



March 19, 2025

Sen. Kyle Davison, District 41
 North Dakota State Legislature
 Senate Appropriations Committee, Human Resources Division
 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505

Good Morning, Sen. Davison,

Thank you for your interest and attention to our testimony on House Bill 1012. Following are some additional answers to your questions following Monday’s testimony as well as a few points that we believe underscore a justification for further funding beyond the existing House Recommendation of \$11.9 million (see below).

Program Category	Description of Service	2023-2025	2023 – 2025	2025-2027	2025-2027	2025-2027
		Biennium Request	Biennium Appropriation	Biennium Request	Executive Budget	House Recommendation
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	Crisis response, advocacy	\$10,000,000	\$5,936,285	\$10,820,160	\$8,186,285	\$9,886,285
Safe Haven	Supervised visitation and exchange	2,200,000	425,000	2,380,435	425,000	865,000
Sexual Violence Prevention	Bystander intervention program	4,000,000	200,000	4,328,064	200,000	200,000
Domestic Violence Intervention Programming	Intervention for domestic violence offenders	1,425,000	1,000,000	1,568,923	1,000,000	1,000,000
		\$17,625,000	\$7,561,285	\$19,097,582	\$9,811,285	\$11,951,285

Responses to Specific Senator Questions

Chairman Dick Dever asked following my testimony how we feel about the House’s recommendation (see yellow column above). We are very grateful to the House’s increase. In addition to dollars for prevention services as I shared, our asks for supervised visitation and exchange as well as domestic violence intervention reflect needs, not wants. These category amounts are very similar to what we requested last session and have been thoroughly vetted by our 19 programs, who employ more than 300 professionals, many of whom require bachelor’s and master’s level education/salary expectations. We are still shy of where we’d like to be in these two categories (i.e., **\$1.5 million gap for safe supervised visitation and exchange serving more than 1,400 families and a more than \$500,000 gap for domestic violence intervention programs for those who use violence**).

A fully funded request (\$19 million) will enable us to reach more of the 250,000 North Dakotans who will be impacted by domestic and sexual violence in their lifetime. With people resources being our largest need, most of our would add staff for advocacy to reach more survivors (safety, transitional services such as housing and transportation, and therapy services). **Related, you asked about our waiting lists for therapy at CVIC. It's linked to resources, and therapy positions are traditionally hard-to-fill for nonprofit agencies, which typically don't pay as much as therapists can make in private practice.**

To that end, following nearly 24 months of business planning, CVIC is in the process of billing for therapy services (when safe to do so). As of March 10th, we finally received approval from a federal grantor who was requesting additional information and prior authorization.



Increased Violence and Lethality Risks

Of the nearly 350 homicides North Dakota has experienced in the past 10 years, nearly 40% (138) of them were domestic violence related. Following are some additional statistics and trends that underscore the severity.

- Between 2019 and 2023, we saw a 20% increase in survivors of domestic violence served and a 17% increase in survivors of sexual assault served.
- Higher lethality cases involving stabbings, strangulations and injuries needing medical care or ICU stays.
- Increased need for services
 - Domestic violence intervention waiting list/women (Grand Forks)
 - Domestic violence intervention/adding classes to meet increased need (Bismarck)
 - Past participants asking to return to group for support (Grand Forks, Bismarck)
- Increased need for legal support for services such as protection orders.
- Longer shelter stays due to limited community resources, requests for deposits, lengthy wait times for vouchers, and safety concerns regarding domestic violence.
- Increased mental health and addiction needs and waiting lists for therapy services.

When Lutheran Social Services (LSS) filed for bankruptcy in 2021, several agencies came forward to fill gaps:

- **Community Violence Intervention Center, Grand Forks:** Took over the remaining restorative justice contract LSS had with the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grantor (restorative justice staff became CVIC employees and CVIC provided office equipment and ongoing supervision). Took over the subcontract with Together Counseling to carry out the remaining therapy goals outlined in the VOCA contract.
- **Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Minot:** Launched domestic violence intervention services. Since August 2021, DVCC has added a second class for men and a class for women.
- **Abused Adult Resource Center, Bismarck:** Launched domestic violence intervention services. Since January 2022, added a second class for men and looking to add a third in 2025.

