



News Release
December 21, 2015

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Catholic Health Initiative Mission & Ministry Fund Awards Grants for Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Work

Bismarck, ND — Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) Mission & Ministry Fund recently granted funding to violence prevention coalitions in seven CHI communities for the next three years. These communities include Carrington, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Lisbon, Oakes, Valley City and Williston. The total award for the seven communities is \$940,811. Veronica Zietz was named director of the violence prevention initiative.

The purpose of the initiative is to create communities free of intimate partner violence in North Dakota. By building referral networks and partnerships with training and technical assistance by North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services and Futures Without Violence, area professionals and organization will learn how to incorporate intimate partner violence prevention education into their existing work. Additionally, the initiative will look to increase the impact of prevention efforts by educating women at risk of intimate partner violence.

In North Dakota, 31 percent of women have experienced intimate partner violence. Domestic disputes are among the most common calls for police services and have steadily risen in our state over the last few years. Through CHI's intimate partner violence prevention program, our communities will have a means to mitigate and stop violence within North Dakota; creating safer and healthier places to live, work and play.

CHI St. Alexius Health is a 306-bed, full-service healthcare system offering a comprehensive line of inpatient and outpatient medical services, including: a Level II Emergency and Trauma Center, primary and specialty physician clinics, durable medical equipment services and ancillary services throughout western and central North Dakota. Since its founding in 1885, CHI St. Alexius Health has been recognized with numerous accreditations and awards including: The Joint Commission, Blue Cross Blue Shield Centers of Excellence Awards and ranked the Best Hospital in North Dakota by U.S. News & World Report. In 2012, CHI St. Alexius Health proudly became a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, one of a group of organizations that share, with Mayo Clinic, a common commitment to improving the delivery of health care. In 2014, St. Alexius became a direct affiliation of Catholic Health Initiatives.

CAWS North Dakota is a nonprofit membership organization representing the 20 domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers throughout the state. It is the coalition's mission to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of sexual and domestic violence. For more information go to www.cawsnorthdakota.org.