



Annual Report

July 2017-June 2018

529 Kansas City Street, Suite 100, Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 348-6086 www.catholicsocialservicesrapidcity.com



Brittney Papike believes the Uplifting Parent Program helped her escape a life of poverty.

"CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES DOES THE "THINGS" MOST PEOPLE THINK JUST HAPPEN!"

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES 2017-2018 LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS:

Terms Expired 6/30/2018

President – Susan Raposa, Business Executive
Vice President– Lisa Wesolick, Kendrick & Company
Secretary – Mary Kjerstad, Dental Hygienist
Treasurer – Cassie Ward, Century Properties
Executive Director – Jim Kinyon, Executive Director

DIRECTORS:

Terms Expired 6/30/2018

Brenda Wills, RPM Solutions
Deacon Marlon Leneau, Diocese of Rapid City
Sheila Lien, Accountant
Matt Stone, Civil Engineer

Terms Expire 6/30/2019

Susan Meyer, Attorney
Cassie Ward, Century Properties
Rick Soulek, Diocese of Rapid City
Mary Kjerstad, Dental Hygienist

Terms Expire 6/30/2020

Lisa Wesolick, Kendrick & Company
Susan Raposa, Business Executive
Dr. Steve Massopust, Physician
Richard Rangel, Rangel Construction Company

Terms Expire 6/30/2021

Robert Aberle – RC Catholic School System
Jamie Hilt – RC Regional Hospital
Sheila Lien – Accountant
Brenda Wills – RPM Solutions

PERMANENT BOARD SEAT

The Most Reverend Robert Gruss,
Bishop of Rapid City

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES 2017-2018

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Jim Kinyon, Executive Director

ADOPTION DEPARTMENT

Nora Boesem, Director
Hannah Ceremuga
Lisa Spielmann

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Cathy Larsen, Director
Patty Jonas
Darlene Nichols
Bryan Satterwhite
Evelyn Wilder
Amanda Woolridge

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

John Schmit, Director
Mary Garrigan

HR, FINANCE & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Lorinda Collings, Director
Tina Dockter
Leon Lunders
Melinda Sass
Christin Sjomeling
Colleen Gustafson

LAKOTA CIRCLES OF HOPE DEPARTMENT

Jim Kinyon, Director
Staci Eagle Elk

PROSPERITY INITIATIVE DEPARTMENT

Tracy Palecek, Director
Lori Larson

UPLIFTING PARENTS DEPARTMENT

Natalie Lecy, Director
Trivia Afraid of Lightning
Becky Cornell-Marsich
Hannah Ceremuga

2018-2019 Newly Elected Officers and Directors



Susan Raposa
President
Catholic Social Services



Lisa Wesolick
Vice President
Catholic Social Services



Cassie Ward
Treasurer
Catholic Social Services



Mary Kjerstad
Secretary
Catholic Social Services



Jamie Hilt
Newly Elected Director
Catholic Social Services



Robert Aberle
Newly Elected Director
Catholic Social Services



Sheila Lien
Newly Elected Director
Catholic Social Services



Brenda Wills
Newly Elected Director
Catholic Social Services

2017-2018 Committee Roster “Thank you for your leadership”

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Colleen Lecy – Chair
Jon Keller
Stephanie Hurd
Curt Bomesberger
Sheila Lien
Mary Kjerstad
Matt Stone

LAKOTA CIRCLES OF HOPE

Dcn. Marlon Leneau, Chair
Ann Marie Amiotte
April Fallis
Barry Mann
Jennifer Sierra
Manny Iron Hawk

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Dr. Steve Massopust, Chair
David DiMaria
Cassie Ward
Richard Rangel
Leon Lunders

DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE

Jim Kinyon, Chair
Margaret Simonson
Leon Lunders
Dr. Tyler Dennis
George Welk
Paul Keller
Marge Keller
Dcn. Marlon Leneau
Mark Hazel
Tom LeFavie

