AUTUMN ISSUE

Quarterly Newsletter

THE CONNECT CENTER



Stories of Impact: From Street Outreach to a Place to Call Home

On a bitter winter night in northern Washington County, two Connect Center Advocates were doing street outreach. They saw a car in a store parking lot with two people huddled inside. Our Advocates introduced themselves and got permission to run into the store to get them some cold-weather supplies and food.

The next day, the TCC Advocates met them at McDonald's to learn more about this young couple's situation. They had been living in a car that was severely damaged and not safe to drive.

TCC Advocates helped the couple to find jobs that they could walk to from their broken car. They connected them to resources, including Veterans Affairs and helped them to find an apartment. The couple also received a car that was donated to The Connect Center.

The couple invited the TCC Advocates to their small wedding beside a lake. They had nearly given up and simply needed someone to walk beside them. TCC Advocates will continued to stand with them as they move toward the future, one goal at a time.





We have moved

We are so excited to share that The Connect Center has officially moved to our new home in Bayport! This move marks an exciting new chapter for our organization. We look forward to the opportunity to grow our presence and build stronger connections within the community.

We have great space to meet with clients and connect individuals and families with the support and resources they need. We welcome anyone during our office hours Monday - Thursday 10:00-4:00 pm.

We are grateful to be part of such a close-knit community and excited for all that is ahead. A huge thank you to Revival Moving for generously helping us move into our new space.

Later, we will host an Open House to celebrate our new space and officially welcome the community through our doors. Stay tuned for details. We can't wait to celebrate this new chapter with our community. Our new address is *287 Central Ave, Bayport MN 55003.*



Donor Spotlight

The Connect Center is grateful to the Bayport American Legion for their generous donation to support our move into our new Bayport location.

Their support helped us hire movers, purchase desks and computer monitors, create a welcoming space for visitors, and strengthen our IT and cybersecurity.

We are thankful to be supported by our fellow neighbors and proud to be part of the Bayport community. Thank you, Bayport American Legion, for investing in The Connect Center and the people we serve!



Sweet Connections at Charter Oaks Townhomes

Residents enjoyed an afternoon of ice cream and time to connect with neighbors and community partners.

The event gave our team an opportunity to spend time with Charter Oaks residents, learn more about their needs, and share how The Connect Center can support those in the community.

The Connect Center also hosts an after-school program there for school aged children two days each week. The program provides a safe, welcoming place for kids to spend time building relationships and participating in activities.

Everyone is Welcome at the Table

Community is about more than sharing a meal. It's about coming together, meeting your neighbors, building connections, and knowing you have a place where you belong. The Connect Center is proud to offer free community meals where everyone is welcome, no matter your circumstances.

No registration is required, and there's no cost to attend. Come enjoy a warm meal and be part of a community that believes we're all connected.

The Connect Center Community Meal
Every 4th Friday | 5:30–7:00 p.m.
In partnership with various local churches throughout the Stillwater area. The location changes each month.

Visit our website to find this month's meal location and discover other free community meals available throughout Washington County.

Meet our Interns



Derek Berg

I am in my final semester at Century College before I graduate with an associate's degree in psychology and certificates in mental and behavioral health work and creative writing. I'll be helping out at the Connect Center through November as advocate and administrative support as well as being a mentor at the after-school program. After Century, I plan to transfer to a 4-year college to finish my bachelors in psychology. In my free time I enjoy listening to audiobooks and water coloring!



Veronica Williams

I am currently attending Century College, where I am pursuing my Associate of Arts degree in Psychology. I am also working toward earning my mental and behavioral health certificate as well as mental health practitioner certificate. My passion for psychology began in high school when I took my first psychology class. From that experience, I knew that psychology was the career path I wanted to pursue. I am passionate about understanding people, mental health, and finding ways to support others. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, cooking, and baking. I look forward to gaining hands-on experience through my internship and continuing to grow both personally and professionally in the mental health field..



Alexis McCloskey

I am currently in my last semester at Century College; I am completing the Pre-Social Work Transfer Pathway program and then will be transferring in December to Metro State to complete my Bachelor's in Social Work. I wanted to intern with The Connect Center so that I could serve the same community that I grew up in. I connect with the work that they do on a personal level, and it has been a full circle moment to work and learn alongside this team. I am grateful I will be able to connect and learn more about the community that The Connect Center serves. I hope to gain experience in supporting our youth through the after-school program and work alongside the advocates here. Outside of school and work I enjoy spending time outside with family, going on walks with my dog Alfie, and trying new dinner recipes.



Autmn Reflections

October brings colder weather, beautiful trees full of color and worries about winter around the corner. There are too many people with unstable housing, living in their cars and even outside in parks or wherever they can find a place to sleep for a night.

Just last week, we got two calls from women that had been spending nights outside because they had no car and no one to stay with. One was in Stillwater and the other was in Newport. The Emergency Housing Building next to the Washington County Government Center is full and has openings only when someone moves out.

Please help us support our unhoused neighbors. Connect Center Outreach Workers meet people in the community who have unstable housing or no place to stay.

Once we meet basic needs, we then help people find permanent housing, jobs, connections to resources, and more.

Together we can make a difference in our communities. There is homelessness throughout Washington County. We can work together to help unhoused people know that we care about them. We can help them find safe, affordable housing as well as help with other goals to find employment and needed resources.

Please consider joining us in our efforts to help our unhoused neighbors with a donation of a gift card, a financial gift, or a volunteering heart and hand. Thank you for helping to make our community a healthier community of warmth, care and welcome.

Warmly,

Cindy Parsons, Executive Director

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Resources for living. Connections for life.
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Your contribution can help us continue our mission to provide essential services and support to those in need. Please consider making a donation today. Donations are tax deductible. Visit our website to give.