

House Bill 1015

Senate Appropriations Committee

Written Testimony

March 17, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and all committee members,

My name is Chelsey Williams and I am a member of the North Dakota Community Corrections Association [NDCCA]. I am providing this written testimony in support of House Bill 1015 which (among other financial items) calls for the allocation of funding to line item Community Service Supervision Grants [Page 2 / Line 4] on behalf of the North Dakota Community Corrections Association in the amount of \$250,000 for the upcoming biennium. The original base level amount listed in the bill was \$350,000; however, the House Appropriations Committee adjusted/passed the amount at \$250,000.

As with many agencies across the state of North Dakota, the NDCCA was not spared from the dire financial impacts caused by COVID-19 and desperately need the assistance of the North Dakota 67th Legislative Assembly to pass House Bill 1015 calling for the allocation of funding to the Community Service Supervision Grants so that we can continue to keep our doors open. Many, if not all, members of the NDCCA have experienced numerous difficulties over the past year including having to suspend office operations, loss of community service work-sites, loss of referrals for community service and loss of income all related to the necessary state-wide restrictions taken in response to COVID-19.

To those who are unfamiliar with the North Dakota Community Corrections Association, the NDCCA was established in 1995 and is composed of sixteen agencies located across North Dakota that monitor low risk adult/juvenile offenders in the community who are ordered to complete community service as part of a court ordered sentence or as ordered by a probation department. Community service is a multifaceted tool as it can be used as an alternative to incarceration, a direct sanction by courts and drug courts, can be worked to pay off court ordered fines or supervision fees or implemented as an intermediate measure for supervised probation offenders.

Benefits of Community Service to Communities & Successfulness of Community Service

- 1) Allows offenders to remain in the community to continue their employment, education and maintain their family unit.
- 2) Offenders can learn life/work skills and maybe even gain employment at a community service work-site.
- 3) Is an opportunity for offenders to learn from their destructive behavior and change their behavioral and thinking patterns for the positive.
- 4) Serves as a restorative purpose as it requires offenders to repay their debt to their local community.
- 5) Non-profit organizations and government entities save on payroll when utilizing community service workers.
- 6) NDCCA covers offenders with volunteer workers insurance to ensure their wellbeing and so that the non-profits we work with do not accrue that risk or cost.
- 7) Communities can save money in jail costs when community service is used as an alternative to incarceration.
- 8) With local jails/prisons being filled to maximum capacity, community service is needed now more than ever in order to ease the high rates of incarceration. Furthermore, in these times of uncertainty with COVID19 being a concern for correctional facilities, community service is a great alternative to keep offenders out of jail.
- 9) As part of a NDCCA Recidivism Study, it was found that during a three year period (2016, 2017 and 2018) there was an average successful completion rate of 78.3% of offenders who were ordered to complete community service hours. Furthermore, during that same time frame an average rate of 69.9% of all offenders who were ordered to complete community service did NOT have an act of recidivism in the year following their offense.

Community service is an essential program and it is also a fiscally smart option. Over a 5 year time span (2016 through 2020) the NDCCA had a total of 10,467 clients perform 164,303 hours of community service; this calculated to \$1,314,424 in saved payroll expenses for non-profits and \$1,314,424 in saved jail costs for a total of \$2,628,848. These savings are based on a wage of \$8.00 per hour and the estimated cost of \$80 per day to house an inmate in jail/prison. If those numbers aren't impressive enough, please consider this: in that same time frame in which \$2,628,848 was saved, the NDCCA received state funding in the amount of \$950,000 which means \$1,678,848 was added into local communities across the state.

Monies received will be divided among the sixteen agencies over the upcoming biennium so that the NDCCA can continue monitoring community service offenders and supporting local communities. Funding will be used to help each agency offset the costs of maintaining a place of business, purchasing office supplies required for daily duties, financially supporting staff and allowing the NDCCA to remain as an alternative to incarceration for courts and probation departments. The NDCCA does not solely depend on the State of North Dakota for funding; however, monies received greatly impact the effectiveness of each office. Other sources of income are dependent upon each program, but in general include program fees as paid by offenders, grants and city/county funding.

In conclusion, I would like to impress upon you the importance of the North Dakota Community Corrections Association as we request your support for funding. We are a valuable resource to the State of North Dakota and its citizens as we are making a difference in the lives of offenders, helping non-profit organizations reach their goals and can be utilized as a way to lower incarceration rates as well as incarceration costs. We are greatly appreciative of any funding previously provided and believe we should continue to be funded because in a difficult budgeting session, we are a fiscally good decision.

