

AID, Inc.

Self-Help Center & Thrift Shop

314 West Main Street • Mandan, ND 58554

(701) 663-1274 • (701) 663-2122

February 8, 2023

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



Corrections and Rehabilitation

PAROLE & PROBATION | BISMARCK

February 6, 2023

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 RESTORE's community service program, as it pertains to SB 2015 and appropriation in the Executive Budget. This program is a referral source for people under supervision who have been court ordered to complete community service in lieu of jail time. This frees up jail space, saves taxpayers money, and provides accountability via restorative justice.

Additionally, RESTORE provides a source for parole and probation officers to refer clients for domestic violence assessments. These assessments provide the officer and the individual on supervision with a recommendation for domestic violence interventions that can reduce the risk that the person will continue to commit these offenses.

For these reasons, I ask for your support for SB 2015 and the appropriation as outlined in Governor Burgum's Executive Budget. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas Erhardt
Director, North Dakota Parole and Probation Division



February 6, 2023

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 to offer my support of RESTORE, INC., in Fargo, ND. The majority of my interaction with RESTORE, INC. is through sending clients of mine into RESTORE, INC., to complete community service hours ordered by the Cass County District Court (and other court administrations). I see this option as a great incentive for pushing individuals into programming that encourages accountability by the defendant as well as providing a valuable service to the Fargo/Moorhead/West Fargo community overall.

Community service hours via RESTORE, INC., in lieu of jail time opens up valuable space in our overcrowded correctional centers, which in turn has a beneficial impact on taxes for our citizens. Moreover, the staff is incredibly helpful and well run. With the fees for opening and maintaining files paid by the participants/defendants, I cannot think of a better program for the State of North Dakota to support if the ultimate goal is effective punishment and rehabilitation without a costly incarceration program.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Lindsey D. Haugen



Office of the State's Attorney

February 13, 2023

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Haley Wamstad".

Haley L. Wamstad
Grand Forks County State's Attorney

From:	"McCarthy, Jason" <jmccarthy@ndcourts.gov>
To:	Chelsey Williams <gfcom@invisimax.com>
Date:	Tue, Feb-14, 2023 01:13 PM
Subject:	FW: Senate Bill 2015 / Letter of Support

Chelsey,

Per your request, here is my letter of support:

ND Legislative Assembly,

This letter is in support of continued funding for community service supervision grants in SB 2015/Line 19. Community service programs are vital to our criminal justice system and generate significant savings for taxpayers as community service is an excellent alternative, in some cases, to costly incarceration. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

M. Jason McCarthy

District Judge

NECJD

State of North Dakota

February 13, 2023

The North Dakota Legislature
2023 Session
Capital Building
Bismarck, ND.

Re: Funding for Community Svc
offices across the state
Senate Bill 2015

Dear Legislators:

I am writing you to let you know as an agency which greatly depends on the Community Svc programs, what that service does for all receiving these volunteers. Non-profits throughout the state receive thousands of hours of volunteer workers, many of whom are skilled workers. They willingly perform whatever task we give them; unloading trucks of food deliveries, making food baskets, removing snow, mowing, cooking, repackaging food, building repairs, or whatever we need. These Com. Svc. workers are very hard workers, are respectful, energetic, and

many times they continue to volunteer after their court ordered hours are completed. This is a win-win-win for the criminal justice program. It keeps our jails available for violent offenders & it provides volunteers for our community's non-profits. If we had to pay all these volunteers, it would put a heavy strain on our budgets. Having these volunteers helps our morale, and in turn these volunteers have a very positive experience & a boost to their morale for helping out those less fortunate in our communities. We all make bad decisions at one time or another in our lives. Some of us get caught, but some of us don't. I choose to give someone a second chance to make up for their mistakes. That compassion can set someone on a path to greatness, or at least to become a good & giving member of society, that's a great thing!