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Connie Forstner, Chair
Julie Oberlander
Debbie Johnson
Brenda Wills
Rosemary Harvey

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cassie Ward, Chair
Jeffrey Meyer
David DiMaria
Rick Soulek

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Raposa, Chair
Mary Kjerstad
Lisa Wesolick
Cassie Ward

HR COMMITTEE

Lisa Wesolick, Chair
Sheila Lien
Rick Soulek

(Susan Raposa – President; Jim Kinyon – Executive Director serve on all Committees.
Staff Department Heads also serve on their respective Committees)

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CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Our Mission

To share in Christ's ministry of offering hope, promoting individual human dignity and strengthening families and communities by providing professional social services to people of all faiths in western South Dakota.

2017-2018



Susan Raposa
President
Catholic Social Services



Jim Kinyon
Executive Director
Catholic Social Services

2017-2018 Financial Report

Revenues:	\$2,062,049*
Foundations	43%
Donations/Gifts.....	18%
Fees for services	28%
Stewardship	7%
United Way	2%
Misc	2%
Expenses:	\$1,489,428*
Programs Services	85%
Admin./Management.....	8%
Fundraising	7%

* UNAUDITED [AUDIT AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER 2018]

Catholic Social Services strives to make certain that we are accountable and good stewards of our resources. All donations and other support are used to further our mission of Christ like services to those in need. Catholic Social Services undergoes an annual audit, conducted by Ketel Thorstenson, LLP. As part of the audit process the Board receives a report directly from the auditing firm. The Finance Committee of the Board ensures the CSS staff follows and adheres to recommended accounting practices, procedures and controls. If there are questions or concerns regarding the audit, please feel free to contact either Jim Kinyon - CSS Executive Director or Cassie Ward - Board Treasurer.

2017-18 By The Numbers

529 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD 57701

Annual Operating Budget: \$2,062,049 Million

- 85% Program Services
- 8% Administration/Management
- 7% Fundraising Expenses

We served individuals
18,878 +
& families

THREE HUNDRED NINETY ONE
ADOPTIONS BY CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES SINCE 1972

5,679

Participated in our **educational programs**

51 **TELEHEALTH SESSIONS**

OVER 1,014 students participated in the **Lakota Circles of Hope** Program in Reservation Schools last year.

Uplifting Parents Program worked **19** to empower families toward higher education

THREE THOUSAND SIXTY EIGHT **Counseling** sessions held for our clients

180 participated in the **smile classes** for separating parents with children

OVER 600 individuals have received **disaster support** in the past five years

The New **Prosperity Initiative** has organized agencies to assist in reducing poverty in the greater Rapid City Area.

60



Curt Bomesberger
Program Committee Liaison
Counseling Department



Jim Kinyon
MS, LPC-MH, LMFT, QMHP
Executive Director



Cathy Larsen
MS, LPC-MH, QMHP, CAC
Director – Counseling Department



Patty Jonas
MS
Outpatient Therapist



Mandi Woolridge
MS, LPC-MH, QMHP
Counseling Dept.



Darlene Nichols-Coffey
MS, LPC, QMHP, NCC
Outpatient Therapist



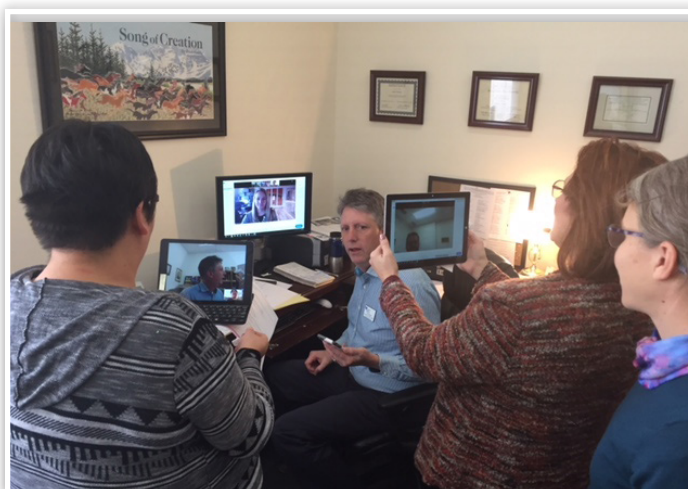
Bryan Satterwhite
MS, CSW, QMHP
Outpatient Therapist



