

Hearts in Action

CARE AND SHARE OF CROOKSTON, INC



Executive Director's Memo

FROM CHALLENGE COMES STRENGTH:
TOGETHER, WE CONTINUE TO BUILD HOPE

THERE ARE MOMENTS IN EVERY ORGANIZATION'S JOURNEY THAT DEFINE WHO WE ARE, NOT BECAUSE EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN, BUT BECAUSE OF HOW WE CHOSE TO MOVE FORWARD WHEN IT DIDN'T. THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS HAVE BROUGHT SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AND TRANSITIONS. AT TIMES, THE PATH HAS BEEN UNCERTAIN, REQUIRING US TO ADAPT, GROW, AND NAVIGATE CHALLENGES THAT TESTED US IN NEW WAYS. YET THROUGH EVERY CHANGE, ONE THING HAS REMAINED UNWAVERING, OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND THE INCREDIBLE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THAT MISSION POSSIBLE.

AS I REFLECT ON THIS SEASON, MY HEART IS FILLED WITH GRATITUDE AND ADMIRATION FOR THE REMARKABLE TEAM I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING ALONGSIDE EVERY DAY. THEY ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THIS ORGANIZATION. THEY HAVE MET EVERY CHALLENGE WITH GRACE, EVERY OBSTACLE WITH DETERMINATION, AND EVERY OPPORTUNITY WITH COMPASSION. THEIR RESILIENCE HAS INSPIRED ME DAILY. IT IS EASY TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS WHEN EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL. TRUE CHARACTER, HOWEVER, IS REVEALED DURING TIMES OF CHANGE. I HAVE WATCHED THIS TEAM LIFT ONE ANOTHER UP, EMBRACE NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CONTINUE SHOWING UP EACH DAY WITH UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO THE FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DEPEND ON US. THEY HAVE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF OUR MISSION, EVEN WHEN THE ROAD HAS BEEN DIFFICULT.

TO EVERY MEMBER OF OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEER FAMILY: THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR STRENGTH, YOUR FLEXIBILITY, YOUR KINDNESS, AND YOUR UNWAVERING BELIEF THAT EVERY PERSON DESERVES DIGNITY, HOPE, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE. I AM INCREDIBLY PROUD TO STAND BESIDE EACH OF YOU. BECAUSE SO MUCH OF OUR FOCUS WAS DEDICATED TO THESE ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSITIONS, WE MADE THE DIFFICULT DECISION TO POSTPONE OUR ANNUAL JUNE FUNDRAISER. WHILE DISAPPOINTING, IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION TO ENSURE OUR TIME AND ENERGY REMAINED FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION FOR THE FUTURE.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, WE'RE EXCITED TO CELEBRATE WITH OUR COMMUNITY DURING OX CART DAYS!

JOIN US FOR OUR COMMUNITY CAR WASH FUNDRAISER, WHERE WE'LL BE WASHING CARS, GRILLING DELICIOUS BURGERS AND BRATS, SHARING LAUGHTER, AND RAISING FUNDS TO CONTINUE SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED. WE HOPE YOU'LL STOP BY, ENJOY A MEAL, AND SPEND TIME WITH US. TOGETHER, EVERY DOLLAR RAISED HELPS CREATE BRIGHTER TOMORROWS FOR FAMILIES THROUGHOUT OUR REGION. WATCH OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES FOR EVENT DATES AND TIMES, WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

THIS MONTH ALSO BRINGS EXCITING NEWS THAT REFLECTS THE POWER OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS. WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE RECEIVED THE FARM TO FRESH SECURITY GRANT, AN INVESTMENT THAT ALLOWS US TO PURCHASE FRESH, LOCALLY GROWN FOOD DIRECTLY FROM AREA FARMERS. THIS GRANT IS ABOUT FAR MORE THAN PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS FOOD. IT REPRESENTS A COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITIES WE CALL HOME. BY PURCHASING DIRECTLY FROM LOCAL FARMERS, WE ARE INVESTING IN LOCAL AGRICULTURE, SUPPORTING HARDWORKING FAMILIES, AND ENSURING THOSE DOLLARS REMAIN IN OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY. THOSE FRESH FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD ITEMS WILL THEN BE DISTRIBUTED TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY, CREATING A MEANINGFUL CYCLE WHERE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.

THIS INITIATIVE PERFECTLY REFLECTS OUR MISSION: NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS. LOCAL FARMERS ARE STRENGTHENED, FAMILIES RECEIVE HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS, AND TOGETHER WE TAKE ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD BRIDGING THE GAP OF FOOD INSECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY AND EXCITED TO SEE THE LASTING IMPACT IT WILL HAVE.

