



2025 annual report

DAKOTA WOODLANDS, INC.

Empowering displaced families on their journey to independence.



From Our Executive Director



Colleena Carlisle
Executive Director

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the compassion of our community, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the extraordinary strength of the families who call Dakota Woodlands home during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

This year, Dakota Woodlands provided safety, stability, and supportive services to 225 individuals across 71 families, including 140 children. Our team delivered more than 2,300 case management sessions and 193 supportive programs, connecting families with housing, employment, financial, parenting, mental health, and essential resources on their journey toward stability.

Our impact was made possible by the generosity of 278 donors and 256 volunteers who contributed more than 2,370 hours of service. Their financial support, time, care, and commitment helped us provide meals, essential resources, family activities, facility support, special events, and meaningful experiences for the families we serve. Because of the collective efforts of our supporters, 63% of the families we served secured permanent housing, reliable income, or both.

Beyond our direct services, 2025 was a year of meaningful progress. We invested in our people, expanded relationships with community partners, advanced critical facility improvements, and reinforced the foundation that will support families for years to come.

As we move forward in 2026, we will continue building on that foundation by investing in our team, expanding opportunities for families, and responding to the growing needs of our community. We will complete major capital improvement projects, deepen community partnerships, and increase the resources available to help families achieve lasting stability. Most importantly, we will remain a safe, welcoming, and supportive place where families in Dakota County can find hope, stability, and a path forward.

Thank you to each of our donors and to every volunteer, partner, funder, and supporter who believed in our mission and stood alongside the families we serve. Your support allows Dakota Woodlands to do more than provide shelter.

Together, we are equipping, enriching, and empowering families to build stronger and more stable futures.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleena Carlisle". The script is elegant and fluid.

Colleena Carlisle
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Franklin". The script is elegant and fluid.

Joel Franklin
Board Chair

our vision and mission



VISION

Dakota Woodlands envisions a community where every family, regardless of their past circumstances, has access to the resources, opportunities, and support needed to thrive in permanent, sustainable housing. We aim to break the cycle of homelessness, empower families, and create stronger, more resilient communities by providing the tools for families to achieve independence and lasting success.



MISSION

Our mission is to empower displaced families on their journey to independence.

our approach

Every family that comes to Dakota Woodlands is navigating crisis, trauma, and uncertainty. We meet families where they are, affirming that seeking support is a sign of strength and working toward a shared goal: obtaining and sustaining safe, permanent housing.

Through person-centered support, our staff partners with each family to identify their strengths, challenges, and goals. Together, we create individualized plans and provide 24/7 support, housing assistance, community connections, education, and resources that help families move toward stability and independence.

As the only family shelter in Dakota County, we work closely with the County and its Supportive Housing Unit to provide coordinated services and long-term support. Dakota County manages the shelter waitlist and connects eligible families to Dakota Woodlands for placement.

In 2025, Dakota Woodlands served 225 individuals from 71 families, including 140 children. Of those served, 69% identified as BIPOC, 51% had experienced domestic violence, 55% of adults had annual incomes of \$12,000 or less, and 33% reported a mental or physical disability. These figures demonstrate the complex barriers families face and the continued need for safe shelter and comprehensive support.

For 2025, we strengthened our services through our Enrich, Empower, Equip framework:

Enrich:

We provided 71 families, 225 individuals, with 87,921 meals and snacks and offered 92 childcare sessions, along with 193+ educational programs and family activities that supported children's development, parenting wellness, and stronger family connections.

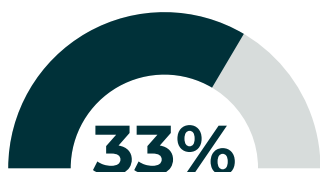
Empower:

Families received 20,718 safe nights of shelter while working toward their goals, and 36 households successfully transitioned into permanent housing. Throughout the year, 100% of residents had their basic needs met and were connected with appropriate resources.

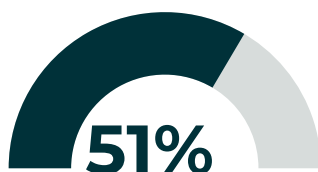
Equip:

We equipped families with the practical resources needed to move forward, providing 4,176 basic-needs items, 147 instances of direct client assistance, and 128 transportation trips for housing searches, medical appointments, childcare, and other essential needs.