Included with this testimony is multiple letters of support for the NDCCA including a letter from

Sincerely,
Chelsey Williams
NDCCA Member
Grand Forks Community Service Program
Lobbyist ID #1028

Joined by,
Darlene Lee
NDCCA President
Richland County Community Service Program
Lobbyist ID #1039



State of North Dakota

DISTRICT COURT SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

District Judge
Bradley A. Cruff

Court Recorder
Cindy L. Keller

418 Second Avenue North
Wahpeton, ND 58075

Telephone: 701-671-1510
Fax: 701-671-1512

November 13, 2020

Whom It May Concern

RE: *Richland County Community Service*

Dear Madames or Sirs,

I write to express my support for community service in North Dakota.

I use community service extensively in Richland County and find it to be very beneficial for both the participant and the community for the following reasons:

- 1) Child Support – As an alternative to incarceration I require non-paying or delinquent obligors to perform 40 hours of community service per week until an income withholding order is in place. This is a very effective incentive. Sitting in jail does not generate any money to support their children;
- 2) Community service as an alternative to incarceration is especially important during the pandemic due to our correctional center capacity cut in half, lengthy delays in prisoner transfers to the state penitentiary, and running at or near capacity on a daily basis;
- 3) Participants gain work experience, interview skills, confidence, and contribute to non-profits in the community, with some participants gaining permanent employment as a direct result of their community service;
- 4) Youthful Offenders – Community service is not something that mom, dad or somebody else can do for them such as pay their fines and fees and as such is a great deterrent.

Community service is integral to rehabilitation, saves significantly on incarceration, and benefits our community.

I appreciate your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BACruff", written over a printed name.

Bradley A. Cruff, District Judge

State of North Dakota

Northeast Central Judicial District

Chambers in Grand Forks and Nelson Counties
124 South 4th Street
Grand Forks, ND 58206
Phone (701) 787-2730

Donald Hager
Presiding Judge

Lolita G. Hartl Romanick
District Judge

John A. Thelen
District Judge

Jason McCarthy
District Judge

Jay D. Knudson
District Judge

Scott K. Johnson
Trial Court Administrator
(701) 787-2730

Kelly Hutton
Assistant Court Administrator
(701) 787-2732

Clerk's Office

Rebecca M. Absey
Grand Forks County
Clerk of Court
Civil (701)787-2715
Criminal (701) 787-2700

Erin Fossen
Nelson County
Clerk of Court
(701) 247-2462

Juvenile Court

Shawn Peterson
Director of Juvenile Court
(701) 787-2770

February 16, 2021

TO: The North Dakota legislature

RE: Community Service Office budget

Dear Congress members:

I serve as the Presiding Judge for the Northeast Judicial District. This letter is in support of the Grand Forks Community Service Office and their funding request for the next biennium.

The Community Service Office serves a valuable judicial and societal role by administering random drug testing as well as supervising community service defendants in lieu of incarceration. The testing is done at the order of the court for those persons who have been charged with drug-related crimes, and released on bond subject to the testing requirement. As such, it is the first step in guiding those persons towards treatment and accountability. While many fail at least once, they are released back to the testing to ensure monitoring. The random nature of the testing also serves as a deterrent for future drug usage and trafficking.

The second function of community service is a post-judgment alternative to incarceration. This has become even more important now with overcrowded jails. The Grand Forks County

Correctional Center no longer authorizes work release, so the court is left with the community service as the only viable release program which not only holds persons accountable for their crimes, but allows them to maintain employment and invest some goodwill personal service back to the community.

The Community Service Office is more important now than ever for the judicial system. Please strongly consider their needs in maintaining their services.

Thank you.

Donald Hager

State of North Dakota
Chambers of
The District Court

DANIEL D. NARUM
DISTRICT JUDGE
SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

LAUREL ALBER
JUDICIAL SECRETARY
COURT RECORDER

January 7, 2021

67th Legislative Assembly of ND

To the Honorable Members of the 67th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota:

I am writing in support of legislative funding for the administration of the community service program in LaMoure County. Community service is often part of a sentence handed down in criminal court. It is used in a wide array of cases by judges across the state. Community service serves as punishment, rehabilitation, and has a restorative justice function within a community. These aspects of community service benefit those convicted of crimes and their communities, and these programs require funding to operate. For these reasons I urge you to support funding of the community service program in LaMoure County.

