

**2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2138**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
1/13/2025

To provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

11:24 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Community Cares services
- Funds availability
- Funding sources

11:25 a.m. Senator Weber introduced the bill and testified in favor.

11:31 a.m. Myrna Hansen, Executive Director of Community Care, testified in favor #28732, #28733, #28735, and #28736.

11:53 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

Human Service Committee Testimony SB2138 – January 13, 2025 – Community of Care

Chairman Lee and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Myrna Hanson. I am the Executive Director of Community of Care, a nonprofit serving older adults in rural Cass County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. We also want to thank you for the funding we have received through the Department of Human Services budget. Those dollars are assisting clients to remain in their rural Cass County homes.

I would like to give you a brief description of Community of Care and the services we provide. We began as a pilot project of the Good Samaritan Society in 2003. We serve all of rural Cass County, a 1,700 square mile area with 27 rural communities. A few of the communities include Arthur, Page, Casselton, Kindred, Harwood and Buffalo. Throughout our 21-year history, we have provided all of our services Free of Charge, regardless of a person's economic situation. We have a wide range of funding in addition to the Department of Health and Human services funding. In 2024, we received 62% of our funding from local fundraisers, donations and rural Cass county grants.

In 2024, we served approximately 680 individuals, the final numbers for 2024 are still being compiled. Many of these individuals received multiple services in multiple program areas.

We describe our program as a 4-legged stool:

- The One Stop Service Center is staffed by our Social Worker who provides information, referrals, care coordination, assistance securing in-home equipment & services, help with paperwork such as applications for fuel/food/prescription assistance & Medicaid, Advance Care Plans and Medicare Part D drug plan enrollment. Our Care Coordinator

and a trained volunteer/retired pharmacist assisted 367 individuals review their Medicare Part D plans during open enrollment 2024. The average savings was \$313 per person. In 2023, our Care Coordinator and 2 trained volunteers assisted 370 individuals with an average savings of \$1,511 per person. Our Care Coordinator also coordinates socialization events, an important element in older adult's health. Our staff regularly assist adult children of aging parents with information, assistance securing in-home equipment or services.

- The Faith Community Nurse program staffed by a three part-time licensed RNs who have completed Faith Community Nurse certification. One serves in Northern Cass through our Arthur office, another in Casselton and the 3<sup>rd</sup> was added in the Kindred area in April of 2024. The Faith Community Nurses are licensed RNs who focuses on preventative care. They provide outreach visits to help older adults understand medical conditions, physician's orders and medications. The Faith Community Nurses assess, education and refer. They facilitate blood pressure screenings and assist clients complete Advance Care Plans. They work with Health Cabinets representing the local communities to identify needs and sponsor educational events. Faith Community Nurses also facilitate Bone Builder exercise classes in 7 locations. Each week, approximately 100 older adults gather twice a week to exercise. In the most recent survey, 80% of respondents reported the classes improve their mobility and 79% reported class participation improves their cognitive ability. One bone builder participant shared the following, *"Bone Builders keeps me feeling younger. Without*



*Bone Builders I'd feel more stiff and unable to do the things I need to do to function at my optimum."* The Faith Community Nurses also coordinate pen pal/journal project and Fun With Tech between older adults and local middle and high school students.

- The Volunteer Program facilitated by a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. The most utilized aspect of the Volunteer Program is transportation to medical appointments. A ride to their medical appointment is often a critical element in older adults' ability to remain in their rural home. In 2024, our volunteers drove 10,721 miles bringing clients to medical appointments. In This included 174 rides and 478 hours of volunteer services. The round trip from Casselton is approximately 50 miles and from Page in the Northwest corner of the county is 100 miles. In our most recent client survey, 100% reported the ride to their medical appointment assists them to remain in their rural home. Volunteers provide a wide range of service. In 2023, a total of 303 individuals served in some capacity of our program. In total, volunteers provided 2,498 hours of service. This includes board of directors, transportation volunteers, school students with spring yard work, bone builder leaders, Wellness Screening & Health Fairs, fundraiser committees, health cabinets, local college students, etc. Our 2024 volunteer numbers are still being tabulated.
- Support and Education are provided through presentations, website and our newsletter mailed twice a year to every box holder in rural Cass County. Each year we coordinate programming for the Casselton Business Association Senior Day. Our Faith Community Nurses coordinate annual Wellness Screening Fair and Health Fair.

- Staff regularly work with other agencies such as North Dakota Assistive, Alzheimer's Association, Essentia & Sanford Paramedic Programs to coordinate care for older adults in rural Cass County
- Our staff includes 7 employees. Two full-time and 5 part-time. We have a 3.85 full time equivalent

Since we began, Community of Care has focused on the concept of "Aging in Place." In order to "age in place," individuals need access to medical care, adequate housing, transportation, a social support system and a supportive community. We believe those "Aging in Place" concepts are critical to Community of Care's programs. Throughout our history, we have continued to expand our programs and services based upon the needs of local residents in order for them to "Age in Place." Our strategic plan includes additional Faith Community Nurse staff or hours to assist greater areas of Cass County, including the I-29 corridor and the western portion of the county. Currently, our Faith Community Nurses cover approximately 40% of Cass County. This addition not only requires staff time, but also additional rent, phone, internet, computers, etc. to operate another office. The Care Coordination, Volunteer Program and Support/Education cover the entire 1,700 square miles of Cass County.

The majority of older adults prefer to remain in the homes and communities they call home. Most of our clients have lived in their homes and communities for decades, if not their entire lifetime. They are important members of the local community as they shop locally, support local events and share their community knowledge.

One example of our clients is Phyllis. She is 83 years old and lives alone in her rural Cass County home. Phyllis has a marvelous attitude, but has experienced numerous health concerns the past two years. Our Faith Community Nurse visits with her regularly to help her understand her condition and medications. Our Volunteer Coordinator has facilitated countless rides for Phyllis to attend medical appointments and weekly infusions, all provided by volunteer drivers. She has also coordinated spring yard work provided by local school students. Our Care Coordinator reviewed Phyllis's Medicare Part and completed a fuel assistance form. Our staff work together to arrange for in-home equipment and supplies for Phyllis. Our holistic care approach meets a wide range of needs for our clients.

Community of Care is a model for other communities to assist older adults remain in their rural homes. NDSU Extension received a grant to pilot our model in two other locations. For the past 3 ½ years, the Aging in Community Project have been assisting residents in Lisbon and Western Morton Counties. These programs are fully funded through the grant received.

Community of Care has provided consulting services to assist these locations develop their programs. We believe our model has potential to benefit locations and older adults throughout North Dakota and we are very willing to share our knowledge and experience.

Assisting older adults to remain in their homes as long as safely possible provides cost savings for individuals, their families and potentially the state of North Dakota. A significant percentage of our clients are renters without any equity and others own very modest homes in rural Cass County. If these older adults required a move to a long-term care facility, they would likely need to apply for Medicaid at the time of the move or very soon after.

I asked our Care Coordinator/Social Worker and Faith Community Nurses to identify the number of clients in their professional opinion who would have required long-term care in 2024 without our services. Our staff identified 15 individuals they believe would require basic care without the programs, services and referrals provided by Community of Care. The majority of these clients would require a Medicaid application within months of moving to basic care, which would be a significant cost to the state of North Dakota.

According to the ND Department of Health and Human Services, the average cost of long-term care in North Dakota in 2024 was \$147,164 per year. After the average social security benefit and \$100/month personal care allowance, the average balance remaining is \$124,571 per year. With a move to long-term care, the assets of many of our client's would be depleted quickly, resulting in the need for a Medicaid application.

As I shared, Community of Care has received funding through the Department of Human Services budget since 2009. We are grateful for those funds and have been able to serve hundreds of clients as a result. The amount we have received however has remained constant during those 15 years. According to Genworth financial, in 2009 the average cost of long-term care in North Dakota was \$56,940, as compared to the \$147,164 per year in 2024.

Community of Care is requesting an increase in our funding to more closely align with the cost of living increases over the past 15 years and the increase in the cost of long-term care in North Dakota. An increase in funding will allow Community of Care to serve greater number of clients and greater needs to assist older adults remain in their homes as long as safely possible.

Thank you. Are there any questions?





## COMMUNITY OF CARE Rural Cass County

*Community of Care's goal is to "enhance the quality of life for rural Cass County seniors in order to keep them in the homes and communities they love as long as safely possible"*

### NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS OVER 65

- 133,316 residents 65 and older live in North Dakota (source: ND Compass)
  - Of those residents, 17,535 are 85+ (source: ND Compass)
- **Projected 8.2% increase by 2030** (source: ND Plan on Aging)
- 4,097 residents 65+ in rural Cass County (source: US Census Quick Facts)
  - **Projected increase is 4,433 rural Cass residents 65+ in 2030**
- In 2024, the 65+ group represents 18% of rural Cass County population

### 2024 NURSING HOME COST STATISTICS

- **\$147,164 per year** - average cost of a nursing home in North Dakota (source: ND Dept. Human Services)
- \$21,393 per year - Average Social Security Benefit in North Dakota (source: AARP)
- **\$124,571 per year** - average Cost of Private Pay or Medicaid Payment per nursing home resident (after Social Security and \$100/month personal care allowance for nursing home)

### 2023 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY OF CARE SERVICES

- 4,989 Client Service contacts
- 653 individual clients served
- 7,227 miles driven & 339 hours of service providing transportation to medical appointments – 147 rides provided by 45 transportation volunteers
- 258 additional volunteers served as Board members, Health Cabinet, Medicare Part D drug plan enrollments, Bone Builder class leaders, fundraising committees, blood pressure screenings, health screening fair, newsletters, spring clean-up, etc.
- 370 clients served during Medicare Part open enrollment. Total savings was \$573,870 or an average of \$1,551/client



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[www.communityofcarend.com](http://www.communityofcarend.com)



### ALL SERVICES PROVIDED FREE-OF-CHARGE

#### ONE STOP SERVICE CENTER

- Care Coordination
- Assistance with paperwork (fuel & food assistance, etc.)
- Medicare Part D drug plan enrollment
- Advance Care Plans
- Referrals & information
- Socialization

#### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Transportation to medical appointments
- Minor Home Repair, Yard Work, Friendly Visits, etc.

#### FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM

- Preventative Care
- Health Counseling, Referrals & Education
- Exercise Programs
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Advance Care Plans

#### HOMES IN RURAL ND

*The homes of many older adults living in rural North Dakota are:*

- Potentially difficult to sell. If they are able to sell their home, the proceeds will be depleted quickly in paying for an assisted living facility or nursing home
- A significant percentage of older adults in rural communities are renters with no home equity
- Residents who are unable to pay for their care become part of the Medicaid roles



# COMMUNITY OF CARE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*"Caring for older adults by partnering  
with rural communities"*



Community of Care  
CASS COUNTY, ND

## From The Executive Director

For 20 years, Community of Care has been providing care for older adults in rural Cass in order to keep them in the homes and communities they love. **For all of our 20 years, we have provided our services FREE-OF-CHARGE!** We are able to provide those services thanks to generous donors and grantors who partner with us. In 2023, we served 653 clients through all of our programs and our holistic approach. A significant number of our clients received multiple services in multiple program areas.

Highlights of our 20th anniversary year include:

- Record number of clients served
- Record number of Medicare Part D appointments
- 20th anniversary celebrations
- Board approval of a 3rd part-time Faith Community Nurse to serve in the Kindred, Davenport & Leonard area. New staff member started in 2024
- Continuation of consulting services for NDSU/Margaret A Cargill grant to replicate our model in Lisbon & Western Morton County
- Transition from membership to Rural Cass Roots Campaign
- Pen pal/journal project with

Northern Cass & Central Cass  
The most important highlight of any year is the services we provide to our clients. One example from 2023 is Oscar, a 93 year old who lives in a rural Cass community. Oscar receives rides to his medical appointments and commodities delivery facilitated by our Volunteer Coordinator. Our Faith Community Nurse visits Oscar to discuss his health conditions. Our Care Coordinator assists Oscar complete applications for housing, fuel assistance, commodities and Medicare Part D drug plan enrollment. Oscar's daughter lives out of state and arranges for care for her dad from a distance. Our Care Coordinator works with his daughter to arrange for services and equipment to meet Oscar's needs to remain in his home. Working with adult children, both those who live at a distance and close by, is a common occurrence.

We are able to provide our services Free-Of-Charge thanks to the donors & grantors who partner with our agency. In 2023, approximately 60% of our funding was received from local donors, grantors & fundraisers. We are truly a community owned organization.

*"Being 87 years old and  
living alone is very  
helpful having this  
program in our area.  
I know who I can call if  
help is needed." -  
Community of Care Client*

### Inside this issue

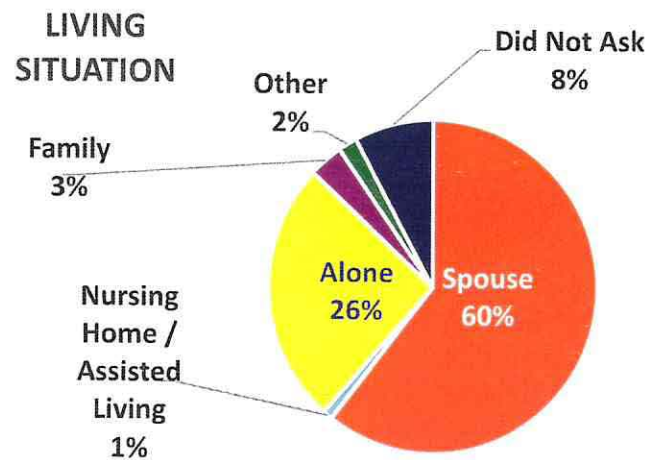
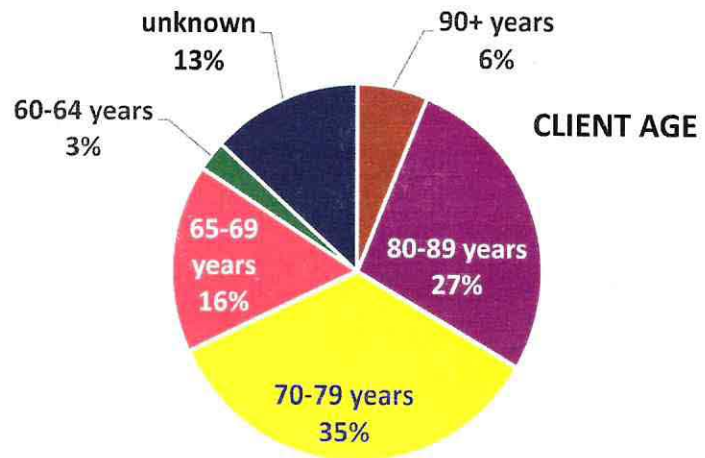
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### Special points of interest

- 4,989 client contacts
- 653 clients served
- Facilitated 7,227 miles of volunteer transportation providing 147 trips
- Served 370 clients during Medicare Part D open enrollment. Also served clients turning 65 throughout the year

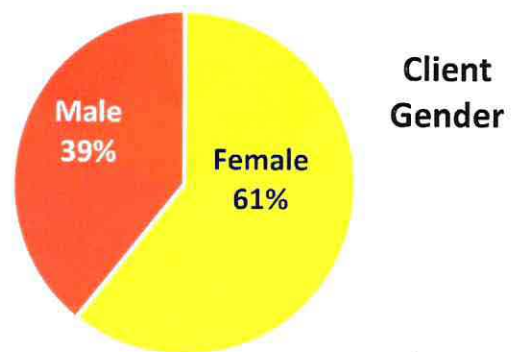
## WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?

Community of Care serves older adults in rural Cass County, ND. The majority of our clients are 65 & older. In 2023, of our 653 clients served, 130 of them were new to Community of Care. All of our services are provided free-of-charge, regardless of a person's economic situation. It is very common for clients to receive multiple services—ex. ride to medical appointment, attendance at a Bone Builder class, review of their Part D and assistance with paperwork (food, fuel or prescription assistance, Medicaid, etc.)



### Service to Clients 2023

Client type	Number	Percentage
Active / Well	531	81.3%
Functional Decline	47	7.2%
Other	10	1.5%
Frail Elderly	18	2.8%
Adult Child	5	0.8%
Chronically Ill	13	2.0%
Disabled	19	2.9%
Professional	1	0.2%
Short - Term Ill	3	0.5%
Terminally Ill	4	0.6%
Other Family	2	0.3%
Spouse	0	0.0%





# 2023 Client Survey Results

## Top Five Concerns—2023

- 1) Exercise
- 2) General Health
- 3) Medicare Part D
- 4) Socialization
- 5) Transportation

## Top Five Interventions—2023

- 1) Exercise
- 2) Health Assessment
- 3) Medicare Part D
- 4) Education
- 5) Transportation

*"Thank you so much!  
Community of Care is the best  
service we have in Casselton!  
Every driver has been so kind!  
I don't know what I would do  
without you!"*

*- Transportation Client*

## Medicare Part D Drug Plan

- 100% reported peace of mind
- 95% reported the service was beneficial or very beneficial
- 50% changed their plans as a result of review—of those who made a change
  - 90% did so to save money
  - 26% did so because meds changed
  - 32% did so because plan changed
- 86% reported independence
- 22% reported they wouldn't review their plan without this service
- 61% reported the services assist them remain in their home
- 100% reported they will return in 2024

## Transportation Client

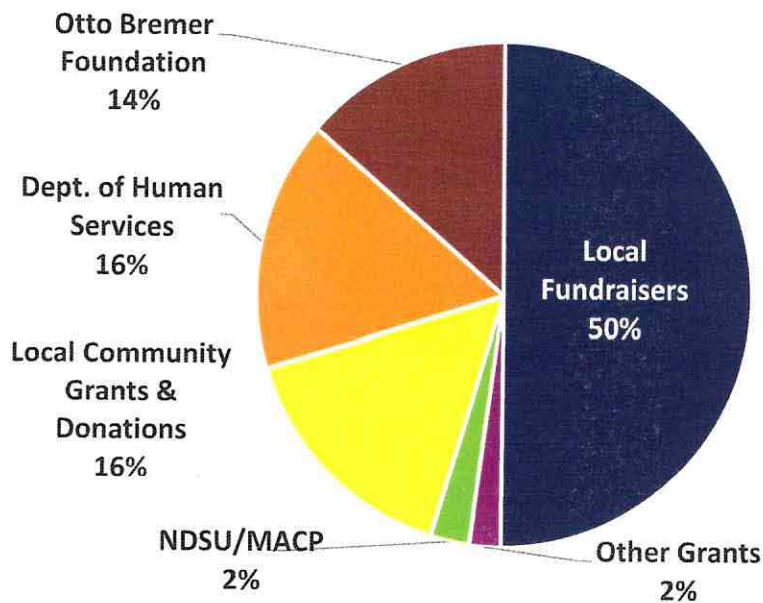
- 24% reported they do not drive
- 59% reported they do not drive in Fargo
- 24% reported they would not attend their medical appointment without the ride
- 94% reported reduced stress
- 65% reported increased social interaction
- 100% reported peace of mind
- 59% reported independence due to ride
- 100% reported the ride assists them to remain in their home

## Economic Impact Survey

- 10.3% of singles & 3.8% of couples reported income is below the poverty line
- 32.4% of singles & 19.6% of couples reported income between 100% & 200% of poverty line
- 57.3% of singles & 76.6% of couples reported income above 200% of poverty line
- Poverty line is \$14,581 for singles & \$19,720 for couples



