

YWCA Cass Clay offers the largest Emergency Shelter for women and their children escaping domestic violence and homelessness in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. We have done so for over 45 years. We also operate a sizable Supportive Housing Program serving 97 households in Fargo and West Fargo, that, after emergency shelter, is the long-term solution for healing, stability, and independence - diminishing the likelihood women will return to abusive situations or homelessness.

YWCA created North Dakota’s first dedicated housing units for trafficking victims and their children in 2015. Since opening an emergency shelter in 1978, we have encountered a recurring narrative of partners who groom women romantically, then eventually force or manipulate them into commercial sex. Others are trafficked by family. Some entered the sex trade as their only means for survival.

Decades-deep experience informs YWCA service delivery, and we participate in North Dakota’s Human Trafficking Task Force. In a culture where survivors face criminalization and shame, YWCA brings compassion and nonjudgement to women who’ve been dehumanized and are working to shape new lives.

Since the program was established through collaborative partnerships with other service providers, state support through this grant funding and federal sources through the Office of Victims of Crime of the US Justice Department, YWCA has provided safety and shelter to over 200 survivors of human trafficking in two dedicated units. In this biennium, an estimated 25 survivors will be provided approximately 2,000 nights of safe shelter through a grant from the Attorney General’s Office of just under \$100,000.

At YWCA, this funding supports a part time advocate position and the operations of the two dedicated units—which are always full. Referrals for the units come from across North Dakota. An estimated 109 trafficking survivors were served across YWCA programs in 2024. Providing supportive services to human trafficking survivors is different than providing services to domestic violence survivors. **YWCA’s Human Trafficking Program has been essential in helping 200+ survivors over the past ten years move forward with their lives and work towards recovering from the trauma of being sold for sex.**

FOR THE FIRST 18 MONTHS OF THE BIENNIUM:

20 individuals in 12 households were served.

91 nights was the average stay.

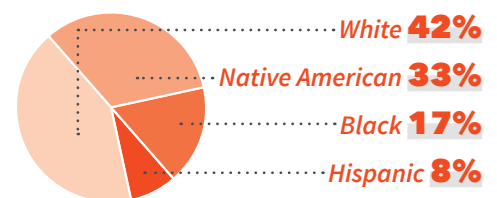
33 was the average age of a trafficking survivor.

25% of women served had children with them.

100% of women served were survivors of sex trafficking.

25% were both sex and labor trafficked.

SURVIVORS BY RACE



% SURVIVORS TRAFFICKED BY