If you would like to further discuss community service or any aspect of the courts, please, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,



Honorable Daniel D. Narum
Presiding Judge
SEJD

- District Court Chambers P.O. Box 336 Ellendale, N.D. 58436-0036 Ph. 701-349-3249 Ext. 4
- District Court Chambers P.O. Box 128 LaMoure, N.D. 58458 Ph. 701-883-5301 Ext. 4
- District Court Chambers 301 Broadway Napoleon N.D. 58561 Ph. 701-754-2751
- District Court Chambers 355 Main Street South Suite #2 Forman, N.D. 58032 Ph. 701-724-6241
- District Court Chamber P.O. Box 179 Ashley, N.D. 58413 Ph. 701-288-3450

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

DISTRICT COURT

SOUTH CENTRAL JUDICIAL DISTRICT

514 E. THAYER AVE
BISMARCK, ND 58501

FAX (701)222-6689

HON. BRUCE A. ROMANICK
SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT JUDGE
PRESIDING JUDGE

KRISTEN KEEGAN, CT RPTR (701)222-6682 EXT. 125

November 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the community service program operated by Centre, Inc.

The judges of our district find community service to be a valuable sentencing tool. Community service is a very important component of the drug court programs in our district. Community service is often an alternative to a jail sentence.

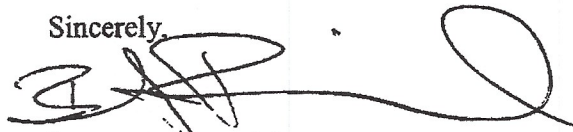
We could not order community service without the assistance offered by a program which:

1. Monitors completion of community service;
2. Matches agencies and those ordered to do community service; and
3. Provides coverage for individuals who are ordered to perform community service, who may be injured while completing the community service.

I'm convinced that we reduce costs of incarceration through use of the community service program. People who would otherwise be sentenced to jail instead perform community service. Non-profit organizations also benefit greatly by the service provided.

Thank you for your consideration.

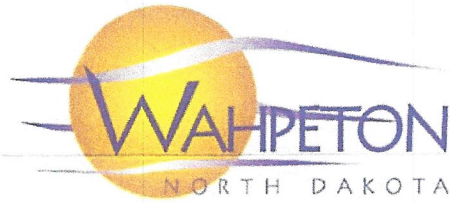
Sincerely,



Bruce A. Romanick
SCJD Presiding Judge

Municipal Court

1900 4th Street North
Wahpeton, ND 58075
clerkofcourt@wahpeton.com
701-591-2112



November 19, 2020

Darlene Lee
Director of Community Service
413 3rd Ave. N.
Wahpeton, ND 58075

RE: Richland County Community Service Office

Dear Ms. Lee:

Please consider this an enthusiastic letter of support for the Richland County Community Service program.

As Judge of Municipal Court, I very much appreciate having community service available as one of the options in sentencing out of Municipal Court. In my opinion, community service is helpful to the participants. They give back something to their community. Also, they hopefully have some time to think about what got them into that position.

Locally, the Richland County Community Service Director has gone beyond the normal job description and expected work to maintain contact with participants (who sometimes don't do the best job of communicating). She has even helped several of them get some experience and with her help, be gainfully employed later.

Sincerely,


Don R. Krassin
Judge of Municipal Court



JAMES SHOCKMAN, STATE'S ATTORNEY

jshockman@nd.gov

KATIE SARBAUM, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

katie@jamesshockmanlaw.com

January 8, 2021

RE: Community Service Program

To Whom It May Concern-

This Office is writing to express our support for the Community Service Program and Community Service Director.

The State's Attorney office carries out a wide spectrum of duties including, prosecution of criminal and traffic related offenses, and juvenile justice. This is in addition to our other responsibilities outlined in Chapter 11-16 of the North Dakota Century Code. In our work, we regularly rely on the Community Service Program.

