



Transition Talk

Centre, Inc.



Centre's Agency Strategic Planning Session

In April of 2017 Centre; with the assistance of a consultant, representation from the Board of Directors, administration, managers, and representatives from other direct care staff positions; took on the very important task of developing the agency's Strategic Plan for 2017-2020.

In order to accomplish this we:

Assessed our progress on the previous strategic plan;

Solicited feedback/input from our employees via survey;

Reviewed the reports/results of our client satisfaction surveys; &

Reviewed current program statistics and outcome measure data.

Our next task was to develop

a strategic plan which included determining goals, with priorities, action steps, and a time frame to guide the agency's work for the next 3-4 years, taking into account our agency **Mission and Core Values.**

The agency strategic plan includes the following five core goals:

1. **Services-** To provide targeted services that meet the needs of our clients and community.
2. **Processes, Procedures, & Policies-** To improve consistency of processes, procedures and policies agency wide.
3. **Public Relations-** To strengthen community relationships and public image.

4. **Training-** To enhance training programs for employees.

5. **Accounting System-** To provide timely accounting information to management and staff through an in-house system.

The details of the strategic plan are currently being shared with our stakeholders. We are very proud of the work that has been accomplished and very excited about working towards accomplishing the above goals over the next few years.

Submitted by:
Josh Helmer, Executive Director

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Centre's Board of Directors

Centre, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) agency incorporated in the state of North Dakota. Centre currently has nine directors. They are responsible for the management/oversight of the business operations. The

director's volunteer their time and provide a vital role, which allows our employees to provide services to our clients, referral sources, and communities.

The current directors include:

John Postovit, President; Scott Hildre, Vice President, Richard Garske Treasurer, Wayne Larson, Secretary, Thomas Jefferson, Barb Brecke, Rodger Mohagen, Dan Madler, and Judy Egge.



Beyond the Wall

On April 27, 2017, in Bismarck, ND, approximately 140 law enforcement officials and other community members got together to view a screening of the film titled “Beyond the Wall”. The viewing of the film was followed up with a panel discussion, on the topic of prisoner re-entry. “Beyond the Wall” is a documentary film that highlights the social, economic and emotional barriers encountered by returning citizens and their families following incarceration. Louie Diaz, who



is a central character in “Beyond the Wall”, attended the viewing and panel discussion. Louie, who was once incarcerated, now works to connect returning citizens to resources and break the cycle of incarceration. To quote Louie on the subject matter he stated, “It can’t be done alone, it’s been quite a journey and I’m excited that I’ve been given a second chance, and I thank people that give people second chances”.

Cathy Short and Adam Martin also attended the viewing and were participants of the panel discussion. Both Adam and Cathy are working as mentors for individuals who are being released from prison and jail to connect them with resources and provide peer mentorship in North Dakota. This documentary continues to spur conversations across the nation on how society can do a better job of reentering formally incarcerated individuals.

Submitted by;

Heather Brandt, Program Director

The Value of Collaboration & Volunteers

Centre’s mission is to provide rehabilitative services to individuals to help achieve social reintegration. Centre, a non-profit, mission driven, service provider, is very fortunate to operate in communities that have other agencies and individuals with the resources and willingness to help us achieve the mission.

Without, valuable and willing community partnerships and volunteers, achieving the mission alone is very difficult. Centre would like to recognize a couple of these local organizations who have provided great assistance/service

to help our residents reintegrate into the community.

ReGROUP operates a Recovery Community Center in Moorhead, MN. ReGROUP provides on-site recovery coaching, drama therapy, sober community outings and resource referrals for any clients that voluntarily participate. Centre is very grateful for this continued partnership and the benefits that the clients at Centre receive thanks to ReGROUP.

Lighthouse Church is a local congregation that is a place of love, encouragement, hope and recovery. Lighthouse provides transportation to Celebrate

Recovery meetings, church services, and provides mentorship services for many men and women who are currently residing at Centre. Centre would like to say “Thank You” for the light you share with so many men and women during their times of darkness and despair.

Although we recognized the above two organizations in this newsletter, we would also like to thank the many other organizations and individuals who volunteer their time assisting our residents with reintegration.