Agency responses to community needs that did NOT request state funding:

- **Community Violence Intervention Center, Grand Forks:** Shelter campaign (\$2 million) primarily funded with private dollars. Served nearly 800 adults/children and provided more than 24,500 nights of shelter since 2017.
- **Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Minot:** Privately funded capital project for new shelter and four-plexes. Served more than 2,800 adults/children and provided nearly 29,000 nights of stay since 2016.

Funding has not increased commensurate with inflation/need

- Prior to a slight increase in funding during the 2023 Legislative Assembly, our state funding has not traditionally adjusted to match inflation and escalating needs. Like many small businesses, our agencies have experienced the challenges associated with increased wage expectations and cost of living expenses as well as health care costs, which have reached all-time highs of 15-19% in some locations.
- While the 2023 session increases enabled us to cover some of the basics, they did not provide enough to appropriately serve the crisis and prevention needs of the state.

Please partner with our coalition to fully fund our request to protect survivors and sustain our life saving services.

Best Regards,

Coiya T. Inman

Coiya T. Inman
President/CEO
Community Violence Intervention Center



SAFER TOMORROWS ROAD MAP



"Everyone has been so wonderful, warm, and welcoming... Everyone in the community truly works together to make a family successful. I cannot thank you enough."

- CVIC CLIENT

PROGRESS REPORT
JANUARY-DECEMBER
2024

Realizing the Possibility of Ending Generational Violence



Dear Friend,

As we enter another year, our team is beyond grateful for your longstanding support, which has enabled us to serve more families, as well as meet and in some cases exceed, our Safer Tomorrows Road Map goals. Although significant work is still ahead, we believe ending interpersonal violence within two generations is possible, and it's commitments like yours that make this audacious vision attainable.



SAFETY

Your donations continue to provide vital crisis, shelter, and transportation services, all of which increased to meet client needs last quarter as the winter months arrived. Our crisis services continue to show significant need with more clients seeking assistance filing emergency protective orders, and an increase in cases of higher lethality including more cases involving children. More secondary victims sought services on our crisis line and at the CVIC at UND office on how to help their loved ones who are experiencing interpersonal violence. We continue working hard to provide coordinated services across our programs to ensure that clients get the comprehensive support they need to be safe and begin stabilizing their lives.



HEALING

We've now completed our business plan for a self-sustaining therapy center and are in the final stages of receiving approval from our federal funders to begin billing insurance for services. While this process has been longer than anticipated, we're proud of our work in overcoming so many obstacles to arrive at this point. This plan represents a groundbreaking approach with enormous potential not only for CVIC, but also for other domestic violence/sexual assault agencies in the future.



EDUCATION/PREVENTION

Our education and prevention services continue to grow and give us incredible hope for the future. This past quarter, we met with the YORS (Youth Gaining Opportunities, Recognition and Skills) Commission to give them an update on the PACT (Pass It Off, Approach, Check In, and Turn Attention) program they helped us create, and they are excited about the opportunity to continue collaborating including giving feedback on presentations, ideas for activities, sharing trends happening in the schools we should address, and more. We're thrilled to continue incorporating youth voices as it makes our work more effective, relatable, and engaging.

We also have more coaches implementing Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) this fall/winter than we have had since before Covid. This is due to continuous outreach by our team and support from the athletic directors. We are excited that coaches are recognizing the benefits of this program again!

All of this progress is possible because of your transformational giving, a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and steadfast commitment to a long-range plan that's developing stronger futures for thousands of families each year. As we start another year, I am truly grateful for the impact we are making together every day. Enjoy learning more in the pages that follow.



With Gratitude,

Coiya Tompkins Inman

Coiya Tompkins Inman
President/CEO

Safer Tomorrows Road Map

Progress toward ending interpersonal violence



RESILIENT Individuals

Individuals will heal from trauma and develop resiliency.



STRONG Families

As families increase stability, intergenerational violence will decrease.



THRIVING Communities

Our communities will realize a shift in cultural norms that value healthy relationships over violence.

2024 has left us energized and ready to work. While we've made significant progress on our Safer Tomorrows Road Map, we are also seeing evidence of increasing need in our community: an increase in clients seeking shelter, an increase in assistance with filing emergency protective orders and seeking representation by the CVIC's client attorney, as well as an increase in cases of higher lethality—including more cases involving children, greater severity of the abuse, and greater frequency of incidents.