The North Dakota Criminal Code sets forth specific goals in the criminal offenses and sentencing Chapter, which include; preventing re-offense of certain activity, deterrence, punishment, and rehabilitation. The Community Service Program is an essential tool utilized to meet these goals. Often times incarceration, fines, and fees are not an appropriate disposition in cases, so prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges must look for an alternative disposition to support the goals of the criminal and juvenile statutes. For example, indigent defendants of lower level criminal offenses may be unable to pay fines and fees, and the inability to do so cause them to continuously be brought back before the court to explain why they cannot pay. This is an unnecessary use of time and resources, if there is an appropriate alternative. Community service offers that alternative. It affords offenders an opportunity to understand that their actions have consequences without unnecessarily punishing their families or preventing them from using their limited means on other personal needs.

Moreover, incarceration is not always appropriate, especially in lower level offenses. Excessive fines may not work to hold people appropriately accountable if they are of vast means. Community service is an appropriate sentencing alternative to hold certain individuals accountable and affords offenders an opportunity give back to the community. They can feel a sense of worth and responsibility that they wouldn't otherwise get from sitting in jail or paying a fine.

Finally, community service is an excellent tool for young offenders that either cannot afford fines or in cases where their parents pay the fine. It's an appropriate way to not overly punish them, but also show them that their actions have consequences and hopefully set them on the appropriate path in life.

This Office is in full support of the Community Service Program. Without it, needless county and state resources would be wasted. I believe in the work of this Office, and Community Service is crucial to this work. The Community Service Program supports the goals of this Office in representing the people in this community and the State of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Shockman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Shockman
LaMoure County State's Attorney



Office of the State's Attorney

February 12, 2021

ND Legislative Assembly
North Dakota State Capitol
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Distinguished Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to you in support of the Greater Grand Forks Community Service & Restitution Program. The organization provides drug testing to criminal defendants released on bond and administers community services hours imposed by the court.

An investment into this program saves taxpayer dollars and ensures accountability within the criminal justice system. Allowing low risk offenders to complete community service hours in lieu of jail time frees up space at our correctional center, which all too often is running near or at capacity. The administration of drug testing imposed by the court as a condition of bond for criminal defendants helps to keep our communities safer while also helping to alleviate correctional center capacity issues.

The program is very well run with low overhead. While a majority of its revenue is generated from fees from defendants using the program, the state dollars invested into the program over the years has become an essential portion of its operational budget.

I encourage you to continue your ongoing support for community service programs throughout the state as it has proved to be a very worthwhile investment. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Haley L. Wamstad
Grand Forks County State's Attorney

AID, Inc.

Self-Help Center & Thrift Shop

314 West Main Street • Mandan, ND 58554

(701) 663-1274 • (701) 663-2122

October 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

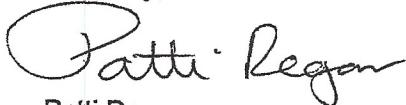
I am writing to you to express my concerns for the future funding of Centre, Inc. As a non-profit operating in the Bismarck-Mandan communities we frequently utilize the services and diverse talents of the individuals of Centre, Inc.

Not only do we provide an avenue for those individuals navigating the court system, but we receive capable workers often for several days if not several weeks. Individuals put in hundreds of hours annually helping us with our mission of providing emergency, temporary assistance to the working poor and those working to help themselves.

The loss of a program such as this would have a significant impact on our business and put many more obstacles in the path of those needing the services that Centre, Inc. currently provides.

Please understand that we are the richer for this program.

Sincerely,



Patti Regan
Executive Director
AID, Incorporated

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide emergency, temporary assistance to the working poor.
www.aidincnd.com





November 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide my support for continued future funding for Centre, Inc. We are a non-profit that operates in the Bismarck-Mandan communities.

We have utilized the workers we receive through Centre, Inc. to help with the understaffing we experience in our Bismarck Goodwill store. These individuals put in many hours helping us to accomplish our mission.

This work program offered through Centre, Inc. provides the individuals with on the job experience and helps them develop the job skills needed to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine M Metz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Catherine M Metz
COO/CFO

10/26/2020

To Whom it may Concern:

Centre Community service is essential to the wellbeing of this park. This program provides an essential service that otherwise could not be met due to manpower and budget restrictions. Many of the additional services provided not only maintain the park but also enhances beyond what would normally be attained. Along the way many of these individuals have discovered this park and have brought their children here. I believe this program to be a service to the community.

Regards,

David Robinson
McDowell Dam
701-226-4955

**Letter of Support
RESTORE Program
March 11, 2021**

This letter is in support of the services provided by RESTORE, a non-profit Community Corrections Program, which monitors community service sentences for the ND Department of Corrections Division of Parole and Probation.