Evelyn Wilder
MS, LPC-MH, QMHP, NCC, LAC
Outpatient Therapist

Counseling Department *“Our professional therapists have a holistic*

Telehealth Initiative Brings CSS Services to More Rural Areas



Test Run: Shana Pourier, Jim Kinyon, Cathy Larsen and Christin Sjomeling

Catholic Social Services was awarded a two-year, \$50,000 grant by Catholic Extension to help fund its new telehealth initiative.

The funds will subsidize the cost of providing behavioral health services to individuals and families living in remote rural areas of western South Dakota that are delivered via a confidential digital connection through computer or mobile

devices. Telehealth counseling platforms improve access to counseling services for people who may lack the transportation, resources or time to travel to CSS offices in Rapid City or one of its other satellite offices. CSS is partnering with some parishes in the diocese that have agreed to serve as pastoral sites for telehealth services. For more information call the Counseling Department at 348-6086.

Counseling Department is Staffed by Professional Outpatient Therapist

The Counseling Department is CSS's largest Department, with 7 Outpatient Therapists. They offer counseling to the following: Families, couples, individual adults, and children struggling with mental health and addiction issues. The Counseling staff has offices in Rapid City, Spearfish, Eagle Butte, Porcupine and Pine Ridge. This Department is pleased to have Curt Bomesberger as our volunteer leader, and Cathy Larsen as the director.

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approach to counseling, considering emotions, mind, body and spirit."

Common Sense Parent Classes Offered by CSS



Evelyn Wilder, MS, LPC-MH, QMHP, NCC, LAC, Outpatient Therapist at Catholic Social Services is pictured presenting the Common Sense Parenting Class at Pine Ridge in October. CSS offered classes at other locations including Rapid City.

CSS Offers Suicide Prevention Training (QPR)



Executive Director Jim Kinyon presented Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) suicide prevention trainings on Aug. 21 in Eagle Butte and LaPlant, to more than 50 employees of Sacred Heart Center family violence shelter and, youth residential treatment facility, as well as, the Tiospaye Topa School in LaPlant. CSS is providing QPR trainings across western South Dakota to help combat some of the highest suicide rates in the United States, found in those communities.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO YOUR CHURCH,
SERVICE CLUB, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

**Catholic Social Services
Professional Staff**
**offers a wide-range of programs
that are available to your
organization's members:**

THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL LIST OF
THE CURRENT PROGRAMS AVAILABLE:

Alcoholism/Substance Abuse:

- What Every Teen Needs to Know About Substance Abuse
- Alcoholism in the Family

Anger Management

Coping Skills

Bullying Prevention

Care for the Caregiver – Adult Care Giving

Co-Dependency

Depression and Anxiety

Marriage Enrichment

Trauma program

Emotional Resilience

Forgiveness

Grief Process

Healthy Relationships



Catherine J. Larsen
MS, LPC-MH, QMHP, CAC
Director
Counseling Department

Native American Topics:

- Lakota Cultural Sensitivity Training
- Lakota Circles of Hope Program

PTSD -Post Traumatic Stress Disorder-Coping with Disaster

Parenting:

- Building Self-Esteem in Children and/or yourself
- Common Sense Parenting
- Stronger Parents – Healthier Children

Personalities in the Workplace

Pornography Prevention

SMILE-Adult Program for Divorcing Parents

Stress Management

Suicide Prevention:

- For Adults – QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)
- For Teens – Cherish the Gift of Life

Wonderfully Made – Human Sexuality:

- Human Sexuality – Its Meaning and Purpose
- Sex Abuse Prevention Training –Safe Environment
- Sexual Assault

(PLEASE ASK FOR OTHER TOPICS OF YOUR CHOICE)

To schedule one of our Professional Staff for a presentation, please contact Cathy Larsen at 605-348-6086 or email to cathy.larsen@cssrapidcity.com.