## 2023 Funding

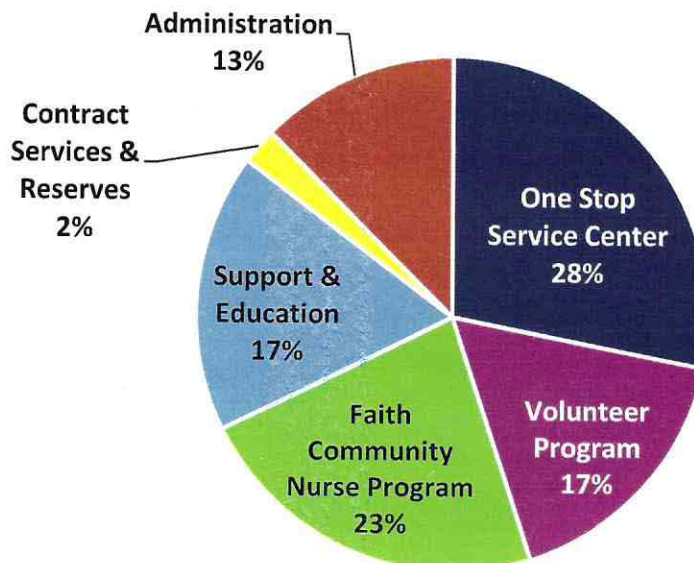


### Grants Received in 2023

Alex Stern Foundation—\$5,000  
 Arthur Area Foundation—\$15,000  
 Casselton Community Fdn.—\$1,000  
 Dakota Medical Fdn.—\$2,000  
 Casselton Medical Fdn.—\$7,500  
 BNSF Fdn—\$2,500

FM Area Foundation—\$4,000  
 ND Dept. of Human Services—\$70,034  
 Operation Round Up —\$2,500  
 NDSU Ext./MACP Consulting—\$11,034  
 Kindred Community Fdn.—\$750  
 Otto Bremer Trust—\$60,000  
 Midco Fdn.—\$1,000

## 2023 Program Budget



## Community of Care Board of Directors

Susan Stibbe —  
Hunter, Chair  
Jill Roden—Casselton,  
Vice Chair  
Joe Moore —Arthur,  
Treasurer  
Mary Gohdes—Mapleton,  
Secretary  
Stacey Cramer—  
Casselton  
Paula Glasow—Davenport  
Karen Hertsgaard—  
Kindred  
Scott Kroeger—Arthur  
Adele Smith—Tower City  
Pam Stirling—Gardner



The average cost  
of a nursing home  
in North Dakota  
in 2023 was  
\$133,838  
(source: ND  
Dept. of Human  
Services)

## ONE STOP SERVICE CENTER



Lauren Prante, Care Coordinator, assists clients with a wide range of concerns. She provides information, referrals, help with paperwork (food/fuel/prescription assistance & Medicaid), advance care

plans, care coordination, assistance arranging for in-home services/equipment & assistance for adult children of aging parents.

Lauren and two trained volunteers provided Medicare Part D enrollment appointments in Arthur, Casselton and Horace. During 2023 Medicare Part D open enrollment, they provided the following services:

- 370 clients served
- Total savings was \$573,870
- Average savings was \$1,151/client

Lauren assists numerous clients during the year as they turn 65 and make choices regarding Social Security, Medicare and Medicare Part D.



Socialization is important for the health of older adults. In summer 2023, Lauren planned picnics in Leonard & at Bremer Lake, an outing to a RedHawks game, the Page Theater outing (attendees received flowers from Hope Blooms as a surprise). Older adults from throughout rural Cass attend the socialization events.





## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers are essential to our ability to serve our clients' needs. In 2023, volunteers served in the following way: Transportation volunteers, Board of Directors, Bone Builder class leaders, Medicare Part D, Health Cabinet, Fundraising committees, newsletter assembly, Wellness Fair student volunteers, Pen Pal Project, Fun With Tech & nursing practicum.

24% of our clients reported they no longer drive & 59% reported they do not drive in Fargo. A ride to their medical appointment is a vital element in older adults ability to remain in their rural

Cass homes. Without the ride, they would likely not receive the medical care they require or they would have to move.

In 2023, a total of 303 individuals volunteered in some aspect of our programming.

The following Volunteer Program services were provided in 2022:

- 7,227 miles & 339 hours provided for medical transportation
  - 147 rides facilitated to medical appointments
  - 8,160 miles & 2,159 hours provided by board of directors and other volunteers
  - Total economic impact of Volunteer Services in 2023 was \$92,625.



## FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM



Gwen Fraase & Cindi Godbout serve as part-time Faith Community Nurses (FCNs) in northern Cass & Casselton. They provide personalized visits to help clients understand medical conditions, physician's orders & medications.

FCNs facilitate Bone Builder exercise classes in 6 locations—Arthur, Casselton, Harwood, Horace, Hunter & Kindred. They also provide blood pressure screenings, Advance Care Plans & coordinate the Pen Pal/Journal project with Central Cass & Northern Cass school

students (picture at right)

Health Cabinets in northern Cass & Casselton help identify local needs & plan events with the FCNs. The Casselton Health Cabinet sponsored a Wellness Screening Fair in September 2023. Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy & Speech Therapy students from local colleges provided screenings.

Cindi facilitated a monthly Alzheimer's support group in Casselton. FCNs & Care Coordinator installed lifelines for clients.





## GIVING HEARTS DAY, TOTALLY TABLES, CAR/BIKE CRUISE & RURAL CASS ROOTS CAMPAIGN

Community of Care's programs & services are provided Free-Of-Charge, thanks to support from local individuals, businesses & organizations, as well as the grantors listed on page 4. Local donors and grantors provided 60% of our income in 2023.

We had 384 donors on Giving Hearts Day, which included \$30,400 in match donations from 14 individuals & groups.

The 16th annual Totally Tables was a record breaking year. The event included twelve \$1,000 table sponsors and \$21,000 in Fund-A-Need matching funds.

Our 11th annual car & bike cruise received sponsorship from 24 sponsors.

We transitioned our Membership to the Rural Cass Roots Campaign in 2023. Donors from rural Cass, as well as those whose "roots" are in rural Cass provided \$32,679 towards our mission. In addition, we received \$24,761 in charitable contributions in 2023 (memorials, donations, etc.)



### Community of Care Staff

**Myrna Hanson**—Executive Director

**Lauren Prante**—Care Coordinator

**Cindi Godbout**—Casselon Faith Community  
Nurse

**Gwen Fraase**—Northern Cass Faith  
Community Nurse

**Tammy Schempp**—Volunteer Coordinator

**Natalie Keller**—Bookkeeper



### Pictures:

- **Above**—Buffalo Creek Equipment, People's Choice Award Winner at Totally Tables
- **Left**—Volunteers promoting Giving Hearts Day
- **Below**—Car & Bike Cruise participants





## 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Community of Care celebrated our 20th anniversary in 2023. Community celebrations were held, along with a dinner for current and former board members and staff. Judy Ryan, the President of the Good Samaritan Society had a vision in 2023 to create a program to assist older adults remain in their rural homes. When Community of Care began as a pilot project of the Good Samaritan Society, the goal was to fill gaps in services and base programs on local needs. For 20 years, we have continued that vision, along with providing all of our programs & services Free-Of-Charge. The Board of Directors and staff continue to evaluate and expand programs based on local community needs and look forward to the next 20 years of assisting older adults remain in their rural Cass County homes as long as safely possible.



Dr. Judy Ryan & Myrna Hanson,



Jane Strommen & Deb Coalter, first employees with Myrna Hanson



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION—October 2023





WINTER 2024



# Community of Care

*"Caring for our older adults by partnering with rural communities"*

## COMMUNITIES SERVED

Absaraka  
Alice  
Amenia  
Argusville  
Arthur  
Ayr  
Buffalo  
Casselton  
Chaffee  
Davenport  
Durbin  
Embden  
Erie  
Gardner  
Grandin  
Harwood  
Hickson  
Horace  
Hunter  
Kindred  
Leonard  
Lynchberg  
Mapleton  
Page  
Prosper  
Tower City  
Wheatland

*"Caring for our older adults by partnering with rural communities"*



At a recent strategic planning meeting, the board of directors and staff identified these values to guide our mission. We are dedicated to treating older adults with **RESPECT, COMPASSION & DIGNITY**, while recognizing they have **WORTH & WISDOM**. Ensuring they are **SAFE** in their homes and providing services **FREE OF CHARGE** are key values to our mission.



## YOUR SUPPORT HELPS OLDER ADULTS LIKE HELEN REMAIN IN THE RURAL HOME THEY LOVE.

At Community of Care, we provide holistic care for older adults like Helen. You might wonder what that means for Helen and others living in rural Cass County. Helen receives assistance through all of our programs. Our Faith Community Nurse, Cindi, visits her to help Helen understand her health conditions and doctor's orders. Many dedicated volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments—all facilitated by our Volunteer Coordinator, Tammy. Helen is very grateful for the rides and the wonderful service provided by our volunteers. She also visits with our Care Coordinator, Lauren, to review her Medicare Part D drug plan and complete applications for things like fuel assistance and help with her medications. When asked what Community of Care means to her, Helen replied *"It means I can stay in my home. I appreciate all you do for me. This year I've had many rides to appointments, the volunteers are all so good and kind. My family appreciates the rides too. They can't take off work to bring me to all my appointments. I'm thankful for everything you do for me."*



**YOUR donations provide services for Helen & older adults throughout rural Cass FREE OF CHARGE!**

Helen is just one example of the clients we serve in rural Cass. She, like many clients, receive assistance in all of our program areas. Others receive assistance in one or two program areas. *Regardless of how many services we provide, they remain FREE OF CHARGE to help older adults continue to say, "There's no place like HOME in rural Cass County!"*

## VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION TEAM

For many of our older adult clients, a ride to a medical appointment is a vital element in their ability to remain in their rural



home. **Do YOU have a heart to volunteer, time to provide a ride and a reliable vehicle?** We would love to add you to our Volunteer Team. Give our Volunteer Coordinator, Tammy a call at (701) 347-0032 to learn more. You can volunteer as your schedule allows. We would LOVE to add some farmer's to our team during the winter months to fill in for our snowbirds!



At our strategic planning session in July, the Board of Directors and Staff updated our Vision Statement.