The Arc of Cass County, a chapter of The Arc located in Fargo, has been partnering with RESTORE for the past 20+ years. Individuals who need to complete community service hours are assigned to one of the agency's thrift stores to help with the various tasks needed to run the stores successfully. Because The Arc is also a non-profit, the organization relies on free labor as much as possible to do our work.

The RESTORE program provides thousands of volunteer hours each year to The Arc's thrift stores. The current estimated value of volunteers nationally is \$27.20 per hour. Accordingly, that means that every 1,000 hours provided by RESTORE is worth \$27,200 to our organization. The value to The Arc is immeasurable.

It is also important to note that this community service program holds the offender accountable for their crimes by having them work off their debt to society. Not only does this close the gap on man hours for a business like The Arc but it also allows the individual to give back to their community. In many cases the individual can prove him or herself by doing a good job and then be successfully hired into a permanent position once the community service hours are completed.

We believe that the RESTORE program is extremely important to not only the individuals served but also the Fargo community as a whole. We are grateful for the services they provide to The Arc of Cass County.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Dvorak
Executive Director
The Arc of North Dakota

Kirsten Dvorak is the executive director of The Arc of North Dakota, which includes all six Arc chapters in North Dakota: Bismarck, Bowman, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, and Valley City. The mission of The Arc is to improve people's quality of life with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and community participation.

From: m4vmotorsports <m4vmotorsports@gmail.com>

To: Chelsey Williams & Kelsey Powell <gfcom@invisimax.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 10, 2021 07:40 AM

Re: I lost the letter

To all North Dakota state legislators.

My name is Larry Mendivil Jr, the president and founder of Miracles for Vets. M4V Is a nonprofit corporation that has been assisting veterans in need since 2012. My organization is very small, yet has a very important mission that is very well respected in the veteran community. M4V gathers resources such as vehicles and provides low income veterans with safe and reliable transportation with the community's contributions.

The Greater Grand Forks Community Service and Restitution Program is vital for my organization to operate. This program is more than service to the community and restitution, it's a real life changing experience for those who are given an opportunity to serve those who proudly served our great nation. Your approval for funding to the Grand Forks Community Service and Restitution Program is very important to me and to the future of our veterans. I am aware of senator Rich Warder's efforts of helping the NDCCA to obtain funding, yet I feel this letter would help explain the importance of the program that continues to allow my organization to thrive.

I look forward to doing anything in my power to better the lives of people in the community while serving our veterans one miracle at a time.

Sincerely,

Larry Mendivil Jr.

Miracles for Vets, Inc

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Good Morning to the _____ Committee

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members;


My name is John Finstad from Lisbon, North Dakota and today I have been asked by the Ransom County Sheriff's office to put forth a letter in favor of the Community Service program that we have in our County. In 2016 I took over Oakwood Cemetery that is located in our community and soon afterwards I was asked to let some individuals come up to the Cemetery and work some time off of their Sentence of Community Service that the Courts have handed down for their infraction of the law. I want you to know that for me it is a pleasure to have these individuals work for us at Oakwood Cemetery. This help not only gives us some much needed free work for the upkeep of our 40 acre Cemetery, but it gives me a chance to make a difference in somebodies life and as an Eagle Scout and a father of 4 Children I have always impressed on my family as well as others that we are our brother's keeper. This source of interaction provides an opportunity to make a difference in an individual's life. I will give you one example: There was a young lady that was really struggling and she had so many hours of Community Service and when someone has Community Service with me I just don't send them out by themselves, we work hard together and I impress on them to take pride in their work. Then we talk on a break and what we talk about is about second chances and the opportunity for those second chances. I have had great success with this and I will give you one example;

After the young ladies completion of her Community Service some months later she had moved to Montana and we had each other's numbers and I received the following text message from her:

"Hi, this is Savannah Yates, I was on the of the kids you had for Community service a couple of years ago. I just wanted to thank you for helping me become the person I am today, you may not have known it but you were a major role in forming the woman I've become. I just want to say thank you are doing well, as always for you (Smiley Face).