Lisa Wesolick
Chair
Human Resources



Lorinda Collings
Director
Human Resources



Melinda Sass
Secretary &
Receptionist

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Human Resources Department

"Thank you for trusting us to be responsible stewards of your employees, many of whom hold advanced degrees and licensures."

CSS Board, Staff and Their Families Enjoyed the Christmas Party on December 11



Pictured in the Diorama Room at the Dahl Arts Center (from Left: Tina Dockter, Luke Brown, Melinda Sass, Hannah Ceremuga, Mary Garrigan, Tracy Palecek, Natalie Lecy, Darlene Nichols, Sheila Lien, Leon Lunders, Cathy Larsen, Mary Kjerstad, Susan Raposa, Lisa Wesolick, Evelyn Wilder, Jim Kinyon, Richard Rangel, Shana Pourier, Dr. Steve Massopust, Lorinda Collings and John Schmit.

The HR Division, chaired by Lisa Wesolick, updated the employee annual review process, reviewed the job descriptions and established salary brackets and bonus opportunities this past year. This Division is also responsible for the employee benefit package, employee morale, and other related issues. Employees attended semi-monthly staff meetings, with meals provided by Lorinda Collings, where birthdays are recognized, along with an annual Christmas party and a summer picnic. The HR Division is also responsible for staffing the front office and maintaining a positive image.

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PROSPERITY INITIATIVE DEPARTMENT

Prosperity Initiative Department

Through the Prosperity Initiative, CSS provides the "Poverty 101" training on the root causes of poverty and how to effectively break poverty barriers.

Prosperity Initiative Holds Monthly Coaches Meeting to Review Clients Needs



Tracy Palecek, Prosperity Initiatives Program Director, is pictured (front left) providing her monthly update to the other agencies working to reduce poverty in the Rapid City Area.

Staff from over 60 organizations in Rapid City have been trained as "Prosperity Coaches." Prosperity Coaches assist in making Rapid City a more poverty informed community by increasing poverty awareness in their own agency as well as the broader community. The coaches participate in the monthly meetings to discuss how to more effectively eliminate poverty barriers in our own community.

John T. Vucurevich Foundation Continues Funding for Poverty Reduction Work



Pictured at the check presentation on January 8 are (from left): Jim Kinyon - CSS Executive Director Tracy Palecek - Prosperity Initiative Program Director Jessica Gromer - John T. Vucurevich Foundation Sandra Diegel - John T. Vucurevich Foundation John Ligtenberg - Love, Inc.



Shelia Lien
Program Committee Liaison
Prosperity Initiative



Tracy Palecek
MS LPC, NCC,
Director, Prosperity Initiative



Lori Larson
Mentor
Prosperity Initiative

Communications Development Department

"Thank you for your continued generosity as

Palm Sunday Brunch Attracts Over 750



Pictured just prior to the Brunch Program are from left front row: US Representative Kristi Noem; Susan Raposa – CSS President; Most Rev. Robert Gruss – Bishop of Rapid City; and Greg Kepferle – Catholic Charities USA, Keynote Speaker. Back Row from left: Margaret Simonson – Diocese Chancellor; Very Rev. Michel Mulloy – Diocese Vicar General; Connie Forstner – Palm Sunday Brunch Chair; and Jim Kinyon – CSS Executive Director.