**Community of Care provides Advocacy, Compassion and Empathy so older adults feel respected and remain in their homes as long as safely possible (our ACE in the hole).**

*What does that mean for our clients:*

- **ADVOCACY** – we are a voice for older adults to ensure they are heard. We are also a role model for North Dakota to care for older adults.
- **COMPASSION** – we recognize the needs of older adults and provide programs & services to meet those needs.
- **EMPATHY** – we serve with patience and understanding to validate their needs. We treat seniors as we would want our own parents to be treated.



Our **"ACE"** in the hole



## HEALTH CORNER

At the annual CBA Senior Day, our speaker Tim Peterson encouraged attendees to "take a trip through their home." As a licensed Occupational Therapist, Tim Peterson, shared information about things to consider in and around your home to keep you safe. He provided a checklist to review for safety concerns in your home. These are a few items to consider:

- Are there broken or uneven steps
- Is there adequate overhead lighting
- Do you have handrails on both sides of the stair & are they securely attached
- Are there throw rugs causing fall hazards
- Do you have grab bars in the bathroom and non-slip rubber mat on the floor of the tub or shower



*The checklist is available on our website or by contacting our office. A few simple upgrades and changes can provide safety for you in your home and prevent falls. Adult children of aging parents, you will find the checklist beneficial to care for your parents.*



## FUN ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER & FALL

Bingo in Kindred, RedHawks Game & Movie at the Page theater provided fun outings for area residents.



**The annual Casselton Business Association (CBA) Sr. Day** was held on October 1st. The day included displays from local agencies



serving older adults, lunch provided by CBA & door prizes. Tim Peterson, Occupational Therapist

presented on "Safety Concerns for Your Home" & Roxanne Wells from ND Assistive presented on "Adaptive Equipment for Your Home" to the 110 seniors in attendance.

**The Health Fair in Arthur & Wellness Screening Fair in Casselton** provided important information for area residents. In Arthur, organizations serving older adults provided displays to share information. At the Casselton Wellness Screening Fair, nursing



& pharmacy students from NDSU, Social Work students from

MSUM, Dietetics students from Concordia and Physical Therapist, Amanda Gunkel, provided a wide range of screenings for attendees.

## A FEW REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD CALL COMMUNITY OF CARE

- You are an older adult or adult child of an aging parent in rural Cass County
- To visit with a Faith Community Nurse about your health condition, physician's orders or medications
- To visit with our Care Coordinator to review your Medicare Part D, receive help with paperwork (food, fuel, Medicaid applications) or to secure in-home equipment/assistance
- To receive a ride to your medical appointment
- Assistance completing an Advance Care Plan
- Help to find resources to care for your aging parents



Right: Volunteer Ken Astrup walks his passenger back to her apartment, Gwen Fraase checks a blood pressure in the Arthur Mall & Charley Rose checks a clients blood pressure in Kindred.



## JOIN A BONE BUILDER CLASS AT ONE OF THESE LOCATIONS. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



- Arthur Methodist Church—Monday & Thursday at 9:45 AM
- Casselton City Hall—Tuesday & Thursday at 2 PM
- Davenport Old School—Monday & Thursday at 9:30 AM
- Harwood Community Center—Tuesday & Thursday at 1 PM
- Horace Senior Center—Monday & Thursday at 10 AM
- Hunter Insurance Building—Monday & Thursday at 10 AM
- Kindred City Hall—Monday & Friday at 10:30 AM



The 13th annual Car & Bike Cruise was held on July 28th. We cruised to Bergeson Nursery near Fertile, MN. THANK YOU to everyone who participated and to our sponsors listed on page 10.



[www.communityofcarend.com](http://www.communityofcarend.com)

[www.facebook.com/  
communityofcarend](https://www.facebook.com/communityofcarend)



**Volunteer Appreciation** was held on September 19th at the Leonard Country Club. The evening is an opportunity to thank our volunteers for their important role in our mission. We have volunteers serving in multiple capacities—board of directors, transportation, bone builder leaders, health cabinets, Medicare Part D enrollment, fundraising committee, newsletter assistance and spring clean-up.

*Thank you volunteers for all you do for our clients!!*



*We love  
OUR  
Volunteers*





## YOU CAN HELP OLDER ADULTS REMAIN IN THEIR HOME WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY OR AS PART OF YOUR LEGACY

- **Make a donation to our Rural Cass Roots Campaign**—will you invite someone with Rural Cass “roots” to join you in supporting older adults “back home”
- **Make a donation to our CROPS FOR CARE PROGRAM**—area growers can donate bushels of your crop to Community of Care. Check with your tax preparer to learn about the tax benefits from a commodity donation
- **Is it challenging to find a birthday or Christmas gift for an older adult in your life**—make a donation in their honor
- **Donate a gift of appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares**—talk to your financial advisor to learn about the tax advantages
- **Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution**—if you are 73 or older, you can make a donation from your IRA directly to a charity (this can meet your Required Minimum Distribution requirement). This type of donation provides tax benefits for you or your family in your Legacy Planning
- **Make Community of Care a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance**—you can reduce or eliminate federal estate and income taxes for your family by donating directly to a charitable organization. You can designate part or all of your IRA or life insurance
- **Make a donation to Community of Care’s Endowment**—North Dakota residents can receive credits for your state taxes through donations to qualified endowments

*Contact your financial advisor or tax preparer to learn how to leave a legacy to help older adults remain in the rural Cass County homes and communities they love.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Seated: Karen Hertsgaard - Kindred, Paula Glasow - Davenport, Susan Stibbe - Co-chair Hunter, Jill Roden- Vice chair Casselton, Adele Smith-Tower City. Standing: Mary Gohdes - Secretary Mapleton, Pam Stirling - Grandin, Scott Kroeger - Co-chair & Treasurer Arthur, Stacey Cramer - Casselton, Kristi Richman - Argusville, Michelle Thompson - Page*





Dear Friends,

"Roots" are important for crops, gardens and flowers. "Roots" are also a part of us as individuals. **Our "roots" helped to shape our values, traditions, friendships and sense of belonging.**

Community of Care's "roots" are firmly planted in rural Cass County, they run deep! For 21 years, we have been establishing and strengthening our "roots". **Community of Care's "roots" include our clients, volunteers, donors, local cheerleaders, and all who have helped us grow and thrive for 21 years! YOU are part of our "roots" in rural Cass.**



**Community of Care's values are also part of our "roots". Our VALUES guide our mission—**  
**Serve with Compassion & Respect, Services remain Free-Of-Charge, Ensure Safety for our clients,**  
**Treat Clients With Dignity & Recognize Older Adults Have Worth & Wisdom.**

**Our "roots" run deep in rural Cass County!** Those "roots" continue to produce a "bountiful harvest" of helping older adults remain in their homes as long as safely possible. **Thanks to the support of our donors, an exciting new additions to our "roots" in 2024 was the addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> part-time Faith Community Nurse in the Kindred, Davenport & Leonard area.** The addition of this position is producing wonderful results and strengthening our "roots" in the southern portion of rural Cass County. On page 4, you will find a list of some of the other programs your Rural Cass Roots campaign donation supports.

**In 2023, we transitioned from the annual Membership Drive to our Rural Cass Roots campaign as our annual drive to support Community of Care. We invite you to join in the Rural Cass Roots campaign, we have several giving options:**

- Mail a check in the enclosed envelope
- Click the blue **DONATE** button at [www.communityofcarend.com](http://www.communityofcarend.com)
- Scan the QR code to donate online
- Text the word **Roots** to (701) 645-6848
- **YOUR partnership will ensure our programs and services are Free-Of-Charge for older adults in rural Cass.**



**Our Rural Cass Roots Campaign is running from now through the end of 2024.**  
**Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to ensure our services remain Free-Of-Charge**

We anticipate serving 650+ adults from throughout rural Cass County in 2024. YOUR partnership helps them remain in the homes and communities they LOVE.

Sincerely,

Myrna Hanson  
Executive Director

Susan Stibbe  
Board Co-Chair

Scott Kroeger  
Board Co-Chair

**PS. We ask you to tell others with "roots" in rural Cass to join you in helping older adults remain in the homes they love. They can support friends, family, and neighbors "back home" in rural Cass!**





# DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

**October 16, 2023 - October 15, 2024**

*THANK YOU to everyone who has supported our mission during the last year. In this newsletter, we are reporting donors in categories based upon the level of their total giving the last 12 month (this is a new way of reporting donations). For each category, names are listed alphabetically. Donations include Totally Tables, Giving Hearts Day, Car & Bike Cruise, Charitable Contributions, Crops for Care and Memorials. The memorials donated since May are listed separately on page 9, previous memorials were listed in the summer newsletter.*

## HARVEST

### TOTAL DONATIONS OF \$1,000+

Anonymous  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
Alex Stern Foundation  
Anonymous  
BankNorth  
James and Barbara Williams  
BCBS Caring Foundation  
BJ and Wade Wilson  
Bob and Anne Pyle  
Bob Miller  
Bob Runk  
Border States Electric  
Brad and Mary McIntyre  
Bryan and Jane Strommen  
Cass County Electric Cooperative  
Cass County Electric - Rural Development  
Finance Corporation  
Cass County Farm Bureau  
Casselton Area Community Foundation  
Casselton Community Medical Center  
Cathy Merhiy  
Clarence Johnson & Eunice Iwen  
Community Foundation  
Connor Larson  
Dacotah Bank  
Dakota Medical Foundation  
Dan and Mary Zimmerman  
Dave and Marie Piper  
David and Jan McNair  
Dawn & Joe Moore  
Derek Flaten  
Doug and Kathryn Burgum  
Duane and Paula McIntyre  
Essentia Health Marketing  
FM Area Foundation  
Glen and Melissa Grommesh  
Good Samaritan Society Arthur  
Hagen Dental  
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Jerry & Brooke Cook  
Jerry's Excavating  
Jim & Gwen Howe  
Julie Burgum  
Julie Williams Barner  
Keith and Cathy Peltier  
Kevin and Betty Skunes  
Kyler Peterson - Edward Jones  
Lester & Jody Hensley  
St. John's Lutheran  
Maple River Grain & Agronomy, LLC  
Mark & Joan Ottis  
Marlyce Pyle  
Medica Foundation  
Michael and Katie Howe  
Myrna Hanson  
ND Dept. of Human Services  
Operation Round-Up (CCEC)  
Otto Bremer Trust  
Petro Serve USA  
Polar Communications  
Prairie Scale Systems, Inc.  
Rick and Jody Burgum  
Sanford Health  
Scott Kroeger  
Sonja Jensen  
Susan Stibbe  
Swanks Car Club  
Titan Machinery (West Fargo)  
Veterans Incorporated  
Waslien Cramer Agency  
West Funeral Homes & Life Tribute Center