So given what I have just showed you folks, I hope that whatever you are doing now can be only enriched for many more positive experiences in the future for those persons who are in need of a positive experience to help them through a difficult time in their lives. There is one last thing that I would like to suggest as food for thought. In Minnesota they have a program through the State of Minnesota that is called "Sentenced to serve" and the inmates (Non-Violent) offenders go out and do little tasks and the one that she brought up was Cemetery work, everything from Spring Clean-up to resetting Stones. The Cemetery is charged a small fee for the labor but for the Cemeteries it is much cheaper and gives the inmates a source of accomplishment and pride for those who have passed on. I hope that I have presented a proper reason for this activity in a way that benefits all of us in this state. All the best to all of you and please give this a Do-pass.

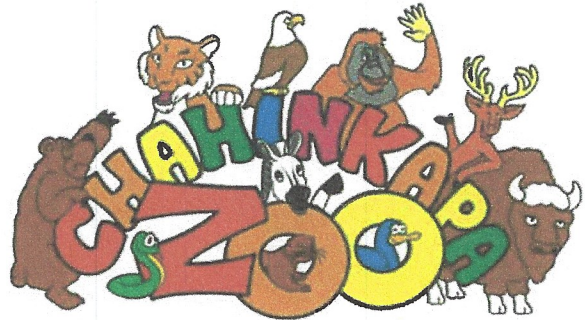
Sincerely John N. Finstad

 3/13/2021

**Chahinkapa Zoo Association
Prairie Rose Carousel
Rodger Ehnstrom Nature Center**

Entrance located at 1st Street and 7th Avenue North
PO BOX 1325
1004 RJ HUGES DRIVE
WAHPETON, NORTH DAKOTA 58075
Telephone: (701) 642-8709 Fax: (701) 642-9285

Director: Kathy Diekman
kdiekman@chahinkapazoo.org
(701) 899-1711 (cell)



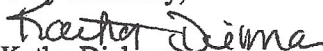
November 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter in support of the Richland County Community Service Program. The Chahinkapa Zoo has been a partner in this valuable program for many years. I believe its accomplishments are many. It behooves the zoo in gaining work resources in grounds keeping, general maintenance, and special projects. But, more importantly the participants in the restitution system gain so much more from their work experiences. I have witnessed this through my tenure as Zoo Director and know that community service instills work ethic, pride, and self worth. Often, former workers return to the zoo to show the outcome of their labor to friends and family. I have also received cards and letters that demonstrate same. For example one wrote, "You may not remember me, but I did community service at the zoo a few years ago. It was the best thing that could have happened to me at the time. It was such a positive thing in my life. Thank you!" This same message has been repeated by many. In our community it is utmost important to team with worthy agencies and the Chahinkapa Zoo Association will do whatever we can to continue our work with Richland County. Darlene Lee has been an excellent Program Director who respects our protocols and policies while maintaining this viable and successful partnership. Bravo!

I am happy to visit with you if more information is needed. Thank you.

Very Sincerely,


Kathy Diekman

Director
Chahinkapa Zoo

Butch Nelson

212 Dakota Avenue
Wahpeton, ND 58075
701-642-6116 ext. 894

November 17, 2020

Darlene Lee
Richland County Community Service Director
Wahpeton, ND 58075

Dear Darlene,

St. John's Church and School have opened our doors to support Richland County Community Service for more than 20 years. The church and school receive a benefit through the collaboration, but so do those for whom you provide services. The tasks these community service laborers perform here are general janitorial duties. Many of them gain self worth and often go on to find good jobs after finishing your program.

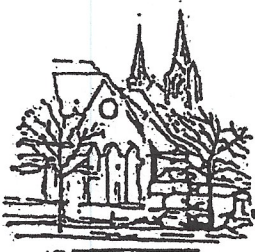
I like working with many of these people as they are nice to work with. I also see them give more respect to others after a good day's work, and maybe gain some respect for themselves in return.

Our church offers respite for people and it is no different for your community service people. As they work in the church, many of them talk to our priests, receiving peace and caring through the interactions.

As you can see, St. John's Church and School gains many blessings from working with Richland County Community Service and hope to continue to provide work for those who need a good place to work through their community service hours.

Sincerely yours,

Butch Nelson



St. John the Evangelist
Rev. Dale Lagodinski, Pastor
115 2nd Street North
Wahpeton, ND 58075-4505
Telephone 701-642-6982

November 13, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I want to express my gratitude that you have included Saint John's as a work site for those who have service hours to complete. Over this past year there have been some remarkable people who have lightened our load and I trust that we have given them blessings as well.