BISHOP'S GOLF CLASSIC HELPS FUND CSS PROGRAMS

The Communication and Development Department, chaired by Connie Forstner, was responsible for the Palm Sunday Brunch fund raiser, Ash Wednesday Appeal, Annual Banquet, Estate Planning Workshops, grants and all communications. Mary Garrigan, is the CSS grant writer, a position shared with the Diocese of Rapid City. This division also publishes a quarterly newsletter, monthly e-newsletter, departmental brochures, press releases, articles for West River Catholic, etc.



Pictured from left: Richard Rangel (CSS Board Member), Bishop Robert Gruss, Joseph Rangel, and Mario Rangel. Rangel Construction Company was one of the Platinum sponsors. The other Platinum sponsors included RBC Wealth Management and KNBN News Center One TV.

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s evidenced by your gifts supporting CSS.” (see pages 10,11,12 for list of donors July 1, 2017 to June 30 , 2018)

Photos by West River Catholic



Pictured at the Annual Banquet Back row from left: Dan Duffy- Honoree, Susan Meyer- Honoree, Barbara Honeycutt, RC Catholic School System Superintendent, Ray Hillenbrand and Jim Kinyon – CSS Executive Director. Pictured front row from left: Susan Raposa – CSS President, Richard Thompson – Founder's Award Honoree, Most Rev. Robert Gruss – Bishop of Rapid City, and John Garvey – President of The Catholic University of America.



Connie Forstner
Chair
Communication/Development



John Schmit
Director
Development



Mary Garrigan
Grant Writer
Communication/Development

Check Out CSS at
www.catholicsocialservices.com

Counseling Services
Let the healing begin.

Highlights

Pregnancy Counseling

Educational Workshops

Lakota Circles of Hope

Uplifting Parents

Welcome to Catholic Social Services

Events

JULY	17	SMILE PROGRAM
AUGUST	21	SMILE PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER	18	SMILE PROGRAM
	21	STRENGTHENING FAMILIES



Pictured left: Jim Kinyon, CSS Executive Director, Richard Thompson- Founder's Award Honoree and Susan Raposa – CSS President. The Founder's Award is given to a person who exemplifies the spirit of CSS Founder, Msgr. William O'Connell.

CSS website home page-left

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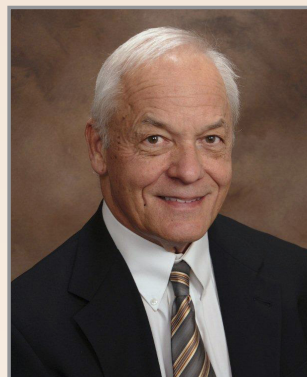
FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Facilities Department

"To enhance CSS office facilities, informational and operational systems."



Thomas Collings-Stubs Custom Welding (left) and Jim Kinyon-CSS Executive Director inspect the finished stairway railings to the 2nd floor. The railings were upgraded for safety concerns of small children using the stairway. Other improvements include the air handling equipment, automatic front door access, new offices on the 2nd floor for CSS Admin staff, a new handicapped access restroom on the 2nd floor, AV equipment access and other minor repairs.



Dr. Steven Massopust
Chair
Facilities Department



Lorinda Collings
Director
Facilities Department



Christin Sjomeling
Information Systems



Leon Lunders
Maintenance

NO VACANCY

THANKS FOR HELPING US EXTEND AFFORDABLE PROFESSIONAL OFFICES TO THESE LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



TENANTS INCLUDE:

- Life Line
- Helpline Center
- Allied Arts
- Black Hills Arthritis
- Passages
- Western Resources for Independent Living
- Coming Home Rapid City
- Dew Drop Productions
- Kerry Fitch

For information about space on the 2nd floor, rent, lease period, parking, utilities, etc.

