

VOLUME 15  
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# THE CARING HEART



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



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The Oxbow at Old Crossing

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#### LOOKING AHEAD: OUR SHARED VISION FOR 2025

AS WE MOVE INTO 2025, I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE UNWAVERING SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY, DONORS, AND REGIONAL PARTNERS. IT IS ONLY THROUGH YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND INVOLVEMENT THAT CARE AND SHARE CAN FULFILL ITS MISSION: TO PROVIDE COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT, SHELTER, AND ESSENTIAL RESOURCES TO THOSE EXPERIENCING CRISIS AND HARDSHIP IN OUR REGION.

THIS YEAR, OUR FOCUS IS CLEAR: SUSTAINABILITY, CONNECTION, AND SHARED IMPACT.

WE WILL PRIORITIZE STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONSHIPS, NOT ONLY WITH THE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WE SERVE, BUT WITH THE BROADER COMMUNITY AS WELL. OUR GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH FIVE NEW FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS OUR EIGHT-COUNTY SERVICE AREA: POLK, MARSHALL, KITTSO, NORMAN, MAHNOMEN, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE, AND ROSEAU. THESE PARTNERSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL TO KEEPING OUR PROGRAMS RELEVANT, RESILIENT, AND ROOTED IN COMMUNITY NEED.

WE ARE ESPECIALLY EXCITED ABOUT OUR CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH THE OXBOW AT OLD CROSSING, A UNIQUE AND INSPIRING LANDMARK NEAR HUOT, MN. THEIR MISSION, TO RECONNECT INDIVIDUALS AND WHOLE COMMUNITIES THROUGH CREATIVE PROGRAMMING IN ARTS, EDUCATION, AND ENTERPRISE, RESONATES DEEPLY WITH OUR OWN. WE SEE GREAT POTENTIAL IN GROWING THIS RELATIONSHIP AND EXPANDING OUR NETWORK TO INCLUDE MORE ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES THAT ARE COMMITTED TO HEALING, EMPOWERMENT, AND CREATIVE GROWTH.

BUT WE CANNOT DO THIS WORK ALONE. AS WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SHELTER AND SUPPORT TO THOSE IN CRISIS, THE NEED FOR SPONSORSHIPS, GRANTS, AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING BECOMES MORE URGENT. ONE OF OUR PRIMARY GOALS FOR 2025 IS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED OR SURPLUS BUDGET, WITH CONTINGENCY PLANS IN PLACE TO ADDRESS ANY FINANCIAL CHALLENGES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING STRONG, MISSION-ALIGNED FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES AND BUILDING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH DONORS, SPONSORS, AND GRANT-MAKING ORGANIZATIONS.

I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN REACHING OUT TO BUSINESSES ACROSS THE REGION AND WILL CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR AND INTO THE NEXT. THIS OUTREACH IS MORE THAN A GOAL; IT'S OUR TOP PRIORITY. WE ARE LOOKING TO BUILD LONG-TERM, MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH CORPORATIONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, AND AGENCIES WHO SHARE OUR VISION OF A STRONGER, MORE COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY.

AS DIRECTOR, I ALSO REMAIN COMMITTED TO GROWING IN LEADERSHIP, BY PARTICIPATING IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES, SEEKING SUPPORT FROM OUR DEDICATED BOARD, AND STAYING PRESENT AND ENGAGED AT LOCAL EVENTS AND IN THE MEDIA. I BELIEVE THESE STEPS ARE VITAL TO KEEPING OUR MISSION AT THE FOREFRONT AND EXPANDING OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT.

IF YOUR PASSION ALIGNS WITH OURS, AND YOU'RE INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIP WITH OUR ORGANIZATION OR COLLABORATION, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO ME DIRECTLY. I WOULD LOVE TO MEET, LEARN ABOUT YOUR VISION, AND EXPLORE HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WITH GRATITUDE AND HOPE, CAROLINA A. DIAZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARE AND SHARE, INC.



# LIVED EXPERIENCE STORY



I AM A 40 YEAR OLD MAN WHO CAUGHT A FELONY CHARGE AT 17 YEARS OLD.

IT WAS AND STILL IS A STRUGGLE TO FIND WORK, I COULDN'T EVEN RENT AN APARTMENT UNTIL 2016 WHEN MY RECORD CLEARED. I CAUGHT THIS CASE IN 2003. THE ONLY ONE I GOT, I MEAN, I TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND HOLD MYSELF ACCOUNTABLE. I GOT OUT OF PRISON WHEN I WAS 20 AND BASICALLY STRUGGLED FOR TWENTY YEARS. A FEW UPS AND DOWNS, IN 2017 I HAD AN APARTMENT FOR A YEAR, BUT I STRUGGLED WITH DRUGS AND LIFE. AS DISSAPOINTING AS LIFE IS I STILL TRIED TO REMAIN POSITIVE AND ONE DAY REDEEM MYSELF.