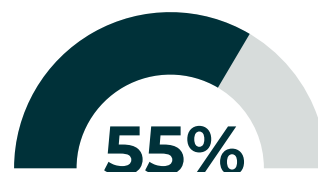
Our work creates a two-generation impact by providing immediate safety while equipping parents and children with the support, resources, and opportunities needed to build lasting stability and reduce the likelihood of future homelessness.



reported a mental illness



reported history of domestic violence



reported annual incomes of \$12,000 or less

Homelessness remains a critical issue in our community, but we are steadfast in our commitment to supporting families through every step of their journey.

our financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$171,597
Accounts receivable	\$27,363
Grants receivable	\$141,742
Other prepaids	\$15,123
Investments	\$669,552
Property & Equipment (net)	\$1,036,441
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,061,818

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$29,011
Accrued expenses	\$56,077
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$85,088

LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Forgiveable Loan	\$179,200
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$264,288

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$1,797,530
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,797,530
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,061,818

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE

Government	\$763,583
Grants & contrubutions	\$499,032
In-kind contributions	\$133,406
Fundrasing	\$27,070
Investments	\$121,422
Miscellaneous	\$500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,541,771

EXPENSES

Program services	\$1,306,785
Management & general	\$401,916
Development & fundraising	\$161,363
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,870,064

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(\$328,293)
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our cause

Homelessness affects communities of every size, age group, and family structure. On a single night in 2025, 745,652 people experienced homelessness in the United States, including 230,366 people in families with children. In addition, 35.9 million Americans lived below the federal poverty level in 2024, the most recent national poverty data available.

Homelessness is more than the loss of a physical place to live. It can create fear for personal safety, isolation, stigma, uncertainty, and lasting trauma. Children without secure and stable housing face increased risks to their education, physical and mental health, development, and future opportunities. Experiences of childhood trauma and housing instability can also have lasting effects that continue into adulthood.

For many families, homelessness begins when one unexpected expense, job disruption, health crisis, or childcare challenge collides with the rising cost and limited availability of housing. Even employment may not be enough to keep a family safely housed. In Minnesota, many adults experiencing homelessness are working, yet still cannot overcome the combined pressures of rent, transportation, childcare, health needs, and other barriers. Without timely support, one setback can quickly become a prolonged housing crisis.

Our suburban location presents an additional challenge. Families experiencing homelessness may be less visible because they are temporarily staying with relatives or friends, moving between homes, living in overcrowded conditions, or sleeping in vehicles. These families are often described as the “hidden homeless.” Although they may not be fully represented in annual homelessness counts, they still need immediate safety, supportive services, and a path toward permanent housing. Even if they cannot be seen, they are still in need of services and support.



745,652
people in the USA

are homeless without permanent housing and shelter. The majority of these people are children.



our 2025 impact

111

days

the average length of stay at the shelter for families



36

households

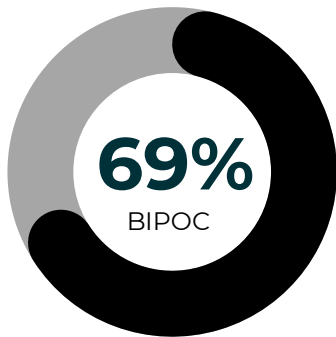
exited to permanent housing



140

children

0-17 years of age were served at the shelter



128+

rides for emergency care provided for clients



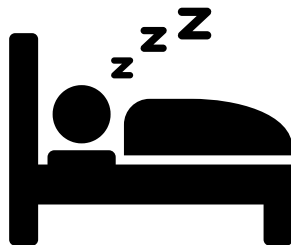
87,921+

meals and snacks provided



4,176+

basic needs items given out to clients



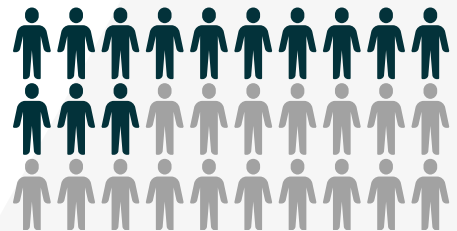
20,718+

total nights of a safe place to sleep provided to clients

85

adults

18+ years of age were served at the shelter



**END HOMELESSNESS
BECAUSE EVERY
FAMILY DESERVES
A HOME.**



2,300+

case management sessions provided

our volunteers

We are honored to recognize our volunteers who make this work possible! They make a difference in the lives of families experiencing homelessness!