PLEASE CONTACT LORINDA COLLINGS 605-348-6086 529 KANSAS CITY STREET, RAPID CITY, SD 57701



The Most Rev.
Robert Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City



Jim Kinyon
MS, LPC-MH, LMFT, QMHP
Executive Director



Lorinda Collings
Support Staff
Disaster Relief



Leon Lunders
Support Staff
Disaster Relief

DIOCESE OF RAPID CITY

Disaster Relief Department

"To provide resources and services to positively impact Individuals, families and communities who have been impacted by a natural disaster"

Handicapped-Accessible Shower was Installed for Deanna and Ben Sweet by CSS

When Deanna and Ben Sweet list what they're grateful for this year, a new handicapped-accessible shower paid for through the Pope Francis Fund at Catholic Social Services is high on their list.

"I am so thankful to Catholic Social Services. I feel so much safer in the new shower because it was getting hard climbing in and out of that bathtub. I was just dreading having to shower, always worrying about falling."

The Sweets, married for 56 years, both suffer health-related disabilities. Ben, 77, is confined to a wheelchair due to his COPD and badly damaged knees from years working as an electrical lineman. He's diabetic and, after suffering a heart attack and a debilitating stroke 10 years ago, is not a candidate for surgical knee replacement. Deanna suffers severe neuropathy in her feet and legs and uses a walker to get around. She was having increasing difficulties getting in and out of the high, narrow bathtub/shower in the 2-bedroom Rapid City apartment the couple has called home for the past 11 years. Ben's home-health aides find it much easier to



bathe him in the new shower, she said.

Western Resources, where Ben was an adult day care client, put the Sweets in touch with CSS after their own grant funds for home renovation projects like this didn't materialize. Deanna spent a year looking elsewhere for help since the Sweets could not afford the cost of installing the new shower on their own. Other non-profits were unable to help because the Sweets didn't own

their home. An anonymous donor to CSS's Pope Francis Fund, which provides one-time funds for disaster relief and emergency projects, was happy to help keep the Sweets in their own home. Patriot Plumbing installed the new shower a few days before Thanksgiving.

"It means a lot. I don't want to have to move. This is home. And it means a chance of keeping Ben out the nursing home a little longer," Deanna said. **"I am just so thankful to Catholic Social Services. It's been wonderful."**

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FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Finance Department

"Thank you for trusting us to be responsible stewards of your donations."

Cassie Ward, as CSS Treasurer, is the Chair of the Finance Department and responsible for over a \$2 million budget. About 60% of the budget income is derived from donations, grants and memorial gifts, with the balance from contracts for services and client fees for services. CSS also received "in-kind gifts" primarily layette items, diapers, etc. for our clients. Less than 7% of our budget is used for fundraising. This Department also processes all insurance claims and tracks all CSS agency data regarding clients served and presentations.

Catholic Social Services is audited by a local professional CPA Firm annually to ensure our donors, grantors and other entities under contract, that CSS has accounted for every last dollar used to support the mission and clients.



Cassie Ward
Treasurer
Finance Department



Anonymous Donors Provide Baby Layette Items for CSS

Pictures from left: Tina Dockter – CSS Insurance Administrator; Melinda Sass – CSS Secretary/Receptionist; and Lorinda Collings – CSS Director of HR & Finance. These three staff members manage the Layette Program for CSS clients. Donations are always welcome and appreciated by those families in need of emergency baby supplies.



Lorinda Collings
Director
Finance Department



Tina Dockter
Insurance Administrator
Finance Department



Colleen Gustafson
Administrative Assistant
Finance Department

St. Thomas More Middle School Provided Thanksgiving Meal Groceries for the CSS Client Families



STM Middle School Student Council, Jamie's Repair & Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home provided the funds for the purchase of the ingredients for a full Thanksgiving Meals for many CSS clients.

UPLIFTING PARENTS DEPARTMENT

Uplifting Parents Department

The Uplifting Parents Program (Program UP) was created to empower single parent families by providing resources to support their advancement in education.