However, we continue to rise to meet this immediate need for safety services, while also investing in long-term services we know are needed to reverse this trend. In partnership with Rydell, we received a vehicle for our rural advocacy program allowing us to provide services more widely in rural areas. Our education and prevention work continues to grow, impacting elementary, middle, high school, and college students across Grand Forks County, and we continue to spread community awareness of interpersonal violence and prevention through the Green Dot program. Our plans for a self-sustaining therapy center are moving forward, and with a fully staffed therapy team, we're ensuring we can continue crucial services for our clients on the long journey of healing. As we welcome the new year, we are grateful to have you alongside us.

Rebuilding a Sense of *Hope*

*"I am so grateful for the sense of stability that I have thanks to you! I very much feel like a child in regard to doing all of that [grown up] stuff as I really wasn't allowed to handle any of it before so I am clueless. So, one baby step at a time. Quite often, one minute at a time. I do have hope for the future though and know that I just have to get through this season. Speaking of season, I have been working on teaching myself to like Christmas again. With the offender over the years, I began to dread the holidays and my birthday. He would make me feel bad for him not knowing what to get me, or if I would guess what a present was that he had wrapped. So, I have my little pretty tree up, and I think the holidays are going to be very emotional, but **I am safe, my child is so happy, and I can look towards the future in a positive light now.**"*

– CVIC CLIENT



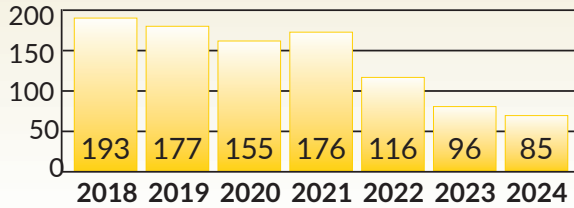
Safer Tomorrows Road Map

Progress toward ending interpersonal violence

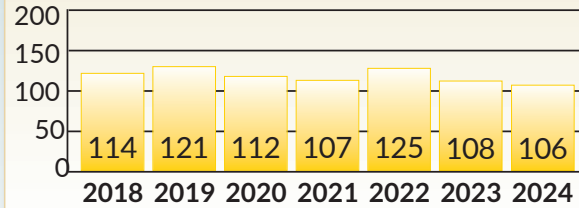
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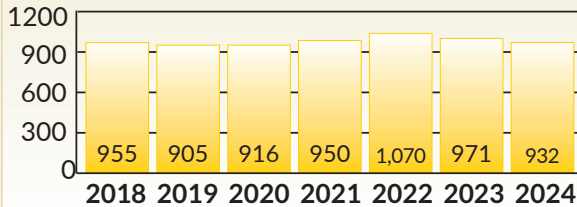
SAFE VISITS # Families



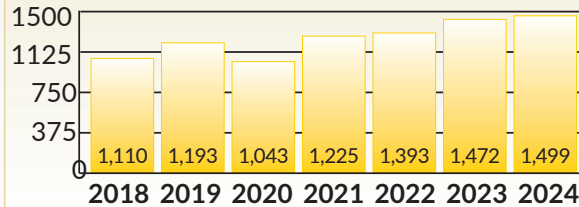
SAFE SHELTER # People



CRISIS RESPONSE # People



CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS # People



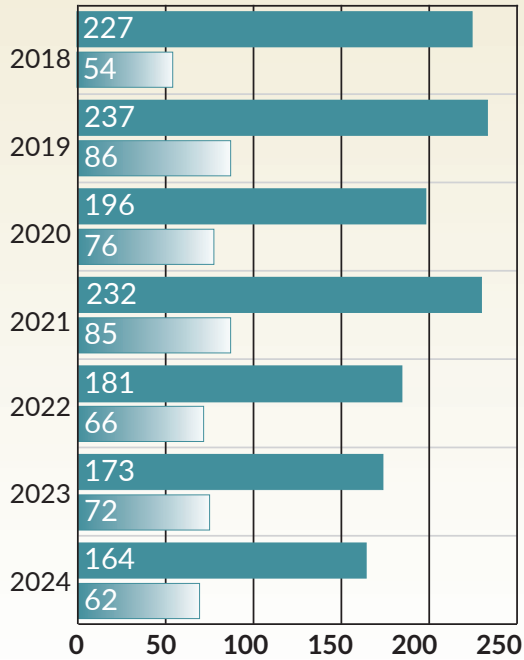
“I have grown so much from the help we’ve received so far from CVIC. I’m very grateful for the support and encouragement to move past my past and focus on my future.”