I have been involved with the Community Serv. programs of North Dakota & Minnesota since about 1993. First through Habitat for Humanity as a board member and as executive director. Having skilled volunteers through Com. Serv. was priceless as we all worked together to build simple, decent, affordable homes for low income families. Next I founded a charity garden in N.D. and one in Minnesota in partnership with All Seasons Garden Center & the City of East Grand Forks, Minn. All vegetables grown are donated to all the local food pantries in Grand Forks and the one in East Grand Forks, Minn. I am 72 years old and have broken many bones, which prevented me from performing the tasks needed to plant 29 acres of vegetables. I have had to rely on the Community Serv. program for volunteers to do everything - operating my equipment, repairing equipment, driving my tractor, planting, (3)

watering, picking veggies,
weeding, everything. I'm
sure the farm & ranch families
in the Legislature could tell
you wonderful free volunteers
could be for their organizations.
My projects could not survive
without the help of the Com.
Svc program. After getting
my charity gardens going
I started volunteering at
the Salvation Army Corp
offices in Grand Forks in the
winter & early spring months.
I supervise the volunteers
that Com. Svc. sends to us.
These volunteers help us
do any task at hand. Any
employer would be lucky
to have these volunteers
on their payroll; but we
are so grateful & blessed
to have them as our volunteers.
I don't know how we could
put a dollar amount on the
value of their help, but
I personally think that
this is one of the best ideas
that has come out of our
criminal justice system!

If you have any questions
for me or need clarification
of any of my comments, my
cell phone # is 218-791-1000.

Sincerely,

DONNA STUMPH F

Volunteer for the Salvation Army Corp.
in Grand Forks; also served on the
Disaster Response Team

Founder & "Boss Lady"

Grandma's Giving Gardens
a food charity program

Former Board member & Exec Director
Habitat for Humanity
Grand Forks County & Polk County



February 13, 2023

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

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to you in support of the Jamestown Community Corrections program. The organization administers community services hours imposed by the court and assigns minor offenders to complete those hours at the City of Jamestown Civic Center.

Our partnership with the community corrections program saves taxpayer dollars and excessive wages that would otherwise be paid into overtime.

The program is very effective with a low financial overhead. Most of its revenue is generated from fees from defendants using the program, as well as city and county contracts. The state dollars invested into the program are essential to its operating budget.

I urge you to continue your ongoing support for community service programs throughout the state. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pamela Fosse
Director
Jamestown Civic Center

State of North Dakota
Chambers of
The District Court

Cherie L Clark
District Judge

Angela Holland
Judicial Secretary - Court Reporter

Southeast Judicial District
Stutsman County Courthouse

511 2nd Ave SE
Jamestown, ND 58401

Telephone (701)251-6327

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 express the valuable support the Court receives from Jamestown Community Action Partnership. Continued funding for programs of this nature saves taxpayer dollars and ensures accountability within the criminal justice system. Partnerships with nonprofit agencies allows seamless delivery of service efficiently and proactively.

Offenders may be sentenced to community service hours in lieu of jail time. This helps our community with necessary task completion, and ensures jail beds are designated for those with the highest need.

Of specific relevance, Sarah Frohlich, the Director of Jamestown Community Action Partnership, works directly with the Stutsman/ Barnes Drug Court Program ensuring costs don't present barriers to Defendants participating in community service hours. The Orphan Train, a local nonprofit organization providing food and clothing to disadvantaged families, has provided positive feedback concerning drug court/community service participation. Without your ongoing support this would not be possible.

I encourage you to continue your ongoing support for community service programs throughout the state. Please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Judge Cherie Clark

LaMOURE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

Box 128-LaMoure ND 58458

Phone: 701-883-6050

Fax: 701-883-4240

Email: 23clerk@ndcourts.gov

Billi Warcken, Clerk

Sandy Knudsen and Karin Boom, Deputy Clerks

February 8, 2023

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

Dear Distinguished Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I'm writing to urge your support for our community service program. In our county, it is administered through a community service program coordinator located in our sheriff's department. Our coordinator is local and is acquainted with the area agencies and has a good relationship with the local job sites and their supervisors.

Having the community service coordinator office in the courthouse is optimal as it provides easy access for defendants coming from court. This office already has an established relationship with the court having access to court files for filing compliance reports.

Community service is win/win for all parties. The benefits to the community, giving defendants the option of avoiding jail or burdensome fines and giving the Court flexibility in sentencing.

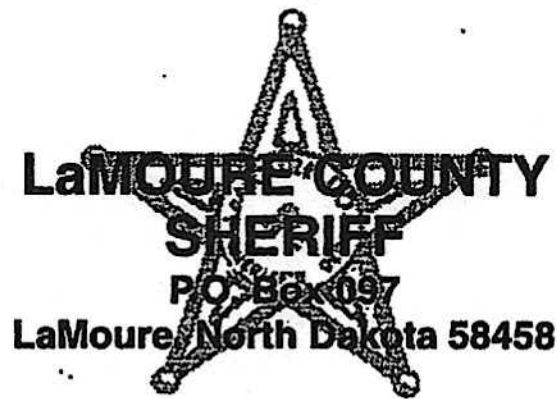
Local community service office in the county is very efficient both financially and functionally and we would urge your whole hearted support of this program.