Colleen Lecy
Program Committee Liaison
Uplifting Parents



Natalie Lecy
MSW, CSW-PF, QMHP
Director, Uplifting Parents



Becky Cornell Marsich
MS, LPC
Mentor, Uplifting Parents



Trivia Afraid of Lightning
BS MA
Mentor, Uplifting Parents



Hannah Ceremuga
MSW
Mentor, Uplifting Parents

Vucurevich Grant Allows CSS to Quadruple Program UP



Pictured from left: Jim Kinyon – CSS Executive Director; Jessica Gromer – John T. Vucurevich Foundation Program Officer; Natalie Lecy – CSS Uplifting Parents Program Director; Sandra Diegel – John T. Vucurevich Foundation President; William Evans – LEO Co-Founder and Andrea Ringer – LEO Researcher.

CSS Received Additional Grants Supporting the Uplifting Parents Program



Many thanks to our funding partners who awarded generous grants to the Uplifting Parents Program last year: Ameriprise Financial Services; American Family Insurance, Walmart Foundation, the Adams Mastrovich Family Foundation, US Bank Foundation, South Dakota Community Foundation and the William Fry Foundation. These grants help change lives and lift families out of poverty through education.

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ADOPTION & PREGNANCY DEPARTMENT

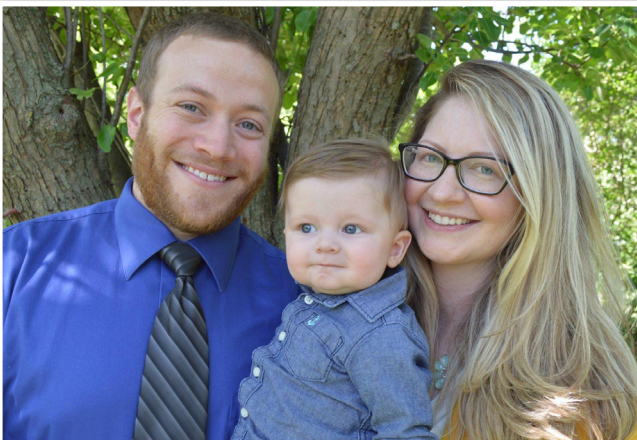
Adoption & Pregnancy Department

"We provide support, hope and options to women with an unplanned pregnancy."



We at CSS want to support you as you experience the many emotions and decisions that come with facing an unplanned pregnancy. Our caring social workers seek to understand the magnitude of the decision you are facing and are trained to help you find the option that will work for you.

Pregnancy is an emotional time involving changes. It is normal for pregnant women to feel anxious and experience self doubt. Hormonal changes can contribute to the mother's stress. Sometimes difficult circumstances surrounding pregnancy can be overcome with time, support and understanding.



Baby Isaac's adoption by Matt and Emily was finalized through Catholic Social Services in June.



Matt Stone

Program Committee Liaison
Adoption & Pregnancy Department



Nora Boesem
MSW, Director
Adoption & Pregnancy
Department



Lisa Spellman
LSW, Specialist
Adoption & Pregnancy
Department



Hannah Ceremuga,
MSW, Specialist
Adoption & Pregnancy
Department

Catholic Social Services has been assisting families with their desire to adopt for over 40 years. Our caring specialists are licensed and experienced in every aspect of adoption.

There are several types of adoption and your adoption specialist will provide you with more information on the type of adoption that would best fit your family.

Lakota Circles of Hope Department

“By using the cultural values of the Lakota people,



www.lakotacirclesofhope.org

Wopila to our schools and teachers who helped us with implementation in the past year.

- Pine Ridge Elementary
- Cheyenne River Elementary
- Cheyenne River Middle
- St. Joseph's Elementary
- St. Joseph's Middle
- Dupree Elementary
- Dupree Middle
- Red Cloud Elementary
- Red Cloud Middle
- Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary
- Our Lady of Lourdes Middle

Members of the Lakota Circles of Hope Advisory Board hold Planning Retreat



(Pictured from left): Barry Mann, Jim Kinyon, Shana Pourier, Gwen Holmes, April Fallis, John Usera, Anne Marie Amiotte, Jennifer Sierra, Dcn. Marlon Leneauh & Manny Iron Hawk.