A special thank you goes out to these individuals and groups who consistently give their time to Dakota Woodlands:

2025 Individuals

Thekta Adame
Yom Adame
Aron Admasu
Ava Anderson
Mahlet Baraki
Savannah Bear
Bruce Bodolson
Sue Bodolson
Kate Box
Alyse Bradley
Adam Burnett
Emily Burnett
Jenny Casper
Nicholas Chmielewski
Kathy Cuerra
Audrey Dick
Rod Ewert
Abbie Farley
Chris Fitzgerald
Elon Getachew
Murphy Glass
Jane Greiger
Lauren Hanley
Gary Hargreaves
Kim Harris
Kathy Hayden
Max Hendrickson

Julie Honebrink
Melissa Jacobsen
Maya Jenkins
Gretchen King
Maren Kinsella
Hadley Knight
Eric Koerner
Elizabeth Landsem
Piper Larson
Rena Legalesse
Lindsey Leterdre
Colin Lewandowski
Mary Kate Lynch
Susan Markes
Bruce Marlin
Sue Marlin
Patty Mathews
Veda Mehaffey
Emma Mensche
Nina Mirfakrazie
Jill Murphy
Lila Murray
Alex Newman
Dorothy Ogungbe
Beth Papacek-Kovach
Paul Kovach
Catherine Paske
Leah Passe

Ellie Patterson
Robyn Pearson
Larry Reeves
Niki Rudolph
John Schmeisser
Isabelle Springer
Lily Sukup
Dan Swalve
Maribeth Swalve
Patty Tanji
Tanya Tatting
Naomi Teklemariam
Stella Triplett
Kailyn Turnau
Ben Ven
Katie Williams
Makenna Willy
Reeve Wolf

2025 Groups

Advent United Methodist Church
Affinity Plus Credit Union
Berean Baptist Church

Church of the Risen Savior
DFL
Eagan Girl Scouts
Eagan Rotary
Eagn Robotics Team
Eastview High School
Fairview Health Clinic
Hosanna Church
Keller Williams Realty
Prince of Peace Church
Project Miracle
River Valley Church
St. Thomas Becket Catholic Church
Thomson Reuters
Transition Plus
TRIO
Visitation High School

2372+

**Volunteer Hours
Provided**

Want to volunteer?

Activities for Families
Donation Pick-ups
Front Desk Support
Kitchen Support
Maintenance & Repairs
Pantry Support

Resident Store
Teach Classes
Tutoring
Landscape
Community Events
Special Projects



our donors

We are honored to recognize our donors who support our mission!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all those whose support makes it possible to continue the work to support families experiencing homelessness in our community.

\$10,000+

Andersen Foundation
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Jenni Lawrence
Sauer Family Foundation
Brian and Stacey Steel

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Catholic Community
Foundation
CHS Inc.
Church of the Risen Savior
The Casey Albert T. O'Neil
Foundation
Thomson Reuters

\$2,500-\$4,999

Easter Lutheran Church
Emma Carey Groh Trust
ISD 196- MN TRUST
David & Sarah Iverson
Tim & Kelly Keegan
The Louis and Peaches Owen
Family Foundation
Otto C. Winzen Charitable Fund

\$1,000-\$2,499

Andrew and Sherry Anderson
Douglas Bakker
Matthew & Ann Blaser
Business Essentials
Beth Connaughty
James Delgreco
John & Susan Dyke
Eagan Community Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
Faithful Shepherd Catholic
School