Submitted by;

Heather Brandt, Program Director

Milestone Anniversaries

Centre recognizes these dedicated individuals who had milestone anniversaries during the first half of 2017.

2 Years

Ashley Pitsiladis, Residential Specialist II - Fargo

Jason Margerum, Case Manager - Fargo

Heidi Frueh, Residential Specialist II - Fargo

Melissa Strubbe, Residential Specialist II - Fargo

Diana Agunbiade, Residential Special-

ist I - Fargo

Brianna McCorquodale, Residential Specialist II - Fargo

Jesse Kipp, Residential Specialist I - Fargo HART

Dzenita Maslesa, Residential Specialist I - Fargo HART

Kelly Anttila, Program Manager - Grand Forks

Laura LaCroix, Licensed Addiction Counselor - Grand Forks

Taylor Lehar, Residential Specialist II - Grand Forks

5 Years

Wayne Larson - Board Secretary

Tracy Bell, Licensed Addiction Counselor - Fargo

Mason Askegaard, Program Specialist - Fargo

Amanda Carson, Residential Specialist II - Fargo

20 Years!

Barb Brecke - Board Member

30 Years!!

Richard Garske - Board Treasurer

Promotions

Centre has promoted some talented individuals during the first half of 2017.

Fargo

Jen Meslow, Case Manager

Heather Grandstrand, Assistant Program Manager Clinical

Rebecca Altman, Case Manager

Travis Dienslake, Residential Specialist II

Ellen Sayer, Residential Specialist II

Samantha Petron, Residential Specialist II

Nermin Calukovic, Residential Specialist II

Kayla Sawchak, Residential Specialist II

Alyssa Barney, Residential Specialist II

Mandan

Vanessa Waller, Case Manager

Grand Forks

Leland Higginbotham, Case Manager

Kelly Anttila, Program Manager

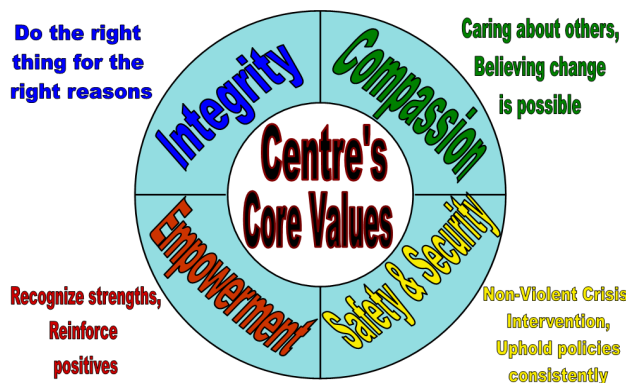


Mariah Martinson, Residential Specialist II

Rachel Thiel, Residential Specialist II

Keith McCormick, Residential Specialist II

Taylor Lehar, Residential Specialist II



Project HART Receives Conditional Approval

In December of 2016, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs whose grants were awarded during fiscal years (FY) 1994 through 2016 would be terminated and those whose grants were terminated would be able to compete for new grants through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The purpose of the competitive grant process was to allow the VA to more appropriately and efficiently address veteran homelessness across the country.



Centre's Project HART, a VA GPD Program that began in 2007, was included amongst

those required to apply for the competitive grant. Centre submitted applications in April of 2017 to continue operating Project HART's 36-bed program. Centre submitted applications/proposals for the following four housing models: Service-Intensive Transitional Housing, Low Demand Housing, Bridge Housing, and Hospital to Housing.

In June of 2017, Centre received conditional approval for all four housing models. Upon final approval from VA, Project HART would be awarded funding beginning October 1, 2017, through September 30, 2018. The program would then be eligible for two additional one-year renewal periods dependent upon fund availability, the program's ability to meet performance measures, statutory and regulatory requirements,

and the results of the VA inspection. Project HART is currently home to 34 veterans, and the program has served 32 veterans who transition to permanent housing in FY 2017.

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Disclaimer: This article, "Project HART Receives Conditional Approval" was funded in part by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The opinions, findings and conclusions stated herein are those of the Author and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Submitted by;

Chris Althoff, Case Manager

Centre, Inc.