Children participating in Lakota Circles of Hope lesson.

Dcn. Marlon Leneauh is the Liaison to the CSS Board from this department, which oversees the operations of the Lakota Circles of Hope Program. Jim Kinyon, CSS Executive Director has been acting as the Department Director for this past year, with Shana Pourier and Staci Eagle Elk, providing the day-to-day operations. Last year, LCH served students from 11 schools. The elementary curriculum is currently being offered in ten reservation schools.

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we are able to change lives and prevent unhealthy lifestyles”



Children participating in Lakota Circles of Hope program.

Lakota Circles of Hope Program Department participated in the Native American Day parade, Pow Wow and informational sessions in 2017. Suicide prevention was the target audience for the promotional material provided.



Dcn. Marlon Leneau
CSS Board Liaison
Lakota Circles of Hope



Jim Kinyon
Acting Director
Lakota Circles of Hope



Staci Eagle Elk
Mentor
Lakota Circles of Hope



The Most Rev.
Robert Gruss
Bishop of Rapid City

Suicide Affects Us All

Imagine coming home to discover that your child, perhaps a 12-year-old daughter or a 16-year-old son, has taken their own life. I can't imagine such an experience. But too many parents in communities across South Dakota have experienced this tragedy. Many priests and ministers serving in our communities agonize over the number of funerals resulting from suicide.

While it is true that Native American suicide rates in South Dakota are twice as high as the suicide rate for white South Dakotans, it is important to remember that almost 80 percent of all suicide deaths in South Dakota are white. The reality is that South Dakota's children and young adults (under age 24) of all races end their lives at double the rate of youth nationwide.

Over the past 25 years, annual suicide numbers have doubled in this state and in the past five years, suicide has reached epidemic levels in South Dakota. Final numbers for 2017 have not been released, but the South Dakota Department of Health says it will exceed 173 suicides, a record high set in 2015. Rural areas suffer significantly higher suicide rates than urban areas, both nationwide and in South Dakota. Research indicates our farmers and ranchers have the highest rate of suicide of any profession.

While the loss of life at any age is tragic, it is especially so for youth. The losses caused by suicide go beyond actual deaths. For every suicide death, approximately six people will be severely impacted. These "survivors" often experience complicated grief and recovery which impact their productivity in school or the workplace. Statistically, for every successful suicide, there are approximately 25 attempts. Many attempts result in permanent loss of health, medical costs and lost productivity in school or employment. While these economic factors may seem insignificant compared to the

loss of life and grief borne by survivors, they do suggest that investing in prevention and treatment programs will relieve significant social costs.

We know that addiction and mental illness are contributing factors to suicide among all races and in all communities. For too long, we have relied upon the criminal justice system to deal with the behavioral challenges caused by addiction and mental illness. Ultimately, jails and courts are not equipped to handle the underlying issues associated with mental illness and addiction. This type of intervention is not a "treatment" program and is the most expensive response and the least effective.

Wouldn't a more effective solution be to redirect some of our criminal justice and law enforcement resources into alternative treatment services, instead of prosecuting those with mental illness? Too often, access to basic mental health services is lacking in places most impacted by this suicide epidemic, our rural areas.

More funding for prevention efforts is needed to combat the root cause and help deter this problem among our youth. Prevention programs that target reservation schools and communities should be given funding priority over lower risk communities.

As parents, pastors, schools, service providers and political leaders, we all have role to play in addressing this epidemic and finding solutions. In the words of Sitting Bull of the Oglala Sioux, "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children."

We must engage our elected officials, asking, "What is the State's suicide prevention plan?" Fighting epidemics should be a priority and behavior health losses are no exception. This epidemic that has our children taking their own lives is unacceptable.