Brett & Katie Itterman  
Casselton Ministerial Association  
Casselton Pizza Ranch, Inc.  
Casselton United Methodist Church  
Charities Aid Foundation of America  
Cody Cashman  
Corey and Bev Bjortness  
Craig and Karen Hertsgaard  
Craig and Laura Olson  
Dale & Lori Bjerke  
Dallas & Paula Glasow  
Eric and Kristi Richman  
First Western Bank & Trust  
Fredrikson Funeral Home  
Gary & Connie Bakken  
George and Marilyn Loegering  
Gordy's, Inc.  
Greg and Deb Gebeke  
Herby Lutheran  
Irene Sinner  
Jayne Krabbenhoft  
John and Sarah Hejl  
Justin and Renae Forde  
Ken and Cindy Hejl  
Kindred Community Foundation  
Lako Drilling, Inc.  
Maple Sheyenne Lutheran Church  
Marc and Kristen Hackmann  
Mark & Jane Kingsley  
Matthew & Erin Moxness  
Max Steffes  
Mike and Pam Nelson  
ND Soybean Processors, LLC  
OnSharp  
Paige Bjornson  
Patrick Kirby  
Patrick and Chelsie Skunes  
Peterson Farms Seed  
Prairie Winds Veterinary Center  
Randy & Michelle Thompson  
Richard and Karen Smith  
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Robin Sproul  
Ron & Gwen Fraase  
Russell and Melinda Ruliffson  
Scott and Karen Kost  
Sinner Bros. & Bresnahan  
Steve & Joan Carvell  
Steve & Sharon Miller  
Steven Weippert  
Tall Towers Aviation  
Todd & Kelly Mondry  
Tom and Jill Roden  
Travis Tuinstra  
Zesty Pelican Seasoning, LLC

## ACRE

### TOTAL GIFTS OF \$250 - \$499

4 Corners Senior Citizens  
ADM Edible Bean Specialties, Inc.  
Adrian and Susan Keiffer  
Agveris Inc  
Alana & Todd Sears  
Arthur United Methodist Church  
Brad and Erin Olstad  
Buffalo Senior Citizens  
Casselton Cold Storage  
Casselton Drug, INC.  
Chad and Trish Priewe  
Chaffee Lions  
Char Gust  
Cris and Scott Stokke  
Dakota Heritage Bank  
Dale & Jerri Rust  
Darin and Carmen Sorenson  
David and June Calderwood  
David Rostad  
Delvin Losing  
Dennis and Adele Smith  
DMF Member Match  
Doug and Nancy Rensvold  
Doug Tehven  
Duane & Paula McIntyre

Erickson Tax Services LLC  
Holt Landscape Construction INC.  
Howe Seed Farms  
Hunter Insurance  
James & Judith Bradshaw  
Jerry & Rhonda Lindseth  
Jim Guy  
Joan Eberhardt  
John and Jan Irby  
John McConnell  
JTD Construction, LLC  
Ken and Nancy Hagen  
Kenneth & Linda Astrup  
Kevin and Emily Karel  
Kindred Lutheran Church  
Lana Kaufman  
Linda Fiedler  
LuAnn Hanson  
Magda Audimoolam  
Maple Creek Farm Ranch  
Mapleton Lions  
McIntyre Pyle, Inc.  
Mid America Steel  
Moore Engineering, Inc.  
Nancy Egeberg  
Ohnstad Twichell P.C.  
Page Seed & Agronomy LLC  
Paul & Jan Faught  
Puklich Chevrolet Buick GMC  
Rand and Anne Nyberg  
Rebecca Brandt  
Rod and Jan Brekken  
Russell & Joyce Hest  
Ryan & Kristi Schultz  
Scott and Stacey Cramer  
Teresa Duffy  
Tim and Karen Kensok  
Todd and Ann Ellison  
Walter and Pearl Richtsmeier  
Weber Insurance Agency, Inc.

## SPROUT

### TOTAL GIFTS OF \$100 - \$249

A Jane Sinner  
Accountability LLC  
AJ Wodrich  
Alan & Katie Lako  
Alan Butts  
Amy King  
Arnold and Julie Bankers  
Barb Viestenz  
Bernie and Bonnie Sinner  
Bill & Mary Beth Engelke  
Bill Kent  
Bob and Tammy Schempp  
Brad Hohnadel and Rick Valentine  
Bremer Bank  
Brenda and Scott Radloff  
Brent and Boots Montgomery  
Brent Rust  
Brian & Kim Nelson  
Brian & Lisa Roach  
Bruce Jorgenson  
Bud's Electric  
Car Doctor  
Carl and Phyllis Paulson  
Carlene Paulson & Roger Willers  
Carol Meyers  
Carol Nilles  
Casselton Rural Ambulance District  
Casselton Veterinary Service, Inc.  
Center for Plastic Surgery  
CG design  
Cheryl Miller  
Christie Danielson  
Cindy Larson-Casselton  
Cindy Yeager  
Colleen Buhr  
Dale & Loree Halverson  
Dana and Scott Hager  
Dane & Kris Larsen  
Darin and Kim Ziemer  
David and Kim Giermann  
David and Ardell Strand  
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Dennis and Sharon Nelson  
Dianne Moore  
DJ Plumbing  
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Don Baumgarten  
Donald & Mary Ellen Nilles  
Donald & Mary Jane Paul  
Donna Monteith  
Douglas Anderson  
Duane & Merle Egeberg  
Duane and Madge Dows  
Dusty's Bar & Grill  
Ed & Janet McConnell  
Elizabeth Georgeson  
Emma Swenson  
Father James Ermer  
Gary and Joan Lee  
Gary and Judy Burchill  
Gerald Marcks  
Glen Pueppke  
Grace Peterson  
Grandin Presbyterian Church  
Grandin Presbyterian Women  
Greg & Diana Lanz  
Harriet Vining  
Harvey and Mary Morken  
Hickson Community Club  
Hubert Seiler  
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Jeff and Jill Zaun  
Jeff and Marilyn Prochnow  
Jennifer Anderson  
Jennifer Oakland  
Jerome & Jean Flitschock  
Jessa Werner  
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Joe and Robin Morken  
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John and Diane Boyle  
John and Margaret Olson  
John and Maxine Rognlien  
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Jon Heyerman  
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Judy Lee  
Judy Orvik  
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Kerm and Shirley Nedrebo  
Kevin & Debra Liebenow  
Kevin & Lee Ann Kingsley  
Kevin Moore  
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Kraig Bittner and Leah Boock  
Kyle Giermann  
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Larry & Lois Gangnes  
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Lee Fraase  
Linda Bakke  
Linda Miller  
Linda Schultz  
Linda Thomas  
Lisa Rasmussen  
Livestock Marketing Association  
Lois Gurnsey  
Lori & Elvis Kadrmars  
Lori Satrom  
Margaret Kensok  
Margaret Sinner  
Mark & Brendy Jossund

## BUSHEL

### TOTAL GIFTS OF \$500 - \$999

Agri Valley Insurance  
Aim Ag and Drainage  
Alan and Katie Lako  
Alex and Mary Richard  
Andrea & Tom Nelson  
Bill and Marlo Janson  
Bonanza Agronomy Services



Mark & Donna Richtsmeier  
 Mark and Jadene Weber  
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 Mary and Cole Jendro  
 Mert & Shelle Palmer  
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 Mike and Beth Kobbervig  
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 Mike Sjursen  
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 Norma Peltier  
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 Veronica & Rick Fleming  
 Vertin Company  
 Virgil and Darcy Schulz  
 Wayne and Sharon Olson  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church

## SEED

## TOTAL GIFTS OF \$1 - \$99

4e Winery  
 Aaron Larson  
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 Alex and Mary Richard  
 Alfred & Sharon Johnson  
 Alisha Ankers  
 Alvin and Carol Lien  
 Alvin Nagel  
 Amy Bush  
 Anchor Ingredients  
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 Andrew and Danielle Fraase  
 April Nesemeier  
 Ardith Brunt  
 Arlo & Doris Anderson  
 Arnold and Barbara Buhr  
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 Audrey Roach  
 August & Marlys Pfingsten  
 Barbara Rude  
 Barry & Laurel Bowman  
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 Ben Olson  
 Bernice Peihl  
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 Betty Fraase  
 Betty Lou Stallman  
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 Bev & Mike Zelinski  
 Bev Jager

