

Stepping Stones Resource Center (a program of Fraser LTD)

- Youth and Young Adults coming to the Stepping Stones Resource Center have **experienced extreme trauma** including human trafficking, addiction, mental illness, and violence.
- SSRC **saves the lives** of traumatized youth and young adults so they can live again:
 - **Suicide prevention** with on-site access to mental health professionals
 - Crisis intervention and response to **overdose**;
 - Childcare assistance, Hygiene, Nutrition, and Vocational support; and
 - Extended, 24-7 shelter hours from November through May.
- SSRC is a STATEWIDE inclusive, **wraparound** model that enables youth and young adults to achieve a new quality of life;
 - Recent explorations of alternative funding have indicated SSRC services exceed the scope and purpose of FTR, Community Connect, and 1915(i).
- The **need has exploded** to support youth and young adults in crisis due to growing threats from mental illness, substance abuse, and the disruption of society, while traditional supports struggle to respond.
- The **North Dakota State Hospital** and local mental health providers routinely refer youth and young adults to SSRC because of our integrated model of support.
- SSRC receives **less than 10%** of its funding from HHS sources.
- **Crisis intervention programs** for youth and young adults **need financial support NOW** for their ongoing operations.



SSRC would be interested in collaborating with any future efforts to serve people in need.

Bruce Murry

Lobbyist

701.220.4933

bmurry@me.com

Sandra Leyland

CEO, President

701.238.4069

sleyland@fraserltd.org

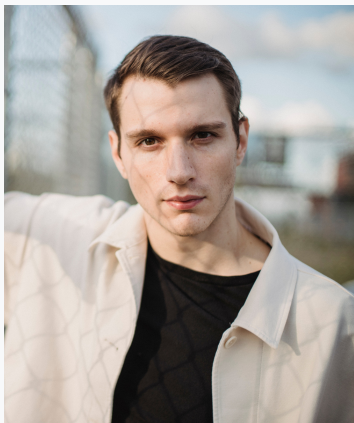


VOICES OF OUR YOUTH



***STEPPING STONES RESOURCE CENTER
(SSRC)***

FRASER, LTD.



Joe

19 years old

In 2016 I needed to escape the life that threatened to ensnare me in violence, crime, and prison. At 19 years old, I found myself homeless, sleeping in a car, and going weeks without a shower. Friends encouraged me to come to Stepping Stones Resource Center (SSRC) to get help. SSRC helped me with a room at Permanent Supportive Housing and assisted me in getting enrolled in high school where I earned my GED. I also became a nursing assistant and am now a certified medical assistant.

How SSRC helped

- Basic Needs
- Housing
- High School Diploma
- Employment

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Heather

22 years old

I was introduced to drugs and alcohol by my parents at age 11. My first experience with homelessness was at age 15 when my parents abandoned me. While experiencing homelessness I became a victim of human trafficking. After connecting myself with SSRC, I was able to get the help I needed. It took a lot of work and I continue to work on my mental health, but I am now able to identify myself as a survivor, not a victim.

How SSRC helped

- Basic Needs
- Housing
- Counseling Services

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Aaron

18 years old

I witnessed the murder of my grandfather as a child, I lost my dad to a violent crime, and I experienced significant abuse at the hands of the people that were supposed to be taking care of me. When I arrived at SSRC I only communicated using gestures, and at times, in writing. Once I moved into Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) I started speaking with staff and other youth. When someone from my treatment team asked why I decided to start talking again, it was because

I finally felt safe.

How SSRC helped

- Housing
- Employment
- Behavioral Health Needs

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Samantha

21 years old

I met the staff of SSRC when they came to meet with me at the hospital. My 4-month-old son was admitted with significant injuries which were the result of abuse by his father.

Due to the severity of his injuries, he was taken away from me and placed into custody by Child Protective Services (CPS). The staff of SSRC has been with me every step of the way and helped me get the assistance and resources I needed. I continue to work hard and now have full custody of my son.

How SSRC helped

- Housing
- Employment
- Transportation

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Josh

18 years old

Extended Hours saved my life. I still remember the first night I arrived. It was snowing and I was so cold that my lips had turned blue and I was physically shaking. I was able to take a warm shower, get clean clothes and have a hot meal. I was able to stay with Fraser for months. Even with all the help, I ended up moving back to Bismarck to be closer to family. I struggled with substance abuse my whole life, but when I moved back I ended up losing my life to an overdose. My family reached out to the staff at Fraser to let them know how much SSRC meant to me, they were my second family.

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How SSRC helped

- Basic Needs
- Housing
- Family

Shannon

21 years old



I grew up in a family that struggled with substance use. My first memories of homelessness started at age 10. My dad and I would jump around from place to place. I first began using substances to help cope when my dad got sick and it started to spiral out of control when he died. Once I found SSRC I was able to finally feel safe and get the help I needed to break the cycle of addiction.

How SSRC helped

- Housing
- Companionship
- Counseling

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Jacob

24 years old

I have been going to Fraser for 4 years now. I have severe mental health issues and abuse substances. I am currently in jail. The only people that come to visit me are my case managers from Fraser. They have helped me get seen by a mental health professional and also have referred me to NA and AA groups. I have started attending church here at the jail two times a week and I am feeling the best I have been in years. I view the staff at Fraser as my only support and they are a part of my family.

How SSRC helped

- Mental Health Resources
- Family

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Jessica

23 years old

I am a single mom to three children. I was fleeing domestic violence and had to find a place to go. I found myself at Extended Hours because all of the other shelters were full. After working with my case manager, she was able to get me into an apartment and has assisted me with getting the additional help I need to provide for my children. SSRC has connected me with the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center and Valley Hope Counseling so I can continue to work through my trauma and be the best mom I can be.

How SSRC helped

- Basic Needs
- Housing
- Mental Health Resources
- Family

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