Sincerely,



Billi Warcken
Clerk of District Court for LaMoure County

BOB FERNANDES
Sheriff



Telephone: (701) 883-5720 Ext. #1
Fax: (701) 883-5833

February 8, 2023

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

Dear Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to you in support of the community service programs that are currently in place across North Dakota. We have had our own community service program in LaMoure County for the past 4 years.

Community service programs along with other programs are used by the court system as an alternative to incarceration. This helps alleviate over crowding in our jails, eases the financial burden to taxpayers and allows individuals placed on community service to continue to work, provide for their families and serve their community. There have been instances in LaMoure County where individuals placed on community service have obtained employment with the non-profit organization upon completion of their court ordered community service.

I strongly encourage you to continue your support for the community service programs throughout North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Fernandes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Fernandes
LaMoure County Sheriff

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Dennis Peterson, and I am the groundskeeper at Lake LaMoure, in LaMoure County. I have supervised community service workers for the past 3 years. All the workers were easy to work with, and were willing to work at any task assigned to them.

This program has helped in the maintenance of the public lake grounds through accomplishing tasks that needed extra help from workers. I would encourage the state legislature to continue the funding for this program.

Community service time can be two fold. As a person completes their legal obligations, they also help beautify and clean up their communities public areas that can be enjoyed by everyone.

In our small town it is important to build pride in their local community. Often I have seen former workers in the restitution program return to the lake, to show their friends the areas they helped improve.

Please continue this program, as it helps those involved, who intern are helping their community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Peterson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dennis Peterson
Groundskeeper at Lake LaMoure

LaMoure County Highway Department

505 4th Avenue SE * LaMoure, ND 58458 * (701) 883-5131

February 6, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The LaMoure County Highway Department has successfully utilized the LaMoure County Community Service Program many times. When asked by our local office, we've been able to put clients to work on projects which need attention and we haven't the time.

It is good to be of service to someone in need of a positive work experience.



Tim Geinert

LaMoure County Highway Dept

**PIERCE COUNTY
STATE'S ATTORNEY**

*Galen J. Mack
State's Attorney*

*120 SE 2nd St
PO Box 196
Rugby ND 58368-0196
Tele. (701) 776-5246
Fax (701) 776-5180*

February 4, 2023

RE: Senate Bill 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2015 currently pending before the 2023 North Dakota Legislature.

SB 2015 will provide financial support to the Community Service programs of North Dakota.

The Community Service programs provide invaluable support for alternatives to incarceration. Such programs also provide a means for criminal defendants to "give back" to local communities as a form of remuneration for their misconduct to society and also serve to build self-esteem to criminal defendants as they work towards self-worth while benefitting their home communities.

Because the defendants travel freely within the state, and their actions affect multiple counties, financial support from the State of North Dakota is equitable and necessary to sustain the important Community Service programs spread throughout North Dakota.

I consent to this letter being submitted to the North Dakota Legislature as SUPPORT of Senate Bill 2015 and respectfully request all legislators to vote YES for SB 2015.

Sincerely,



State's Attorney Galen J. Mack
Pierce County, North Dakota

GJM/mjg

Dunseith Fitness Center

February 13, 2023,

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to the Community Service work program, which I have been involved in for many years through the Rolette County Sheriff office, Bottineau County and Rugby.

Clients have completed their Community Service hours here at the Dunseith Fitness Center since May of 2005, when I became Director. Currently, our community does not have very many facilities that are available to accommodate the CS program.

Each individual punches in on a Timecard to verify that they are completing the hours required of them.

Due to the high rate of unemployment in the County most of the clients are forced to pay their dues through Community Service. I hope this will continue to help each person that depends on this program.

It is much better than being incarcerated. For some of these individuals, you will find they are very good workers and also pleasant, respectful, and kind people. Some may even land themselves a job.

If you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to contact me at 1-701-263-4483.

Sincerely,

Carla M. Decoteau, Director of Dunseith Fitness Center



Fallon M. Kelly

Ransom County State's Attorney

316 Main Street
P.O. Box 391
Lisbon, ND 58054-0391

telephone: 701-683-4123
fax: 701-683-4124
email: fkelly@drtel.net

March 3, 2023

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

Dear Legislative Assembly,

As a member of the Judicial System of the Southeast District I feel it is very important to inform you of the significance the Ransom County Community Service program is to the success of the court system in our area.