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 Bill & Sonia Buchholz  
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 Bruce Aarsvold  
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 Butch & Corinne Jirak  
 Carl Bubolz  
 Carol Radermacher  
 Carol, Brian, Tori, Eowyn & Desmond  
 Harbeke  
 Carole Meyers  
 Caroline Hansen  
 Carolyn Pfeifer  
 Carolyn Prante  
 Catherine Punton Wilson  
 Char and Craig King  
 Charlene Ekeland  
 Charles Larson  
 Charley Rose  
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 Dain Miller  
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 Dale Lincoln  
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 David Gronlie and Kimberly Staples  
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 Elise Bolt  
 Ellen Sterner  
 Ellie Williams  
 Elwood and Mary Lou Gunderson  
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 Ethel Dewan  
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 Greg Schwalk  
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 Harriet Griffin  
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 IP Insurance Agency  
 Irene Roe  
 Jane & Jerry Christiansen  
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 Janice Diemert  
 Janice Horgeshimer  
 Jayne Mathson  
 Jean & Greg Wilcox  
 Jean Johnson  
 Jeana Marshall  
 Jeanette Haugen  
 Jeff and Joanne Seifert  
 Jeff and Sheila Turner  
 Jenae Hansen  
 Jennifer Jacobson  
 Jerry & Kim Flitschock  
 Jessica Offerman  
 Jill Moore  
 Jim & Jody Nelson  
 Jim and Deb Tarvestad  
 Jim and Pam Foss  
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 Jim Von Eckhout  
 Joann Radermacher  
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 Jodi Dube  
 John and Stacy Bergquist  
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 Julie Wicklund  
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 Killoran Trucking LLC  
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 Kim Fosse  
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 Larry and Margaret Hoffmann  
 Larry and Sue Butler  
 Laura Stone  
 Leah Fujimoto and Mark Jensen  
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 Lesly Havelange  
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 Lila Hutchinson  
 Linda Sell  
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 Lori Schmidt  
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 Lynn Bartholomay  
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 Marcene & Bill Hoffmann  
 Marcia Paulson  
 Marilyn Henderson  
 Marilyn Thompson  
 Marilyn Vetter  
 Mark and Brendy Jossund  
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 Mark and Cindy Voss  
 Marlin Foss  
 Marlyn Nudell  
 Marlys Giermann  
 Marlys Richtsmeier  
 Marvin Gutknecht  
 Mary Hanson  
 Matthew Miller  
 Megan Wiens  
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Michael G Rasmusson  
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 Ron & Gwen Mueller  
 Ron and Shirley Sell  
 Ronald and Gloria Porter  
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 Ryan Toop  
 Sadie Gohdes  
 Sandra Holmstrom  
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 Sandra Nystrom  
 Sarah & Eric Christl  
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 Scott Peterson  
 Sharon Query  
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 Sharon Toop  
 Sheila Krueger  
 Shelly Weidner  
 Sheryl Mears  
 Shirley Johnston  
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 Stacie Loegering  
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 Tanya Schatzke  
 Teresa Tallackson  
 Terry & Shari Krchnavy  
 Terry Meyer  
 Terryl Miller  
 Thomas Kosir  
 Tim and Kerri Schneider  
 Tim and Marcia Rose  
 Tim and Stacey McLean  
 Tish Skarloken  
 Tom & Roxi Bresnahan  
 Tom and Patty Monilaws  
 Tracie Zau  
 Tyler and Jane Lindemann  
 Van Hal Financial  
 Virginia Schobinger  
 Wade & Michelle Anderson  
 Wanda Borchert  
 Wayne and Bonnie Oberlander  
 Weber Insurance Agency  
 Wendy Conner  
 William and Darla Jackson  
 Zachary & Lauren Prante





## CAR & BIKE CRUISE \$1,000 SPONSORS



**CASSELTON VETS CLUB**

FOOD - DRINKS - GAMING



Helping America Fuel Better®



## \$500 SPONSORS

Casselton Pizza Ranch  
Peterson Farms Seed  
Prairie Winds Veterinary Center

## \$250 SPONSORS

ADM  
Casselton Cold Storage  
Chaffee Lions  
Harold Lemar - H & S Painting  
Howe Seed Farms  
Hunter Grain Company  
Moore Engineering, Inc.  
Ohstad Twichell P.C.  
Puklich Chevrolet Buick GMC  
Weber Insurance Agency, Inc.

## \$125 SPONSORS

Dusty's

## \$125 SPONSORS

Bud's Electric  
Car Doctor  
Casselton Veterinary Service, Inc.  
CG designs  
Davis Chiropractic  
DJ Plumbing  
Foss Shop  
Polar Communications  
Unity Seed Company

## THANK YOU FOR THE GRANTS RECEIVED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

North Dakota Department of Human Services  
Alex Stern Foundation  
BCBS Caring Foundation  
Cass County Electric - Rural Development  
Finance Corporation  
Casselton Area Community Foundation  
Clarence Johnson & Eunice Iwen Community  
Foundation  
Kindred Community Foundation  
Medica Health Plans Foundation  
ND Community Foundation/Otto Bremer Trust  
Operation Round-Up (Cass County Electric)





# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUM

**May 1, 2024 through October 15, 2024**

*Thank you to everyone who donated in honor or memory of someone.*

**In Memory of Beverly Webster**

Margaret Kensok

**In Memory of Bill Zimmerman**

Norman and Elaine Heidorn

Kenneth & Bonnie Hochhalter

Floyd & Louise Longlet

**In Memory of Bob Von Bank**

David and June Calderwood

Richard & Karen Smith

Lauryl & Marvin Morlock

**In Memory of Brian Johnson**

Virginia Schobinger

**In Memory of Charolette Hagen**

Mert & Shelle Palmer

Arnold and Barbara Buhr

In Memory of Donna Linke

Dallas & Paula Glasow

**In Memory of Dorothy Johnson**

Virginia Schobinger

**In Memory of Dorothy Langer**

Roland & Karen Priewe

**In Memory of Duane Grieger**

Roland & Karen Priewe

Floyd & Louise Longlet

**In Memory of DuWayne Ellison**

Larry & Lois Gangnes

Pamela Offerdahl

Larry and Margaret Hoffmann

Ilene and Ken McLean

Keith and Mary Gohdes

Tom and Jill Roden

Duane & Paula McIntyre

Dane & Kris Larsen

Roland & Karen Priewe

Gail Bakko

Jane & Jerry Christiansen

Mike & Ann Faught

Mike & Pam Nelson

Dale & Loree Halverson

**In Memory of Ernie Krabbenhoft**

Dale & Phyllis Lincoln

**In Memory of Garnet DeVine**

Susan Stibbe

**In Memory of Gene Belling**

Butch Huwe

**In Memory of Glenda Abel**

Lila Hutchinson

**In Memory of Hans Wallen**

Kenneth & Bonnie Hochhalter

**In Memory of Harriet Dimmer**

Teresa Tallackson

**In Memory of Janet Welk**

Dale & Loree Halverson

**In Memory of Janice Boyce**

Brett & Loree Jegtvig

Mike and Pam Nelson

**In Memory of Joe Hand Sr.**

Dale & Loree Halverson

**In Memory of John Whittier**

Susan Stibbe

Maggie Foster

Jim & Gwen Howe

**In Memory of Joseph Harbeke**

Arnold and Barbara Buhr

Carol, Brian, Tori, Eowyn & Desmond Harbeke

Jim & Gwen Howe

Susan Stibbe

**In Memory of Judy Orteiz**

Mert & Shelle Palmer

**In Memory of Kathy Hawken**

James and Barbara Williams

**In Memory of Larry Pietsch**

Lynn Bartholomay

**In Memory of Lucille Kingsley**

Dale & Loree Halverson

Don and Karen Giermann

Lynn Bartholomay

Richard & Karen Faught

Mark & Jane Kingsley

David Warrey

Duane & Paula McIntyre

Eva Vining

Barry & Laurel Bowman

Ilene and Ken McLean

Rebecca Kinsley

Dorene Nelson

Ron and Faye Kingsley

Ed & Janet McConnell

Margaret Kensok

Grace Peterson

Robert & Sharon Stevens

Harvey and Mary Morken

Myrna Hanson

Larry and Margaret Hoffmann

Mike and Pam Nelson

**In Memory of Lynn Kensok**

Donald & Mary Ellen Nilles

**In Memory of Marlon Smith**

Margaret Kensok

**In Memory of Marvin Ries**

Richard and Karen Smith

Virginia Schobinger

**In Memory of Richard Forderer**

Dale & Loree Halverson

**In Memory of Rick Keller**

Cindee Ness

Mark & Brendy Jossund

Randolph & Barbara Peterson

Greg & Diana Lanz

Rick & Beth Mohan

Kylee Lisburg

Michael Hayes & Lana Waters

**In Memory of Sherri Johnson**

Bob and Tammy Schempp

**In Honor of Kent and Patty Smith's 50th Anniversary**

Mike Krabbenhoft

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**GIVING HEARTS DAY IS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025!**

Mark your calendar and watch for more details in early 2025. **We invite YOU to invite others to join you in being a Giving Heart.** It might be your neighbors, family or friends who live in rural Cass or have rural Cass County roots. **Invite them to support HOME!**

**Communityofcarend.com**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 18TH  
ANNUAL TOTALLY TABLES**

**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025**  
**St. Leo's Spirit of Life Center—Casselton**

The theme for our 2025 Totally Tables is "There's No Place Like Home." Get your creative juices flowing to plan your table. Home can mean many things—place, sport, movie, etc. You will want to be a part of the fun at our signature fundraiser. **If you want to reserve your table now, contact Lauren at 967-8502.**



**CommunityofCareND**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
1/13/2025

Provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

3:07 p.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Additional funding
- Limitation to Cass County
- How to promote grants

3:07 p.m. Chairman Lee opened discussion with committee.

3:16 p.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
1/15/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

11:03 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

### Discussion Topics:

- Appropriations to counties

11:10 a.m. Senator Roers motioned Do Pass.

11:10 a.m. Senator Hogan seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

11:12 Motion passed 6-0-0.

11:16 a.m. Senator Lee will carry the bill.

11:16 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**SB 2138 ([25.0381.02000](#))**

**Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2138 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

**2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2138**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
1/20/2025

A Bill for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

11:14 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Dever, Senators Cleary, Davison, Magrum, and Mathern

### Discussion Topics:

- Cass County Community of Care Program
- Provide Care at Home for Elderly
- Appointment Transportation
- Future Expansion
- Program Unawareness

11:14 a.m. Senator Mark Weber, bill sponsor, testified in favor.

11:25 a.m. Josh Askvig, AARP, testified neutral.

11:28 a.m. Senator Davison moved to adopt an amendment LC 25.0381.02001 and submitted testimony #32481.

11:45 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

### Roll Call Vote:

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y

Motion passed. 5-0-0.

11:47 a.m. Senator Dever closed the hearing.