– Nina, CVIC client



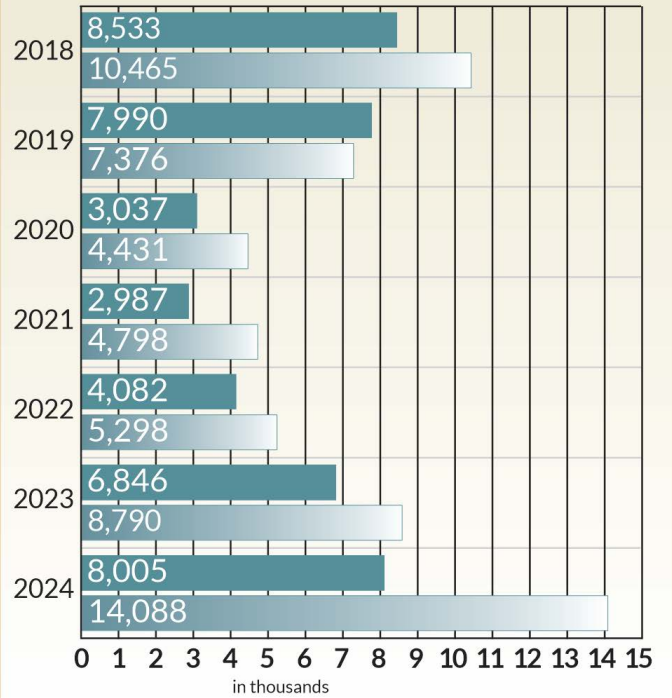
VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

Participants
Completions



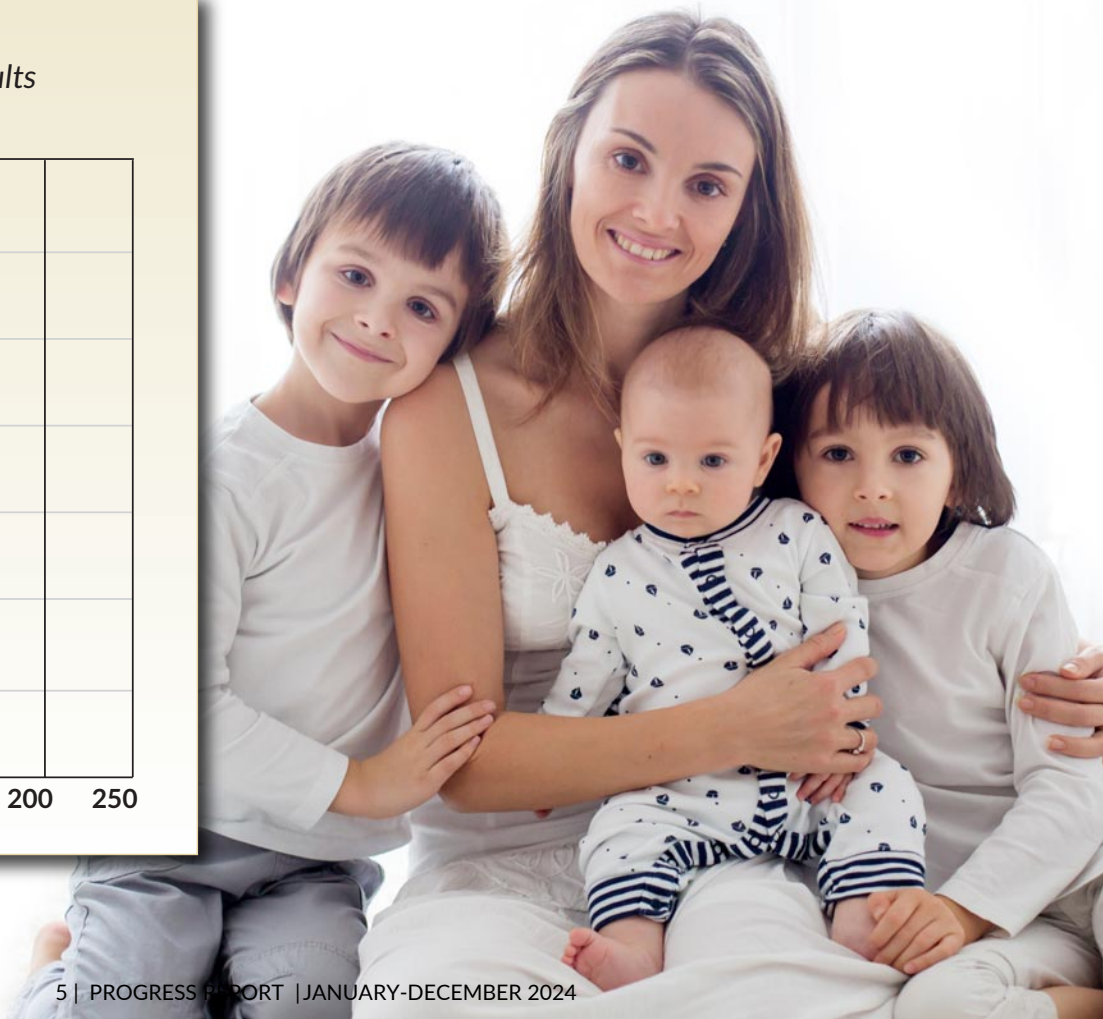
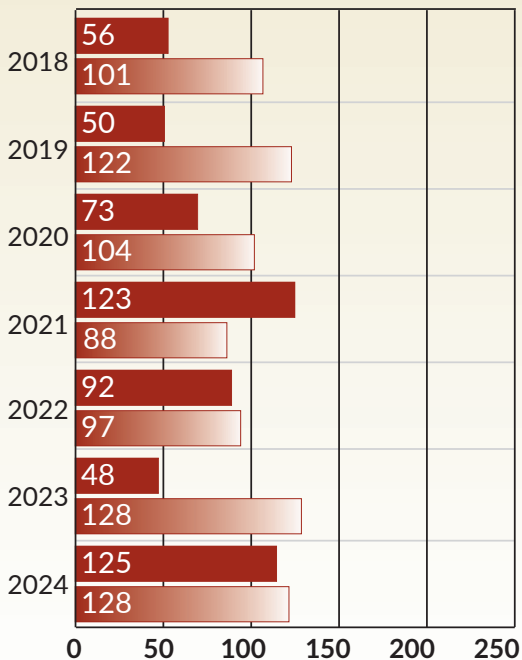
PREVENTION/EDUCATION