NONE OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND SUPPORTERS. WHETHER YOU'VE MADE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION, DONATED YOUR TIME, ATTENDED AN EVENT, SHARED OUR STORY, OR SIMPLY BELIEVED IN OUR MISSION, YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. YOUR KINDNESS CREATES HOPE WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST, AND FOR THAT, WE ARE PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL.

THIS MONTH ALSO MARKS THE CONCLUSION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY ERA OF LEADERSHIP AS OUR BOARD CHAIR, KARI BRAULT, COMPLETES HER SECOND AND FINAL TERM. LEADERSHIP IS NOT MEASURED BY TITLES, IT IS MEASURED BY THE LIVES WE INFLUENCE, THE TRUST WE BUILD, AND THE LEGACY WE LEAVE BEHIND. KARI HAS EMBODIED THOSE QUALITIES EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. SHE HAS LED WITH INTEGRITY, HONESTY, COURAGE, AND COMPASSION.

SHE HAS NEVER SOUGHT RECOGNITION FOR HERSELF, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO ELEVATE OTHERS AND CHAMPION THE MISSION ABOVE ALL ELSE. DURING SEASONS OF CELEBRATION AND SEASONS OF UNCERTAINTY ALIKE, KARI HAS REMAINED A STEADY, THOUGHTFUL, AND TRUSTED LEADER WHOSE WISDOM HELPED GUIDE IMPORTANT DECISIONS WITH CONFIDENCE AND GRACE.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, KARI HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLE SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR ME AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. SHE BELIEVED IN ME, CHALLENGED ME TO GROW, OFFERED GUIDANCE WHEN IT WAS NEEDED MOST, AND CONTINUALLY REMINDED ME OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADING WITH BOTH STRENGTH AND HEART. HER CONFIDENCE IN OUR TEAM HAS INSPIRED US TO BELIEVE IN OURSELVES, AND HER COMMITMENT TO THIS ORGANIZATION HAS LEFT AN IMPRINT THAT WILL BE FELT FOR YEARS TO COME. KARI, THANK YOU FOR YOUR COUNTLESS HOURS OF SERVICE, YOUR UNWAVERING DEDICATION, AND YOUR REMARKABLE LEADERSHIP. YOU HAVE HELPED SHAPE NOT ONLY THIS ORGANIZATION BUT THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE. WHILE WE WILL DEEPLY MISS YOUR LEADERSHIP AS BOARD CHAIR, WE KNOW YOUR LEGACY WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE ALL OF US.

AS WE CELEBRATE KARI'S REMARKABLE SERVICE, WE ARE EQUALLY EXCITED TO WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD CO-CHAIRS, THEODORE K. AND ERIC A. THEIR PASSION FOR COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT TO SERVICE, AND SHARED VISION FOR OUR FUTURE MAKE THIS AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER FOR OUR ORGANIZATION. TOGETHER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING UPON THE STRONG FOUNDATION THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WHILE CONTINUING TO EXPAND OUR REACH, STRENGTHEN OUR PARTNERSHIPS, AND CREATE EVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THOSE FACING HUNGER AND HARDSHIP.

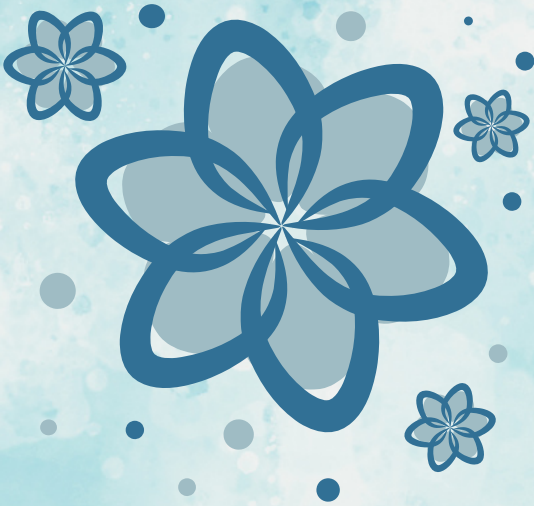
THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU. EVERY CHALLENGE WE OVERCOME STRENGTHENS OUR RESOLVE. EVERY PARTNERSHIP WE BUILD EXPANDS OUR IMPACT. EVERY VOLUNTEER WHO SERVES, EVERY DONOR WHO GIVES, EVERY BOARD MEMBER WHO LEADS, EVERY STAFF MEMBER WHO CARES, AND EVERY FAMILY WE HELP REMINDS US WHY THIS WORK MATTERS.

TOGETHER, WE ARE CREATING MORE THAN PROGRAMS.