*Joan Bares, Committee Clerk*

1-27-25

25.0381.02001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senate Appropriations - Human  
Resources Division Committee  
January 20, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### SENATE BILL NO. 2138

Introduced by

Senators Weber, Cleary, Klein, Lee

Representatives Beltz, Pyle

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services
- 2 for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

### 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**
- 5 **GRANT FUNDING FOR ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.** There is
- 6 appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise
- 7 appropriated, the sum of ~~\$250,000~~ \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to
- 8 the department of health and human services for the purpose of ~~increasing~~ providing grant
- 9 funding to organizations that provide care to the elderly in rural areas of the state, for the
- 10 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of the grant funding provided
- 11 under this section, \$100,000 shall be provided to existing organizations that provide care to
- 12 elderly individuals in rural areas of the state and \$100,000 shall be provided to organizations to
- 13 provide services to rural elderly individuals in one or more counties in the state that do not
- 14 currently have services for elderly individuals.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations - Human Resources Division Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
1/23/2025

A Bill for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

10:48 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Dever, Senators Cleary, Davison, Magrum, and Mathern

### Discussion Topics:

- Proposed Amendment to SB 2138
- Cass County Funding
- Amendment Wording

10:49 a.m. Chairman Dever opened the discussion on proposed amendment LC 2.0381.02001 previously submitted testimony #32481.

10:57 a.m. Senator Davison moved a Do Pass as Amended LC 25.0381.02001 previously submitted testimony #32481.

10:59 a.m. Senator Cleary seconded.

### Roll Call Vote

Senators	Vote
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y

11:01 a.m. Motion passed 5-0-0 and referred to full committee.

Senator Davison will carry the bill.

11: 05 a.m. Chairman Dever closed the hearing.

*Joan Bares, Committee Clerk*



# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Harvest Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
1/27/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

8:30 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

### Discussion Topics:

- Elderly Care Grants
- Proposed Amendments to SB 2138

8:32 a.m. Senator Davison introduced the bill and the amendment LC 25.0381.02001 and submitted testimony #32089.

8:37 a.m. Senator Magrum moved to adopt the amendment LC 25.0381.02002 and submitted testimony #32088.

8:39 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

8:53 a.m. Senator Magrum withdrew his motion to adopt the amendment LC 25.0381.02002.

8:54 a.m. Senator Mathern withdrew his second on the motion.

8:54 a.m. Senator Magrum moved to further amend LC 25.0381.02001 by adding the word "these" after "have" in line 14.

8:54 a.m. Senator Mathern seconded the motion.

### Roll Call Vote:

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y

Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

8:55 a.m. Senator Mathern moved to adopt the amendment LC 25.0381.02003.

8:55 a.m. Senator Davison seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

8:56 a.m. Senator Wanzek moved a Do Pass as Amended.

8:57 a.m. Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

<b>Senators</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y

Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion Passed 16-0-0.

Senator Davison will carry the bill.

8:59 a.m. Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

*Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk*

January 27, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2138**

Introduced by

Senators Weber, Cleary, Klein, Lee

Representatives Beltz, Pyle

*JB 1-27-25*  
*1081*

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services  
2 for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -**

5 **GRANT FUNDING FOR ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.** There is

6 appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise

7 appropriated, the sum of ~~\$250,000~~ \$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to

8 the department of health and human services for the purpose of ~~increasing~~ providing grant

9 funding to organizations that provide care to the elderly in rural areas of the state, for the

10 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of the grant funding provided

11 under this section, \$100,000 must be provided to existing organizations providing care to elderly

12 individuals in rural areas of the state and \$100,000 must be provided to organizations to provide

13 services to elderly individuals in one or more rural counties in the state which do not currently

14 have these services for elderly individuals.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
SB 2138**

**Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0381.02003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2138 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.



1-27-25

25.0381.02002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senator Magrum  
January 24, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### SENATE BILL NO. 2138

Introduced by

Senators Weber, Cleary, Klein, Lee

Representatives Beltz, Pyle

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services  
2 for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

4 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -  
5 GRANT FUNDING FOR ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING CARE FOR THE ELDERLY. There is  
6 appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise  
7 appropriated, the sum of ~~\$250,000~~\$200,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to  
8 the department of health and human services for the purpose of ~~increasing~~providing grant  
9 funding to organizations that provide care to the elderly in rural areas of the state, for the  
10 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of the grant funding provided  
11 under this section, \$100,000 shall be provided to existing organizations that provide care to  
12 elderly individuals in rural areas of the state and \$100,000 shall be provided to organizations to  
13 provide services to rural elderly individuals in one or more counties in the state.

1-27-25

25.0381.02001  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Senate Appropriations - Human  
Resources Division Committee  
January 20, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### SENATE BILL NO. 2138

Introduced by

Senators Weber, Cleary, Klein, Lee

Representatives Beltz, Pyle

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services
- 2 for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

### 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

#### 4 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES -

#### 5 GRANT FUNDING FOR ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING CARE FOR THE ELDERLY. There is

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8 the department of health and human services for the purpose of ~~increasing~~ providing grant

9 funding to organizations that provide care to the elderly in rural areas of the state, for the

10 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. Of the grant funding provided

11 under this section, \$100,000 shall be provided to existing organizations that provide care to

12 elderly individuals in rural areas of the state and \$100,000 shall be provided to organizations to

13 provide services to rural elderly individuals in one or more counties in the state that do not

14 currently have services for elderly individuals.

**2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**SB 2138**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
3/17/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

10:29 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman M. Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives K. Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Members Absent: Representatives Davis, Dobervich

### Discussion Topics:

- Volunteer service
- Grants to enable continuation of care

10:29 a.m. Senator Weber, District 22, introduced the bill.

10:33 a.m. Myrna Hanson, Executive Director of Community of Care, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #41781, #42344.

10:58 a.m. Nancy Meyer, Director of the Adult and Aging services, testified and answered questions.

10:59 a.m. Representative Frelich moved a Do Pass and rerefer to Appropriations.

10:59 a.m. Representative Bolinske seconded the motion.

11:01 a.m. Nancy Meyer, Director of the Adult and Aging services, testified and answered questions.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	AB
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	Y
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

11:03 a.m. Motion passed 11-0-2.

Representative Rios will carry the bill.

**Additional written testimony:**

Melanie Gaebe, Director of Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association, submitted testimony in favor, #41819.

11:04 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2138 ([25.0381.03000](#))**

**Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE REREFERRED** to the **Appropriations Committee** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2138 was rereferred to the **Appropriations Committee**.

Human Service Committee Testimony SB2138 – January 13, 2025 – Community of Care

Chairman Ruby and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Myrna Hanson. I am the Executive Director of Community of Care, a nonprofit serving older adults in rural Cass County. Our primary demographic is individuals age 65+. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. We also want to thank you for the funding we have received through the Department of Human Services budget. Those dollars, paired with a wide range of non-state funding, allow us to pursue our goal of enhancing the quality of life in rural Cass by assisting clients to remain in their rural Cass County homes as long and as safely as possible. In 2024, we received 62% of our funding from local fundraisers, donations and rural Cass county grants.

I would like to give you a brief overview of Community of Care and the services we provide. We began as a pilot project of the Good Samaritan Society in 2003. We serve all of rural Cass County, a 1,700 square mile area with 27 rural communities. A few of the communities include Arthur, Page, Casselton, Kindred, Harwood and Buffalo. Throughout our 21-year history, we have provided all of our services Free of Charge, regardless of a person's economic situation. The values which guide Community of Care are compassion, safety, treating older adults with dignity and respect, providing services free of charge, and that older adults have worth and wisdom.

Since we began in 2003, Community of Care has focused on the concept of "Aging in Place." In order to "age in place," individuals need access to medical care, adequate housing, transportation, a social support system and a supportive community. We believe those "Aging in Place" concepts are critical to Community of Care's programs. Throughout our history, we have continued to expand our programs and services based upon the needs of local residents in order for them to "Age in Place."

The majority of older adults prefer to remain in the homes and communities they call home. Most of our clients have lived in their homes and communities for decades, if not their entire lifetime. They are important members of the local community as they shop locally, support local events and share their community knowledge.

In 2024, we served 688 individuals. A majority of these individuals received multiple services in multiple program areas.

We describe our program as a 4-legged stool:

- The One Stop Service Center is staffed by our Social Worker who provides information, referrals, care coordination, assistance securing in-home equipment & services, help with paperwork such as applications for fuel/food/prescription assistance & Medicaid, Advance Care Plans and Medicare Part D drug plan enrollment. Our Care Coordinator and a trained volunteer/retired pharmacist assisted 367 individuals review their Medicare Part D plans during open enrollment 2024. The average savings was \$313 per person. In 2023, our Care Coordinator and 2 trained volunteers assisted 370 individuals with an average savings of \$1,511 per person. Our Care Coordinator also coordinates socialization events, an important element in older adult's health. Our staff regularly assist adult children of aging parents with information, assistance securing in-home equipment or services.
- The Faith Community Nurse program is staffed by three part-time licensed RNs who have completed Faith Community Nurse certification. One serves in Northern Cass through our Arthur office, another in Casselton and the 3<sup>rd</sup> was added in the Kindred area in April of 2024. The Faith Community Nurses are licensed RNs who focuses on preventative care. They provide outreach visits to help older adults understand medical conditions, physician's orders and

medications. The Faith Community Nurses assess, educate and refer. They facilitate blood pressure screenings and assist clients complete Advance Care Plans. They work with Health Cabinets representing the local communities to identify needs and sponsor educational events. Faith Community Nurses also facilitate Bone Builder exercise classes in 7 locations. Each week, approximately 100 older adults gather twice a week to exercise. In the most recent survey, 80% of respondents reported the classes improve their mobility and 79% reported class participation improves their cognitive ability. One bone builder participant shared the following, *“Bone Builders keeps me feeling younger. Without Bone Builders I'd feel more stiff and unable to do the things I need to do to function at my optimum.”* The Faith Community Nurses also coordinate pen pal/journal project and Fun With Tech between older adults and local middle and high school students.

- The Volunteer Program is facilitated by a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. The most utilized aspect of the Volunteer Program is transportation to medical appointments. A ride to their medical appointment is often a critical element in older adults' ability to remain in their rural home. Without a ride their appointment, older adults would likely not receive the medical care they need or they would be forced to move from their rural home and community. In 2024, our volunteers drove 10,721 miles bringing clients to medical appointments. This included 184 rides and 478 hours of volunteer services. The round trip from Casselton is approximately 50 miles and from Page in the Northwest corner of the county is 100 miles. In our most recent client survey, 100% reported the ride to their medical appointment assists them to remain in their rural home. Volunteers provide a wide range of service. In 2024, a total of 328 individuals served in some capacity of our program. In total, volunteers provided 2,387 hours

of service. This includes the board of directors, transportation volunteers, school students with spring yard work, bone builder leaders, Medicare Part D volunteer, Wellness Screening & Health Fairs, pen pal project, fundraiser committees, health cabinets, local college students, etc.