IN 2025 I JUST FINISHED A TRADE SCHOOL AND MOVED OUT OF MY APARTMENT AND FOUND MYSELF LIVING IN MY VAN. I FOUND A JOB IN CROOKSTON AND THROUGH THE ADVICE OF MY COUSIN SOUGHT HELP THROUGH CARE AND SHARE. I WAS ONLY GOING TO STAY A WEEK, BUT I SOON REALIZED THE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN HERE, WAS A GOOD ONE. IT WAS GREAT, THEY GAVE ME A PLACE TO SLEEP, OFFERED MEALS, AND PROGRAMS. EVERYONE THERE WAS PLEASANT, EVERYONE STAYING THERE WERE WELL TAKEN CARE OF. I DO NOT WANT TO STRUGGLE FOREVER SO I DECIDED TO TAKE THE HELP SO THAT I CAN FIND MYSELF WITH BETTER ODDS IN 2026.

THE CARE AND SHARE IS A BIG HELP, AS SOON AS I GOT THERE, I NOTICED THEY HAVE BULLETINS WITH NUMBERS, PROVIDING SERVICE BE IT CHURCH, N.A., NUMBERS TO THE LIBRARY AND BUS STATION. MY CASE MANAGER WAS A BIG HELP AND INFORMED ME OF ALL THESE SERVICES JUST HAVING A PLACE TO STAY WAS THE BIGGEST FORM OF HELP FOR ME.

I HAVE ONLY BEEN TO ONE OTHER SHELTER, BUT THEY WERE SO STRICT LIKE PRISON, THEY PLACED ME IN A ROOM WITH 25 OTHER GUYS. ONE GUY KEPT GRABBING MY TOE WHILE I SLEPT TO SHAKE ME TIL I WOKE, SUPPOSEDLY I WAS SNORING, "I'M SORRY YOUR STAY AT THE RITZ WAS NOT TO YOUR LIKING" I WAS THERE A WEEK. THE CARE AND SHARE IS 100 TIMES BETTER THAN THAT.

I INTEND TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE MY LIFE. SOMETIME IN 2026 I LOOK FORWARD TO LEAVING THE PAST BEHIND ME BY RELOCATING TO FARGO. I WANT NO CONTACT WITH TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS I HAVE WITH EVERYONE I KNOW HERE. AND I HAVE BEEN DOING WELL, ALONE ALOT BUT THATS THE PRICE YOU PAY TO CHANGE. THE CARE AND SHARE HAS BEEN HUGE HELPING FACTOR IN MY LIFE. JUST THE PEOPLE I'VE RUN ACROSS HAVE BEEN HUGE STEPS FOR ME TO UNDERSTANDING AND OVERCOMING MY OBSTACLES.

-ANONYMOUS

## RECOGNIZING DONORS

- **SCOOTER'S COFFEE**
- **CHARLENE WALKER**
- **WARREN LION'S CLUB**
- **ROBERT & REBECCA CAMERON**
- **JOSEPH & PEGGY HENRY**
- **ANGEL KORYNTA**
- **WILLIAM LANGLOIS**
- **HIGHWAY 2 CRUISERS**
- **JEROME NOEL**
- **KATHLEEN KUZNIA**

## RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS



# RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS



VOLUNTEER

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KARI BRAULT – BOARD CHAIR  
ANNA CORONA – VICE CHAIR  
ANGEL KORYNTA – TREASURE  
MIKE ANDERSON – SECRETARY

MIKE ANDERSON – SECRETARY  
LEAH WINJUM – DIRECTOR  
STEPHEN LARSON – DIRECTOR  
KEVIN THOMPSON – DIRECTOR

JON STREET – DIRECTOR

## EMPLOYEE/GUEST RECOGNITIONS



THIS MONTH, THE VOTES ARE IN, AND CARLOS R. HAS BEEN NAMED OUR GUEST OF THE MONTH!

THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE HOW VOLUNTEERS CAN CREATE LASTING AND IMPACTFUL EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CARE AND SHARE INITIATIVE. THESE ACTS OF KINDNESS DO NOT GO UNNOTICED, AND THIS MONTH, CARLOS RECEIVED UNANIMOUS RECOGNITION FOR HIS SELFLESS CONTRIBUTIONS AS A VOLUNTEER! WAY TO GO CARLOS! KEEP UP THE AMAZING WORK!

# *The Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. & New Hope Food Shelf*

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[HTTPS://WWW.CAREANDSHARECROOKSTON.ORG/](https://www.careandsharecrookston.org/)

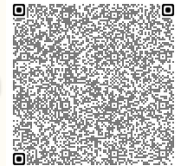
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**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO  
OUR E-NEWSLETTER E-MAILING LIST  
PLEASE SEND THE EDITOR CANDACE  
S. AN E-MAIL @  
CANDACES@CAREANDSHARECRK.ORG**

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!!

**SCAN me to go to  
our Amazon  
Wishlist**



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*Editor: Candace Sam*

