medical providers, county jails, and state prisons.

Thank you for considering supporting The Perry Center and for impacting a generation. Because of your generosity, she will know her worth, she will know that she is loved, and she will be transformed into the mom that God has called her to be.

In HIS Service,

Nathaniel Douglas
Executive Director

\$110,000 Proposed Grant Budget

BrightCourse Pre-Natal Education - \$1,188.00
Education Technology - \$2,720.76
Growth Track Core Classes - \$4,394.11
Counseling and Sobriety - \$4,050.00
Case Management - \$23,076.00
Families Investing Into Families - \$2,707.63
Resident Transportation - \$6,241.50
Program Advertising State-Wide - \$17,160.00
Long-Term Living Facility Improvements - \$16,352.50
Tender Hearts Expansion - \$32,109.50



Saint Gianna's Maternity Home

15605 County Road 15

Minto, ND 58261

701-248-3077

www.saintgiannahome.com

saintgiannahome@hotmail.com

10-4-21

Hello Senator Clemens,

It was a pleasure speaking with you today. I am very grateful for your voice for the unborn and for mothers in our great State of North Dakota. Below is information that I think completes our small portion of the information to help you complete your worthy proposal. Please let me know if we can help in any other way.

"One Mother, One Baby, One Family at a Time"

At St. Gianna's Maternity Home, any mother of any age experiencing a crisis pregnancy will find love and support in a spiritual and family-type environment. St. Gianna's offers a beautiful home to live in, clothing, assistance with doctoring, educational opportunities, including the chance to learn job skills and parenting skills. With God's grace, good things can come from even the most difficult situations. Sometimes expecting a child can be overwhelming, especially if a mother is not getting the support she needs from family members or from the father of the child. We believe every mother deserves to give birth with dignity and respect. St. Gianna's is here to stand by all mothers so that they can find the right solutions for themselves and their children. Women of all faiths are welcome.

We have many needs here and could use any money directed our way, which include the physical care of our mothers and little ones: clothing, food, supplies, and maintenance of our 9,000 square foot home. Also, especially since COVID, our former mothers, who we try to support in their needs, have had many struggles. Our requests to help them with basic needs has tripled since the pandemic. We have also had increased need for mental health services for our mothers and former moms.

With gratitude,

Mary Pat Jahner
Director
Saint Gianna's Maternity Home

"Lord, let the light that has been lit in my soul never be extinguished." ~ Saint Gianna



CHRISTIAN ADOPTION
SERVICES
EST. 1985

Dear Senator Clemens,

Christian Adoption Services is a licensed non-profit adoption agency in West Fargo. We serve expectant parents and adoptive families in North Dakota and Minnesota. We believe that every life is precious and unrepeatable. When expectant parents choose to place their child for adoption, their loving decision can be an answer to prayer for a couple wanting to build their family through adoption. Our mission is to display God's love to children, birthparents, and families by providing Christ-centered adoption services that have an eternal impact by growing forever families.

We provide free decision-making counseling to expectant parents who are struggling with an unplanned pregnancy. We support them throughout their pregnancy educating them on adoption and parenting. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen an increase in complex cases of expectant parents who are dealing with more needs.

Christian Adoption Services is needing funding for our Bismarck office location. In 2019, we launched our Bismarck office to expand our services to meet the needs of Western North Dakota as there was a lack of services in the area surrounding the option of adoption. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we had to close our physical office in Bismarck in 2021. In addition to the office space closing, we had to lower our social worker's hours due to the financial struggles that the pandemic brought to our agency.

Our social worker, Jeannie Nasers, works with both expectant parents and adoptive couples in Bismarck and throughout Western North Dakota. Since the pandemic, Jeannie has seen an increased number of expectant women and men needing services. Due to the closure of the physical office space, she works from home or meets with clients in coffee shops. Expectant parents struggling with an unplanned pregnancy and considering their options need a confidential space to meet with our social worker. With \$25,000 in funding, we would be able to obtain a physical office space again for our Bismarck location and increase our social worker's hours to meet the increased needs of expectant parents. Funding would cover rent, internet, phone services, salary, and travel expenses to meet with expectant parents in surrounding communities.

In 2106, we launched our Chosen Education Program. Studies show that adoption is the least talked about option, especially among youth. We educate high school students, college students, and pregnancy center staff on current adoption practices, openness in adoption, and positive adoption language. Since our launch, we have taught 1,157 individuals and 223 adoption classes. Our classes are offered free of charge. Donations are needed to cover the cost of travel expenses, staff time, and materials. Some schools we've visited include Moorhead High School, Bismarck/Mandan High School, Fargo South, Northern Cass, and Concordia College. We repeat our education trainings once or twice a year for a majority of these schools. With \$25,000 in funding, we would be able to expand our reach and fill the educational void that exists in our community on the topic of adoption.

Our expectant parent counseling and our Chosen Adoption Education program is offered free of charge. We continue to be a life-giving resource in our community assisting expectant parents with their options and making a lasting impact by building forever families through adoption. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Bloch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tina" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bloch".

Tina Bloch, LBSW
Acting Director

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2345 Meadow Ridge Parkway
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701.237.4473

Bismarck Office
PO Box 149
Bismarck, ND 58501
701.354.3992



Catholic
Charities
North Dakota

Senator David Clemons
District 16
1682 Oakwood Dr.
West Fargo, ND 58078-4315
dclemens@nd.gov

10.11.2021

Senator Clemens:

Catholic Charities North Dakota is an agency with over 97 years of experience in providing services for individuals, families, infants, and children. Starting in 1923, Catholic Charities North Dakota began working with children in need of services residing in St. Joseph's orphanage as well as unwed mothers seeking assistance with decision making, health and welfare as well as placement. Our mission remains to assist the most vulnerable of North Dakota through guardianship, adoption, counseling, and charity care regardless of if they can pay.

The Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services (PPAS) Program serves men and women who are experiencing an unintended pregnancy throughout the state of North Dakota. Licensed social workers walk alongside these families, providing pregnancy education, parenting education, adoption education and assistance, referrals for basic needs, baby supplies, and supportive counseling in order to help these families to choose life for their child. The PPAS program does not stop there, social workers continue to offer counseling and support for as long as needed following the birth of the child.

Families are met where they are at, both in regards to their physical space as well as their emotional space. Additional funding would assist the program in meeting the needs of this population to the fullest extent. All services provided to expectant parents are free of charge.

Funding Need:

- Marketing – many women are turning to the internet to research what to do when confronted with an unintended pregnancy. We want them to know that there are services right here in North Dakota that will help them.
- Storage – The PPAS program is blessed to offer needed baby supplies to parents who cannot afford them. Storage for cribs, strollers, walkers, clothes etc. is needed so donations can be organized and stored to be given to clients as needed.
- File Storage – As the population served by this program is often transient, a system of electronic file maintenance would be beneficial to best serve the needs of these families as well as to forever archive the records of adoptions in a safe and confidential way.
- Parenting Funds – Unfortunately financial stability is one key factor that causes someone to doubt their ability to parent a child. With additional funding, the PPAS program could offer financial support to expectant parents in the form of rental assistance or other needed assistance to improve stability long-term and help these families be stable and able to care for their child.
- Parenting Education – additional funding would allow the PPAS program to purchase a video based parenting curriculum that would meet the needs of parents who are visual learners. Videos include 100s of topics that would be introduced and watched with their social workers and then together with the client they would practice and further discuss the skills learned.

Please consider assisting those in need through funding of this very important program.

Sincerely,

Dianne Nechiporenko, Executive Director





DIocese OF FARGO

October 11, 2021

5201 Bishops Boulevard, Suite A
Fargo, North Dakota 58104-7605
www.fargodiocese.org
Phone: 701.356.7900
Fax: 701.356.7998

Dear Senator Clemens,

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the great need in North Dakota to assist both women and men who are experiencing difficulties with the devastating effects of abortion. I consider it a silent epidemic - physically, psychologically and relationally.

For women, abortion is associated with the increased physical risks of pelvic inflammatory disease, placenta previa, cervical lacerations, uterine perforations and future infertility or ectopic pregnancies. In addition, there are grave psychological and emotional scars. Many women suffer from post-abortion syndrome, which is a type of PTSD. Post-abortive women are also more likely to feel guilt and anxiety, have suicidal thoughts, abuse alcohol and drugs, develop eating disorders, resort to sexual promiscuity and find themselves unable to bond with future children. Many men have expressed their need for counseling after an abortion experience. Some deal with grief, anxiety, guilt and anger that can lead to substance abuse, depression and risky behaviors following an abortion experience. There is an urgent need for post-abortive healing for women and men alike.

One such group is Rachel's Vineyard. Their mission statement is:

"Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing."

Thousands of men and women have been helped along this process of healing by Rachel's Vineyard retreats. Some of the costs associated with Rachel's Vineyard include:

\$1500: Initial training and materials

\$200-\$250 per person (Team Members and retreatants): Retreat weekends

\$2000-\$2500: Mileage for Team Members for retreats and promotion

\$500: Trained Counselor for retreats

There can also be additional costs for training team members such as airline flights, food and lodging. Any assistance you can supply to counter this silent epidemic of post-abortive women and men is greatly appreciated. The health of individuals and their relationships depend on it.

Sincerely,

Tim Mosser
Respect Life Director, Diocese of Fargo

We Are Everywhere

POST-ABORTION EDUCATION & SUPPORT

Dear Senator Clemens,

We Are Everywhere (www.weareeverywhere.life) exists to raise awareness about the extent to which abortion can negatively impact women and to help those women find hope and healing. No matter what drives a woman to end a pregnancy, there are physical, psychological and spiritual side effects that can linger – and worsen – for years. It has been estimated that one in four American women will have at least one abortion by age 45. Post-abortive women have been found to have an 81 percent greater risk of mental health problems (including depression, anxiety, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, etc) than those who have never had an abortion.

These women live among us in North Dakota and most have never told anyone their painful abortion secret. Many feel all alone and do not know where to turn for help. Each year, hundreds more women find themselves struggling to deal with the aftermath of abortion in our state.

We Are Everywhere (WAE):

- provides resources to individuals who have been impacted by past abortion(s) and to groups that seek to minister to those affected.
- partners with post-abortion ministry (Forgiven and Set Free) in southeast ND. Forgiven and Set Free is led by trained facilitators who have also felt the pain of abortion. They lead participants through issues such as denial, anger, unforgiveness, and depression to a place of forgiveness, peace and freedom in Christ. Past participants have said: “...was a life-changer for me”; “...a real blessing”; “I no longer feel the great shame I once felt...”.
- partners with post-abortive women who share their stories of loss and redemption throughout the state and region. These personal accounts allow the public to hear about abortion’s long-lasting, negative impact from those who have actually experienced it.

These efforts allow post-abortive women to understand they are not alone and connects them with the help they need.

Thank you for your consideration of support for We Are Everywhere. This support can help bring hope and healing to many North Dakota women suffering as a result of abortion(s).

Grant money will be utilized for advertising, billboards, printed resources and education.

With gratitude,

Kay Kiefer

Founder – We Are Everywhere