- Support and Education are provided through presentations, website and our newsletter mailed twice a year to every box holder in rural Cass County. Each year we coordinate programming for the Casselton Business Association Senior Day. Our Faith Community Nurses coordinate annual Wellness Screening Fair in Casselton and Health Fair in Arthur.
- Clients come to Community of Care through a variety of ways. They become aware of our programs & services through presentations to local senior centers, our newsletter and community publications. We also receive large number of referrals from volunteers, community members, clients, churches, local pharmacy, local physical therapist, local bankers and families. It is also very common for an older adult to receive assistance in one area of programming and share with staff additional concerns. An example is our Faith Community Nurse provides an outreach visit to a client with health concerns. They learn the client needs a ride to their medical appointment & is having financial concerns. Our Volunteer Coordinator facilitates a ride to their medical appointment and Care Coordinator reviews their Medicare Part D and assists with paperwork for food & fuel applications. The older adult might also begin attending bone builder classes after the visit with our Faith Community Nurse. Adult children contacting us for assistance in caring for their aging parents continues to be an area of growth.



- Staff regularly work with many other agencies such as North Dakota Assistive, Alzheimer's Association, Essentia & Sanford Paramedic Programs to coordinate care for older adults in rural Cass County
- Our staff includes 7 employees. Two full-time and 5 part-time - a 3.85 FTE

Our strategic plan includes additional Faith Community Nurse staff or hours to assist greater areas of Cass County, including the I-29 corridor and the western portion of the county. Currently, our Faith Community Nurses cover approximately 40% of Cass County. This addition not only requires staff time, but also additional rent, phone, internet, computers, etc. to operate another office. The Care Coordination, Volunteer Program and Support/Education cover the entire 1,700 square miles of Cass County.

Phyllis is an excellent example of how our four-legged stool keeps rural residents safe in their homes. Phyllis is 83 years old and lives alone in her rural Cass County home. She has a marvelous attitude, but has experienced numerous health concerns the past two years. Our Faith Community Nurse visits with her regularly to help her understand her condition and medications, which has prevented avoidable emergency medical assistance. Our Volunteer Coordinator has facilitated countless rides for Phyllis to attend medical appointments and weekly infusions, all provided by volunteer drivers who are doing their part to help Phyllis remain in her home. Our Volunteer Coordinator has also coordinated spring yard work provided by local school students. This allows students the opportunity to give back, but also gives Phyllis peace of mind and a yard she looks at with pride. Our Care Coordinator reviewed Phyllis's Medicare Part D drug plan and completed a fuel assistance form. Our staff work together to arrange for in-home equipment and supplies for Phyllis. Our holistic care

approach meets a wide range of needs for our clients. If any of those pieces of Phyllis' plan were missing, she would face challenges to remain in her home.

Community of Care is a model for other communities to assist older adults remain in their rural homes. NDSU Extension received a grant to pilot our model in two other locations. For the past 3 ½ years, the Aging in Community Project have been assisting residents in Lisbon and Western Morton Counties. These programs are fully funded through the grant received. Community of Care has provided consulting services to assist these locations develop their programs. We believe our model has potential to benefit other locations and older adults throughout North Dakota. We are very willing to share our knowledge and experience.

Assisting older adults to remain in their homes as long as safely possible provides cost savings for individuals, their families and potentially the state of North Dakota. A significant percentage of our clients are renters without any equity and others own very modest homes in rural Cass County. If these older adults required a move to a long-term care facility, they would likely need to apply for Medicaid at the time of the move or very soon after.

I recently asked our Care Coordinator/Social Worker and Faith Community Nurses to identify the number of clients who in their professional opinion who would have required long-term care in 2024 without our services. Our staff identified 15 individuals they believe would require basic care at this time without the programs, services and referrals provided by Community of Care. The majority of these clients would require a Medicaid application within months of moving to basic care, which would be a significant cost to the state of North Dakota. Throughout our 21-year history, our programs and services have delayed a move to assisted living or long-term care for dozens of our clients. Currently, we are aware of at least 30 clients living in their homes on Medicaid, fuel

assistance and snap benefits. These are the clients we have assisted, but we know adult children have assisted many other clients complete Medicaid applications. Many other clients qualify, but they are too proud to complete the Medicaid application. Without these benefits, clients would likely need to move to basic care at a long-term care facility on a significantly higher Medicaid rate.

According to the ND Department of Health and Human Services, the average cost of long-term care in North Dakota in 2025 is \$146,635 per year. After the average social security benefit and \$100/month personal care allowance, the average balance remaining is \$124,439 per year. With a move to long-term care, the assets of many of our client's would be depleted very quickly, resulting in the need for a Medicaid application.

As I shared, Community of Care has received funding through the Department of Human Services budget since 2009. We are grateful for those funds and have been able to serve hundreds of clients as a result. The amount we have received however has remained constant during those 15 years. According to Genworth financial, in 2009 the average cost of long-term care in North Dakota was \$56,940, as compared to the \$146,635 per year in 2025.

Community of Care is requesting an increase in our funding to more closely align with the cost of living increases over the past 15 years and the increase in the cost of long-term care in North Dakota. An increase in funding will allow Community of Care to serve a greater number of clients and greater needs to assist older adults remain in their homes as long as safely possible.

Thank you. I am happy to stand for questions.





**Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 2138**  
**Human Services**  
**Rep Matthew Ruby, Chair**  
**March 17, 2025**

Good morning Chair Ruby and members of the committee. My name is Melanie Gaebe and I am the North Dakota Public Policy Director for the Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. I am here to provide testimony in support of SB 2138.

On the previous bill, I spoke about the importance of the relationships we have with providers across the state. Community of Care is one such relationship. The work they do in rural Cass to allow residents to stay in their communities safely for as long as possible is not just a benefit to the dollars and cents of providing care, they are providing the opportunity for people who need a bit of help to maintain their dignity and quality of life in the community they know and love.

We know in dementia care that moving a person living with dementia away from the familiar and into an unknown location is likely to speed the rate of their cognitive decline. I think about the services Community of Care provides in rural Cass and can't help wondering how many more years grandma could have stayed in her home if there had been services available in rural Morton over 20 years ago. I don't think it is possible to overstate the impact on a person's behavioral and mental health when they don't have a choice in where they live. As negative as the impacts are when removing choice, we can see positive impacts when people are able to make that choice.

I support the requested increase for Community of Care, not only for the services they provide in rural Cass but also for the excellent model they provide for every other county where people see the need but don't know what steps to take next.



## COMMUNITY OF CARE Rural Cass County

*Community of Care's goal is to "enhance the quality of life for rural Cass County seniors in order to keep them in the homes and communities they love as long as safely possible"*

### NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS OVER 65

- 135,417 residents 65 and older live in North Dakota (source: US Census)
  - Of those residents, 17,524 are 85+ (source: US Census)
- **Projected 9.2% increase by 2035** (source: ND Plan on Aging)
- 3,322 residents 65+ in rural Cass County (source: US Census Quick Facts)
  - **Projected increase - 3,628 rural Cass residents 65+ in 2035**
- In 2025, the 65+ group represents 15% of rural Cass County population

### 2025 NURSING HOME COST STATISTICS

- **\$146,635 per year** - average cost of a nursing home in North Dakota (source: ND Dept. Human Services)
- **\$21,996** per year - Average Social Security Benefit in North Dakota (source: AARP)
- **\$123,439 per year** - average Cost of Private Pay or Medicaid Payment per nursing home resident (after Social Security and \$100/month personal care allowance for nursing home)

### 2024 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY OF CARE SERVICES

- 6,835 Client Service contacts
- 688 individual clients served
- 10,721 miles driven & 480 hours of service providing transportation to medical appointments – 184 rides provided by 42 transportation volunteers
- 198 additional volunteers served as Board members, Health Cabinet, Medicare Part D drug plan enrollments, Bone Builder class leaders, fundraising committees, blood pressure screenings, health screening fair, newsletters, pen pal/journal project, fun with tech, etc.
- 367 clients served during Medicare Part open enrollment. Total savings was \$114,800 or an average of \$313/client



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### ALL SERVICES PROVIDED FREE-OF-CHARGE

#### ONE STOP SERVICE CENTER

- Care Coordination
- Assistance with paperwork (fuel, food, prescription, Medicaid applications, etc.)
- Medicare Part D drug plan enrollment
- Advance Care Plans
- Referrals & information
- Socialization

#### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- Transportation to medical appointments
- Minor Home Repair, Yard Work, Friendly Visits, etc.

#### FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM

- Preventative Care
- Health Counseling, Referrals & Education
- Exercise Programs
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Advance Care Plans

#### HOMES IN RURAL ND

*The homes of many older adults living in rural North Dakota are:*

- Potentially difficult to sell. If they are able to sell their home, the proceeds will be depleted quickly in paying for an assisted living facility or nursing home
- A significant percentage of older adults in rural communities are renters with no home equity
- Residents who are unable to pay for their care become part of the Medicaid rolls

**2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS**

**SB 2138**



# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2138  
3/27/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of health and human services for grants to organizations providing care for the elderly.

8:49 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

8:49 a.m. Representative M. Ruby introduced the bill.

8:57 a.m. Representative Swiontek moved Do Pass.

8:57 a.m. Representative Stemen seconded the motion.

8:57 a.m. Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Berg	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Jay Fisher	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Gregory Stemen	Y

Representative Steve Swiontek	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y

8:57 a.m. Motion passed 23-0-0.

8:57 a.m. Representative Rios will carry the bill.

8:58 a.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

*Krystal Eberle, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED SB 2138 ([25.0381.03000](#))**

**Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (23 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2138 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.