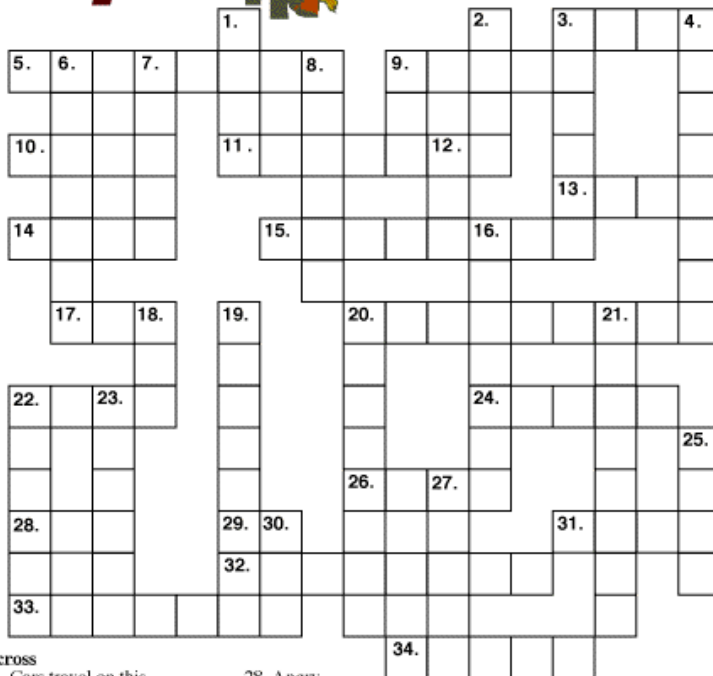
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Autumn CROSSWORD



Across

- 3. Cars travel on this
- 5. Woollen garments
- 9. Plural of goose
- 10. An angel has this
- 11. To make smooth
- 13. Things aren't always as they
- 14. Who, what, where, ___?
- 15. Vegetables with many eyes?
- 17. Maple leaves often turn this colour
- 20. The first month of Autumn
- 22. Cautious
- 24. A tree with white, papery bark
- 26. To raise children
- 28. Angry
- 29. Opposite of out
- 31. Another name for Autumn
- 32. Autumn month
- 33. Gather a crop
- 34. Ripe fruit or vegetables

Down

- 1. Grows on a tree
- 2. ___ager
- 3. Playtime in school
- 4. Last month of Autumn
- 6. Sunny, cold, rain, eg.
- 7. The nut from an Oak tree
- 8. Spring, summer, fall, winter eg.
- 9. Fetch
- 12. "___ your supper."
- 16. Autumn month
- 18. Opposite of night
- 19. Large orange fruits which grow on a vine
- 20. Nut hoarding animal
- 21. Used to carry school books
- 22. What you get from a fireplace
- 23. One who reads
- 25. Opposite of hot
- 27. Brownish yellow colour
- 30. "He is ___ here right now."

Project HART Participated in Giving Hearts Day

Project HART staff have been working to develop community support for the program to better serve the veterans. For the first time since it began operations in 2007, Project HART participated in Giving Hearts Day on February 9, 2017. Project HART received over \$14,000 in donations from this event, which was hosted by the Dakota Medical Foundation, the Impact Institute, and the Alex Stern Family Foundation. Since December 2016, Project HART has raised \$15,305.59.



Project HART has also turned to social media to reach community members who are interested in supporting the

program. A post made on Project HART's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ProjectHART) in April seeking furniture donations for veterans transitioning to permanent housing received a phenomenal response. So far, the program has been able to furnish the apartments and homes of seven veterans who have transitioned to permanent housing.

Because of all of the community support, Project HART has been able to independently address many of the barriers that veterans of the program face

as they look to reenter the workforce. Funds have been used to assist veterans in getting birth certificates, identification and Social Security cards, and work-appropriate clothing. The speed and efficiency resulting from the program's ability to address these barriers independently, has greatly improved the delivery of services to the veterans.

Project HART has more fundraising events planned this year and is already looking forward to next year's Giving Hearts Day. If you are interested in keeping up with these events, you can visit the program's Facebook page for regular updates.

Submitted by;

Chris Althoff, Case Manager