The cost of housing and transporting low level criminals can quickly deplete smaller counties' budgets. With the option to have these individuals serving the community, in place of serving time in jail, it would make a definite impact on the taxpayers of our county.

Our local sheriff's office has trained officers who manage the systems such as drug and alcohol testing procedures associated with conditions of the court. The cost of the programs are very manageable in comparison to the extremely costly jail contracts for counties like ours who do not have a correctional facility. A majority of the funding for the program is generated from the same defendants who are using the program.

The offenders who are participating in the community service program are no longer taking up space in our jails but they are doing community projects in a time when labor is difficult to come by. The goals are to help minimize the repeat drug and alcohol offenders and to keep them available in the work force rather than being incarcerated.

I ask that you please offer your support for the community service programs in the state of North Dakota so that we can continue to have cost saving options available to the courts of our great state. I am available for more input on the success of our program so feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Fallon M Kelly
Ransom County State's Attorney



District Judge
Bradley A. Cruff

Court Recorder
Cindy L. Keller

State of North Dakota

DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

418 Second Avenue North
Wahpeton, ND 58075

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

February 07, 2023

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 as a rarely see obligors a second time for non-payment of child support. Also, an obligor sitting in jail does not generate any money to support their children;
- 2) Community service as an alternative to incarceration is especially important when our correctional facility is at capacity or reduced capacity due to pandemic, staffing etc.;
- 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; and
- 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.

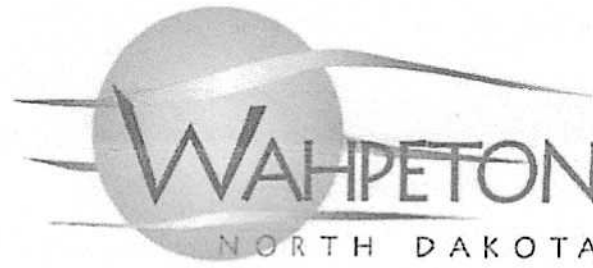
I appreciate your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BAC", written over the typed name of the District Judge.

Bradley A. Cruff, District Judge

Municipal Court

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



February 21, 2023

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

RE: Richland County Community Service Office

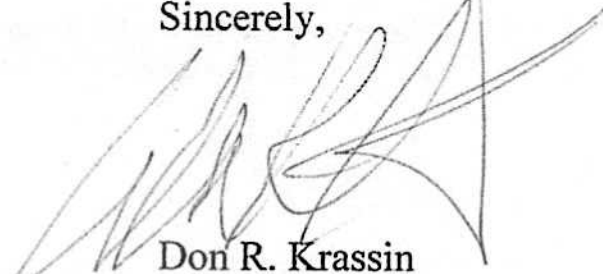
Dear Ms. Lee:

Please consider this an enthusiastic letter of support for the Richland County Community Service program. Due to the issues of with Covid, we have not been able to use this service as much as we would have liked. However, that should be changing in the coming months.

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.

Our current Richland County Community Service Director has always done an excellent job. I do hope her work can continue.

Sincerely,



Don R. Krassin
Judge of Municipal Court



St. John the Evangelist
Rev. Dale Lagodinski, Pastor
115 2nd Street North
Wahpeton, ND 58075-4505
Telephone 701-642-6982
Fax 701-642-2601

February 14, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I want again to express my gratitude for the years that you have included Saint John's as a work site for those who have service hours to complete. As you may know, Butch Nelson, our maintenance manager died suddenly this past month. He has been such a strong, positive influence in the lives of those who have put in service hours during his time with us. In addition to putting in their hours, I clearly observed their improved behavior and sense of responsibility. Many returned to thank us for being good mentors as well as respectful overseers.

We are pleased to have hired Brian Finnie who applied for Butch's position. He brings to our staff remarkable qualities which will serve well in the management and oversight of any individuals who are entrusted to us for completion of service hours.

I sincerely hope that you will continue to include Saint John's as a suitable facility for individuals who need to complete service hours. We provide a variety of work opportunities and a respectful and competent staff whose presence will provide a positive environment.

We have been honored that you have been willing to entrust community service people to us and we are glad for the ways our team has affected them for the good.

Sincerely yours,

Very Reverend Dale Lagodinski
Pastor