Youth
Adults/Professionals



THERAPY

Youth
Adults





CRISIS SERVICES

- **932** adults were supported through times of crisis, including **795** victims of domestic violence and **137** victims of sexual assault.
- Crisis line advocates answered **431** calls.
- We assisted clients in obtaining **32** orders for protection.
- **99%** of clients reported feeling safer and more aware of ways to plan for safety as a result of CVIC services.

SAFE SHELTER

- **106** people were sheltered for **4,403** nights at Mary's Place while they worked toward safe and independent lives.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- **9** families with **10** children received transitional housing services/rental assistance.
- **328** individuals received assistance with housing, employment, or education goals.

Amanda* called CVIC seeking assistance on obtaining a protection order. Since she lived in a rural area, CVIC's specialized rural advocate followed up established a meeting point to minimize transportation barriers. She met with the advocate and received emotional support, safety planning, crisis intervention, and housing assistance. The advocate assisted her with filing a petition for an emergency ex parte temporary domestic violence protection order. Amanda was then connected with CVIC's legal services to ensure she had legal representation at the upcoming protection order hearing. The rural advocate provided transportation assistance to get the client to the necessary appointments to increase her safety. CVIC's client attorney and the rural advocate provided ongoing emotional support and advocacy services through the stressful process of going to court with the hopes of getting the temporary order extended beyond the initial two weeks. Her attorney was successful, and the court granted an extended order which provided long-term protection. Amanda continued to benefit from CVIC's holistic services, and began receiving on-going therapeutic services to help her continue her healing journey.

Moving
toward a new
Future

*Name, some details changed.



CRIME VICTIM ADVOCACY

- **1,499** victims and witnesses of crimes received case information and support through criminal proceedings.
- CVIC's victim witness specialists attended **1,853** court hearings with or on behalf of crime victims and arranged and attended **339** meetings between crime victims and prosecutors.

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT

- **132** individuals were screened by law enforcement, with **64%** found to be in high danger **42** victims spoke with a CVIC advocate about what services are available to keep them safe.

SUPERVISED VISITATION

- **85** families were supported during **1,055** supervised visits and **536** supervised exchanges. **97%** of adult participants surveyed agreed they felt that they and their children were safe while using these services.

