

VOLUME 18  
January 2026

# THE CARING HEART



**A CARE AND SHARE OF CROOKSTON, INC. PUBLICATION**



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# GIVING HEARTS DAY 2026



The Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. 220 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Crookston, MN 56716



# Executive Director's memo



## Happy New Year!

As we welcome a new year, we also welcome new adventures, new opportunities, and the chance to overcome challenges together. This year, we are committed to continued growth within our organization and to finding innovative ways to become more financially sustainable so we can better serve our community. At the heart of this work are the connections we build with local businesses and partners across the eight communities we proudly serve. These relationships make everything we do possible.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the North Country Food Bank for providing the food for our Mobile Food Drop on December 30th. A special thank-you also goes to the High School for generously allowing us to use their space for this important event. Because of this support, many families were able to fill their cupboards and feed their loved ones during a time when it matters most.

This event was truly a community effort. Board members, staff, and community volunteers came together with dedication and heart to make this food drop a success. We are incredibly thankful for every helping hand and every hour given. We are proud to say that this will not be the last, we are confident and committed to hosting more food drives like this to continue supporting our neighbors in need.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce a new fundraising adventure, an online auction basket fundraiser. We are grateful to have already received generous donations from American Crystal Sugar Company and The Jeweler of Crookston, who donated several valuable jewelry items. We kindly invite other businesses to consider donating a basket from your restaurant, bottle shop, bakery, gym, or other local business. Your support will help make this event a success and allow us to continue the vital work we do.

At Care and Share, our mission is rooted in compassion, dignity, and service. The programs and services we provide reach so many individuals and families facing food insecurity, and none of it would be possible without the ongoing support of our community. Thank you for believing in our mission and standing with us.

If you are able to donate an auction basket or would like more information, please contact Candace at [candaces@careandsharecrk.org](mailto:candaces@careandsharecrk.org).

We are humbled and grateful as we step into a new year filled with new opportunities.

Together, we will continue to care, share, and make a difference, loud and proud.

With Deepest Gratitude,

Carolina A. Diaz







## LIVED EXPERIENCE STORY

I was living in Warroad, MN and I lost my job in October, it was difficult for me to move around and get another job due to my lack of transportation. I talked with my case worker from Riverview Recovery, and she helped me get in touch with the Care and Share.

This is the first time that I am homeless and when my worker suggested Care and Share, I was skeptical and unsure of going. I expected a sad and dark place. I could not have been more wrong about it. Since the first step that I took in the building I have been treated with respect and dignity from everyone in the staff. The office ladies are great (Candice & Patrice). The security staff are there to help and explain everything (Heather, Kay, James, & Sofia) And the food is top tier (Thanks Maria!).

With everyone here I'm getting the help I need to go through this phase in my life that can happen to anyone. They are pointing me in the right direction to access the help and today I start my job and hopefully soon I can be on my own again.

~Ruben L.



# Recognizing Donors

- Roger & Gail Odeggaard • Mario & Jean Laplante
- Faaberg WELCA • Lloyd & Adelaide Kasprick
- Sheila & Marlo Davis • Northland Assembly
- Sisters of St. Benedict • Helen Bratvold
- Dolores Zammert • Ellen & Paul Tollefson

# Recognizing Volunteers





# Recognizing Volunteers





# Board of Directors

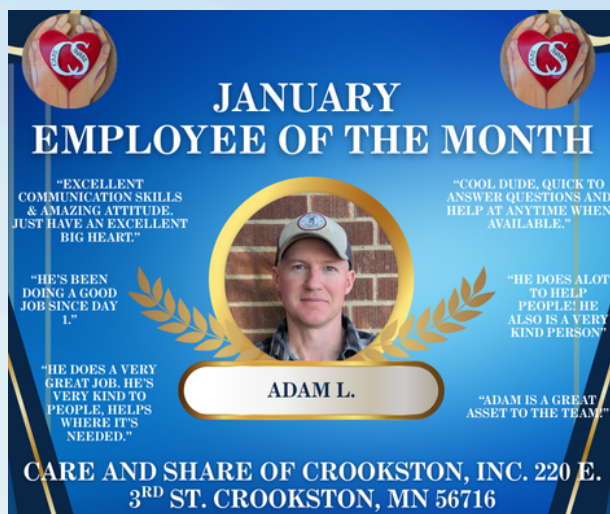
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- KARI BRAULT BOARD CHAIR
- ANNA CORONA VICE BOARD CHAIR
- ANGEL KORYNTA TREASURER
- MIKE ANDERSON SECRETARY
- LEAH WINJUM DIRECTOR
- KEVIN THOMPSON DIRECTOR
- DEANNA BUTENHOFF DIRECTOR
- STEPHEN LARSON DIRECTOR
- JON STREET DIRECTOR

## Employee appreciation dinner & game night



## Employee recognitions





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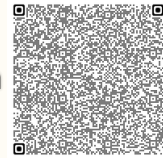
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PLEASE SEND THE EDITOR CANDACE  
S. AN E-MAIL @  
[CANDACES@CAREANDSHARECRK.ORG](mailto:CANDACES@CAREANDSHARECRK.ORG)

THE GENEROUS DONATIONS WE RECEIVE,  
INCLUDING THROUGH THE AMAZON WISH LIST HELP  
US BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR GUESTS,  
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATE THROUGH OUR  
WISH LIST!!

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*Editor: Candace Sam*