WE ARE CREATING HOPE. WE ARE CREATING OPPORTUNITY. WE ARE CREATING STRONGER COMMUNITIES WHERE NO ONE HAS TO FACE HARDSHIP ALONE. THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR MISSION, FOR WALKING BESIDE US, AND FOR CONTINUING TO INVEST IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE,
CAROLINA DIAZ

Lived Experience Story



Tanya has been staying at the Care and Share for a month now. She has had so much trauma in the past 10 years with an abusive boyfriend, homelessness, drug abuse, and not feeling safe. I simply asked Tanya just tell me your story, what was your path to come here.

She told me she has never felt safer then she does now. She feels so much personal growth and confidence in herself again she never thought she would. She finally believes she has a purpose. "There's no end to where i can go now."

Tanya has experienced pyhsical abuse, mental abuse, addiction, and self harm. She has overcome all of this herself without any support from her family. She hasnt lived at home since she was 11. She was in and out of foster homes until she was of age. She has bounced around North Dakota most of her life. Tanya came from being homeless and living on the streets in fargo in fear of where she could sleep at night. She left an abusive relationship after much physical and emotional damage was done. It took her more then a few tries. Tanya has tried to take her own life because she didn't feel like she was enough. Tanya has always struggled with self worth as well as other problems. There was always alot of self doubt.

Tanya has been clean for 5 months now. She even said she feels like she has a clear and level head for the first time in her life. She feels a purpose and want inside herself to continue to do well and to try and help other people. She feels the people and staff at the care and share actually care and want to help.

Tanya really is just one of our amazing inspiertaion stories of why the care and share is so vital and important. We never know someone's true story until we have walked in their shoes. Never give up!

DONORS & VOLUNTEERS



Employee Recognition



Board of Director's

Anna Corona - Vice Chair

Angel Korynta - Treasurer

Mike anderson - Secretary

Leah Winjum - Director

Stephen Larson - Director

Kevin Thompson - Director

Dede Butenhoff - Director

Ted Krmpotich - Co-Chair

Eric Abrahamson - Co-Chair



BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S

BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTRODUCTION

MY NAME IS ERIC ABRAHAMSON. I TRANSITIONED INTO CORRECTIONS IN 2023 AFTER A FOUNDATIONAL CAREER IN INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION AND LOGISTICS ACROSS NORTH DAKOTA AND ALASKA. THIS CAREER PIVOT TO MINNESOTA ALIGNED WITH DISCOVERING MY TRUE CALLING: HELPING INDIVIDUALS NAVIGATE CHALLENGING TRANSITIONS AND FIND THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES.

THROUGH OUR JAIL'S CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR SHELTER, I HAVE SEEN FIRSTHAND THE VITAL IMPACT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. I AM EAGER TO BRING MY PUBLIC SAFETY BACKGROUND, PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, AND PASSION FOR REHABILITATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I AM A DEDICATED FAMILY MAN. MY FIANCÉE AND I RAISE OUR SEVEN CHILDREN HERE IN POLK COUNTY, A REWARDING EXPERIENCE THAT FUELS MY COMMITMENT TO BUILDING A STRONGER, SAFER, AND MORE SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FOR EVERYONE.

ERIC ABRAHAMSON

BOARD CHAIR REFLECTION ON A TERM OF GROWTH AND SERVICE

AS MY TERM AS BOARD CHAIR COMES TO A CLOSE, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, PARTNERS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE MADE SERVING ON THE BOARD BOTH MEANINGFUL AND REWARDING. SERVING AS CHAIR HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE, AND I AM PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER. DURING THIS TIME, OUR ORGANIZATION HAS CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN ITS COMMITMENT TO OUR MISSION, WHILE WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO ADVANCE INITIATIVES THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR GUESTS AND THE COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME.

THE ORGANIZATION'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE THE RESULT OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, ENGAGED BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTED STAFF, AND STRONG COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS. I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO WORK ALONGSIDE INDIVIDUALS WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT OUR MISSION AND ARE WILLING TO INVEST THEIR TIME AND EXPERTISE TO MOVE OUR ORGANIZATION FORWARD.

LEADERSHIP IS NEVER ABOUT ONE PERSON. IT IS ABOUT BUILDING A TEAM, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS TO CONTRIBUTE, AND LEAVING THE ORGANIZATION STRONGER THAN YOU FOUND IT. I AM CONFIDENT THE INCOMING BOARD CHAIR(S) AND LEADERSHIP TEAM WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THIS MOMENTUM AND LEAD THE ORGANIZATION TOWARD AN EXCITING FUTURE.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED ME THROUGHOUT MY TERM. IT HAS TRULY BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE. I LOOK FORWARD TO REMAINING A PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE CARE & SHARE AND WATCHING ITS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

KARI BRAULT

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Please scan this QR code to be brought directly to our website



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