Teresa Fraher
Grace Lutheran Church - Apple
Valley
Laurie Halverson
Helen Adair Foundation/The St. Paul
Foundation
Brian & Melissa Henning
Highland Elementary School
Darci & Peter Kaul
Mary Kaul-Hottinger
Tina Krahn
Amy Lemieux
Ann Lloyd
Lunds and Byerlys Eagan
Melanie and Andy Manaen
Margaret Rivers Fund
MARC MATSOFF
Microsoft Matching Program
Paul Olson
Beth Papacek-Kovach
River Heights Outdoor Solutions
Jay and Kathy Schliesman
Allen Shipton
Mark Strohmayer
Think Bank
Towhee-Rainbow Foundation
Edward & Mary Usset
Kathleen and Scott Ward
Moir Webster-Larranaga
Bart Zibrowski
Zinpro Corporation

\$500-\$999

American Postal Workers
Union/Twin Cities PDC Local APWU
7019
Alan Barch
Melissa & Ben Bauer
Carol & Steve Broback
Susan Clark

Jessica Edwards
Fidelity Charitable
Paul & Brenda Fischer
Katherine Guthrie
Lacey Gutierrez
Patrick Harris
Amy Hedquist
Kim Kuppenbender
Kathy and Eric Larson
David Logan
LPL Financial
Larry & Faith McCaghy
Jeff Mortensen
Roberta Noyes
Rick and Michele Nozel
Robyn Pearson
Brenda Philipsek
Scott Reger
Amanda Rosemark
Brandon Smith
Vallikannu Solayappan
Valentina Stone
Andrew Supina
Rachel Swanson
Alex and Joyce Tava
U.S. Bank Foundation
Suzan Vallafskey
Chuck Wood
Paul Zenner

\$250-\$499
Carol Blackburn
Richard & Catherine Bland

278+

**Donors during
2025!**

Together, we empower families on their journey to independence.

Blue Cross Blue Shield
 Bruce & Suzanne Bodelson
 Ralph and Joan Brose
 Paul Conlin
 Dakota Electric Association
 Amy Dellwo
 Eagan Rotary Service
 Foundation
 Sue Fitzgerald
 James Franta
 Lynn Galarneau
 Morgan Grinols
 Todd & Mary Hall
 Jill and William Janvrin
 Andy and Sarah Kroll
 Dawn Marcotte
 Susan Markes
 Joe and Sandy Martin
 Mary Ann and Kelly McCann
 Steve and Mary Melcher
 Jananne Nelson
 Kate Nordquist
 Luciano Patino
 Shannon Pettitt
 Stephen Rose
 Robin Sicoli
 Shelley Sidaros
 Mary Ann Choy and Steve
 Johnson
 Paul and Deb Stoll
 Taryn Tangen
 Patricia Tanji
 Everett Tollerud
 Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran
 Church
 Laura Weiss
 Michael & Anne Wiltscheck
 Erin Wroge
 Steve Zweber

\$100-\$249

Tami Abbas
 Tim Agen
 Lisa Alfson
 Andiamo Ristorante
 Deb Aschenbrener
 Katie Augustin
 Diane Bliss
 Robert C. & Kathy Zdroik Breid
 Shannon Caneff
 Marissa Cleaveland
 Ann Craxton
 Veronica Deenanath

Karl and Andrea Dobberman
 Andi Egbert
 Tonya & Matthew Foucault
 Koryn Franson
 Melissa Freeman
 Genesis Chiropractic Health Center
 Judy German
 Cathy Goaley
 Paul Gulenchyn
 Tom & Sandy Hamel
 Patricia Hanson
 Linda Hargreaves
 Jamie Hopkins
 Mary Hunt
 Anita Indrelie
 Vittorio Jaker
 Christos Jensen
 Madeline Kastler
 Vaughn Kavlie
 Maria Khalu
 Louis Kowalski
 Kowalski's Market/Terri Bautin
 David & Kristi Kuhnau
 Richard Kuhns
 Craig Larson
 Rani Lenhart
 Margo Leslie
 Aishwarya Mankala
 MCNA
 Kaveh Mirfakhraie
 Jessie Monfleury
 Al and Linda Morrison
 Kathleen Moulton
 Steven & Marcia Nelson
 Dana Nelson
 Janet & Lee Nelson
 John and Sandra Nentwig
 Steve and Becky Ness
 Scott Oakman
 Kenneth Papacek
 Keith & Nicole Paterson
 Anne Peltier
 Ted and Katie Plunkett
 Diana Richards
 Destiny Robinson
 Jennifer Rutschke
 Mark Ryan
 Beth Sagvold
 Roy Schlachtenhaufen
 Bradley and Ashley Schulzetenberg
 Robert Schwartz
 Angela Scott
 Randy Sjogren