Most recently, a young community service man stopped by my office just to thank us for the opportunity of being able to help here. He was grateful for the respect he was shown and the confidence we placed in his ability to be responsible in his work. He was not the only one to express that sort of genuine gratitude. Even more remarkable are those who choose to put in more time than required just because they saw our need and recognized their opportunity to give back a kindness. The young woman with us these past days has also been amazing in attitude and conscientious work.

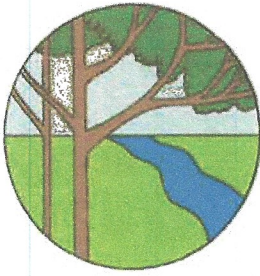
I am humbled every time one of the community service people comes to me and asks to talk. More than once, real life changing conversation with good humor happens.

I am grateful to have a staff who treat our community workers with such respect and kindness. Although I am not privy to the conversations he has with the workers, I suspect that our maintenance man does a fine job of coaching those who are sent here. With occasional exceptions in human nature, language and behavior on their part is consistently appropriate for our church setting.

We are grateful for your willingness to entrust community service people to us and we are glad for the ways our environment affects them for the good,

Sincerely yours,


Fr. Dale Lagodinski
Pastor



Wahpeton Park Board

304 South 5th Street

Wahpeton, ND 58075

Phone: (701) 642-2811 Fax: (701) 642-5055

Email: woppark@702com.net

November 13, 2020

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Wayne Beyer / Parks & Recreation
Re: Community Service

The Wahpeton Park Board has greatly benefitted from the Richland County Restitution and Community Service Program.

The workers have helped with many important park services like landscaping, highway ditch cleanups, painting buildings, groundskeeping, zoo maintenance, river cleanups, forestry care, etc.

We believe public service is a very valuable tool in the tool box to help people who have committed crimes. As an option to incarceration, they learn about the importance of hard work and sometimes learn skills that assist them in their rehabilitation. Community service workers can also take pride in improving natural resources, attractions like Chahinkapa Zoo, well-used green space and city beautification.

Thank you for your consideration to continue financial support of the Richland County Restitution and Community Service Program.

Wayne H. Beyer

11/11/20

TO Whom IT MAY CONCERN -

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER ON THE BEHALF OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM.

I FEEL COMPELLED TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT A GREAT PROGRAM I THINK THIS IS AND HOW IT BENEFITTED ME.

SO HERE IS MY STORY... SEE WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO NORTH DAKOTA 3 YEARS AGO I WAS ADDICTED TO METH. I EVENTUALLY GOT INTO TROUBLE BEHIND THAT GOD AWFUL DRUG AND WAS SENTENCED TO PRISON. I DID MY 3 MONTHS IN NEW ENGLAND PRISON AND WAS SENT TO TREATMENT AT THOMPSONS FOR 3 MONTHS.

WHEN I WAS RELEASED I WENT TO LIVE AT MY MAM'S HOUSE. I COULDN'T WORK AND FELT TOTALLY HOPELESS. WELL I HAD STW 2 BAGS OF GROCERIES AT THE GROCERY STORE ON THE BENCH SO I PICKED THEM UP AND TOOK THEM HOME.

SUBSEQUENTLY I WAS CHARGED WITH A MISDEMEANOR AND ENDED UP HAVING TO COMMUNITY SERVICE IN LAMOURE. BY HAVING TO DO THAT 40 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE I HAD REALIZED I WAS CAPABLE OF MORE THAN I HAD THOUGHT.

AS I CAME TO THE END OF COMPLETING MY COMMUNITY SERVICE I HAD BOOSTED UP ENOUGH SELF ESTEEM TO REALIZE I COULD WORK AND I ALSO REALIZED THAT PEOPLE LIKED ME AND THOUGHT I WAS A HARD WORKER.

DON'T GET ME WRONG COMMUNITY SERVICE WAS NOT THE ONLY THING THAT HELPED ME THEN - IT

was a combination things. The kindness
I was shown by Sheriff Bob Fernandez
and staff at the Sheriff's office and the
help and support from parole officer
Rhonda Beanson coupled with the treatment
I received at Thompson's drug treatment
all led me on the right path. I have
since been working steadily and have
my own place to live. I have remained
free of drugs and the criminal way of life
ever since.

So my point is that programs like these
can and are very beneficial to people!

Thank you for your time in
reading this letter. Stay safe and God
bless you all.

Sincerely

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