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

- **164** new men and women were served in the New Choices program, addressing their use of violence and promoting accountability for the harm they have caused to others.
- **92** participants were also ordered into Domestic Violence Court, the specialized post-sentencing review court that works to hold individuals accountable, monitor sentencing progress, and encourage successful completion.
- The New Choices partner contact reached out to **125** partners of New Choices participants to keep them informed of the participant's status and provide information about CVIC services. Of the partners contacted, **54** received CVIC advocacy services.



"I once believed that I was always right...and that's nonsense! No one is ever 'always right.' But after completing this class I have learned to see things through others' perspective, and realizing my intimidating or demonstrative behaviors that can be hurtful or misunderstood has helped me to see a better way of living in and creating better and healthier relationships."

- NEW CHOICES PARTICIPANT

Healing

Specialized support heals the impact of trauma so individuals can thrive



YOUTH THERAPY

- **125** children impacted by violence received therapy to address trauma. **78** youth received **1,016** individual therapy sessions. **52** youth participated in **475** group sessions at area schools and CVIC.
- **67** parents received education about parenting needs of children living in violent homes and the effects of violence/trauma on children.

ADULT THERAPY

- **128** adults received therapy services, including **120** adults who received **1,369** sessions of individual therapy, **13** in restorative therapy, and **17** adults who participated in **143** support group sessions.
- **100%** of adult clients surveyed showed improvement in emotional condition.

With a fully staffed youth therapy team, we've seen a significant increase in the number of therapy services provided to youth this year, compared with 2023. We added a rural youth therapist in April which led to an increase in referrals from rural schools, with 10 rural youth currently on the waiting list. Our rural youth therapist has a full caseload and is providing services to youth at five schools.

The number of youth provided individual/family therapy has increased **86%** and the number of sessions for individual/family clients increased **216%**. Because of the group therapist position partially funded by Grand Forks Public Schools, the number of youth participating in groups has increased by **767%**, and the number of sessions by **1,339%**, this year. As adult therapy continues to be fully staffed, services are similar to what was provided in 2023. We have waiting lists for both adult and youth therapy services.

Maya* sought out therapy to help process and work through things that she dealt with not only as a child, but also is continuing to deal with as a young college student. Growing up, she felt afraid to talk about feelings in her home, and endured emotional abuse from her parent, which has continued into her adulthood. This emotional abuse often caused her to have negative thoughts about herself such as, "I am unworthy," and made her feel an incredible sense of self-doubt and disappointment. Through EMDR, Maya has been able to process these feelings, challenge those thoughts, and **come to the point of believing that she is worthy, knowledgeable, and strong.** She is continuing to set boundaries with her parent and stand up for herself by communicating to her parent that she does not deserve to be treated poorly.



Comprehensive
Care
for survivors

*Name, some details changed.



YOUTH EDUCATION

- CVIC reached **8,005** youth through **730** presentations; **72%** of youth surveyed planned to use what they learned in their daily lives.



EARLY PREVENTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

While presenting Shrek's Internet Safety Quest to rural 4th graders, many shared stories of online harm that had already happened to them. Students talked about how they have been stalked, hacked, and catfished. During the presentation, CVIC staff walked through different scenarios and ways to stay safe. Students were also able to share about steps they had already taken to stay safe which engaged their peers and made for good conversation and reflections. We know that early prevention and education for students can make a big difference in future outcomes.

"I liked Friendships that Work because it made me feel safe."

- 5TH GRADE STUDENT

ADULT PRESENTATIONS

- CVIC reached **13,035** adults through **108** presentations; **93%** indicated that they planned to use what they learned.
- CVIC trained **1,053** professionals through **41** presentations; **95%** indicated they plan to use the information learned from training.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE REQUIRES ALL OF US

On Dec. 14, we held The Green Dot at the Ralph event which was a collaboration between the Green Dot Greater Grand Forks program, Gate City Bank, and the Ralph Engelstad Arena to share bystander intervention strategies with attendees of the UND hockey game. Green Dot is a community program designed to reduce power-based violence in Grand Forks.

The highlight of our event was a 30-second video featuring UND hockey player Bennett Zmolek sharing information about our Green Dot program on the center-hung video board.

We also handed out Green Dot information cards, stickers, and pens to anyone that stopped by our table. It's strong community partnerships like these that allow us to spread the word about CVIC's programs as we work to end violence in Grand Forks.