Think Beyond Borders LLC
 Thomas and Elizabeth Ulrich
 United Parcel Service
 Jaimi and Brett Vander Berg
 Terri Wessling
 Amy Wilkins
 Hannelore Wondercheck
 Bryan Wray
 Yankee Tavern
 Kowalki's Market MPLS

\$99 and below

Adam Abdul-Karim
 Natalie Albers
 Samantha Alonis
 Bernard Bauman
 Nathan Beasley
 Jarvis Bell
 Mike Bockelman
 Sally Botsford
 Beth & Adam Burnett
 Patricia Campanaro
 Cheryl Caponi
 Kathy Carda
 Kara E. Casteel
 Mike Clough
 Allan Cloutier
 Mark Clyma
 Colleena Coleman
 Cub Foods
 Katie & Joe Dierkes
 Sandra Diestler
 Cheryl Divine
 Doolittles Woodfire Grill
 Eagan/Burnsville DFL
 Melissa Fahning
 Shannon Fokken
 GitHub
 Maureen Gitlin
 Hanover Ins Co
 Maureen Helm
 Rebecca Higgins
 Andrew Hoffman
 Jon Hohenstein
 Samantha Huisman
 Donna Huss
 Jensen's Super Club
 Shyamala Jithendranathan
 Laurence Johnson
 Lori Ann Kahler
 Patty Kelley
 Kate Kremer
 Sarah Leonhardt

Paul and Sandi Leska
 Heather Lopez
 Elizabeth Lund
 Julie & K.J. Maas
 Mad Cow
 George Maras
 Mark McCaghy
 Rebecca McCaghy
 Medtronic
 Dianne Miller
 Nicholas Moryn
 SK Mullins
 Network For Good
 Jeffrey Nordquist
 Cynthia Nordstrom
 Al and Terri Owens
 Panda Express
 Punch Pizza
 Richard Ramones
 Patricia Ramsey Iverson
 Elexis Rowell
 Scratch Pizza
 David Smith
 Geneva Solomon
 Debbie Stovall
 Julie Tietz
 Connie Wagner
 Emily Williams
 Erica and Norman Witt
 Wondrous Collective
 Amy Zabel

THANK
YOU!

**We are honored to recognize Dakota County CDA for
 their wonderful support for major capital needs!**



Dakota Woodlands extends our heartfelt gratitude to the Dakota County Community Development Agency and the Dakota County Board of Commissioners for approving critical funding to address major capital needs at our shelter, including the roof, windows, and other urgent repairs.

Built in 1971, our facility is showing its age. The roof, which was more than 50 years old, had deteriorated to the point that nearly every rainfall caused leaks in staff offices and throughout areas of the shelter. These conditions created ongoing challenges for our team and the families who rely on Dakota Woodlands for safe and stable shelter.

Tony Schertler and Lisa Alfson moved quickly, working in partnership with the Board of Commissioners to secure funding for these immediate needs. Their responsiveness and commitment allowed us to complete the roof replacement in 2025, restoring greater safety, dignity, and hope for our staff and families.

In 2026, we will continue this important work by completing window improvements and other critical capital projects. While these investments have made a meaningful difference, the building remains older and in need of continued repairs and long-term support so we can continue serving families during times of crisis.

We are deeply grateful for their partnership and continued support. We could not do this work without them.

Thank You for Restoring Safety, Dignity, and Hope!



Gifts listed were received between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. We take every measure to ensure that all donors are listed correctly and regret any inaccuracies in this list. If you discover an error, please contact us at 651-456-9110.

Want to donate? www.dakotawoodlands.org/donate



thank
you!

contact us

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Eagan, MN 55123

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E: Info@dakotawoodlands.org
www.dakotawoodlands.org



@dakotawoodlands

