



# APOC Newsletter

Abused Persons Outreach Center, Inc.  
[www.apocnd.org](http://www.apocnd.org)

160 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW, Valley City ND 58072  
24-Hour Crisis Line: 701-845-0072

January 2026

## ***Built By Community: Four Decades of Standing With Survivors***

For 40 years, APOC has been a place of safety, resilience, and hope—built by people who believed survivors deserved more than silence, fear, or isolation. What began as a courageous response to an unmet need has grown into a lifeline for individuals and families across our communities.

With determination and compassion, APOC's founders created something that didn't exist—a safe place for survivors to turn in their darkest hours.

Today, APOC serves between 150 and 175 victims each year, offering free counseling, advocacy, and 24/7/365 crisis response throughout Barnes, Griggs, and Steele counties. We meet people at some of the most difficult moments of their lives and ensure they feel safe, supported, and heard. This is the heart of APOC. It's crucial to remember that behind every number is a person—a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or loved one.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue building on what these incredible individuals began 40 years ago. APOC's success is a direct result of the unwavering community support we have received. Simply put, APOC would not be here without the commitment and generosity our community has shown over the past four decades.

While the need for our services remains, so does our commitment. Together, we can continue to build a community where healing is possible and hope is never out of reach.

No community is truly safe until every home is safe.

This 40-year milestone belongs to everyone who has supported APOC along the way. Thank you for being part of our story – and for helping us continue to bring safety, healing, and hope to those who need it most.

On behalf of APOC,  
Kasey Skalicky, Director

40  
Years

# History of APOC

By Harriet Johnson, APOC Board Member, December 1995

The Abused Persons Outreach Center's life began as a creation of the Valley City Business and Professional Women's Club.

**The VCBPW sponsored a Rape and Abuse forum** on February 21, 1985, with Chris Nolan representing the State Networking office for the ND Council on Abused Women's Services, Bismarck, as guest speaker. The panel for the forum consisted of Erma Overby, City-County Health Department; Rich Winning, Valley City High School counselor; Carter VanBeek, South Central Human Services, Jamestown; Ross Dorothy, Barnes County Social Services; Robin Huseby, local attorney; Bernie Kracht, Valley City Police Department; Terry Gray, Barnes County Sheriff's Department; Rev. Tom Hallstrom, Nebo Lutheran Church; Linda Lang, Mercy Hospital; and Dr. Ron Wiesanen, Mercy Hospital. Sharon Schmaltz, a member of the VCBPW, served as moderator of the panel. This was held at the Valley City High School Auditorium. The overwhelming response to the forum initiated a task force regarding the possibility of a center in Valley City. This task force met on March 14, 1985, at the Epworth United Methodist Church with the following: Glenn Pomeroy, Harriet Johnson, Joan Nott, Rindy Velure, Mavis Pomeroy, Judi Hillier, Gale Larson, Margie Hannenberg, Rev. Tom Hallstrom, Kathy Wicks, Rich Winning, and Sally Hanson. Glenn Pomeroy acted as convenor until an appointment of a chair or president of the Board of Directors was made, and Harriet Johnson acted as temporary secretary. The agenda included a Board of Directors numbering thirteen, a policy statement included with brochures on the service available, by-laws, crisis line, and office/center as our hub and volunteers. Meetings continued; Harriet Johnson and Gale Larson took the volunteer training sessions offered in Jamestown, North Dakota.

**The Board of Directors was formed** with the following officers: President Harriet Johnson, Secretary Diane Bevins, Treasurer Rindy Velure. This meeting was held on February 10, 1986. One of the first actions of the Abused Persons Outreach Center was the participation in "The Many-Faceted Woman" health fair held at Mercy Hospital on April 6, 1986. Our session featured the film *Cry With the Wind* which dealt with actual abuse cases in North Dakota and which brings home the prevalence of such conditions in rural areas. Harriet Johnson and Gale Larson spoke to many of the local clubs about receiving financial support for and awareness of the Center.

**The Articles of Incorporation were filed** May 19, 1986. The Barnes County Family Crisis Center, as appears on the Articles of Incorporation, was named as such in an attempt to receive and be accepted for a state-wide program for victims of any type of abuse, not specifically spousal abuse. After finding out we did not qualify for the victim's grant and not knowing the Articles of Incorporation had been filed, we renamed ourselves the Abused Persons Outreach Center. The articles were amended to conform with the application for recognition of exemption.

**The purpose of this corporation** shall be to establish and administer a program that will provide public and professional education related to domestic violence and to the shelter, advocacy, and counseling of the victims of domestic violence and their families. The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors of the corporation was fourteen --Joan Nott, Rindy Velure, Gale Larson, Margie Hannenberg, Rich Winning, Rev. Tom Hallstrom, Harriet Johnson, Diane Bevins, Judi Hillier, Kathy Wicks, Sally Hanson, Sue Weig, Colleen Glazer, Glenn Pomeroy--as was stated in the Articles of Incorporation dated May 19, 1986.

**An office space was acquired** and our dream came true with the opening of the Abused Persons Outreach Center in conjunction with the National Domestic Violence Awareness Week, October 6-12, 1986. Our doors opened in a small area just off of the first flight of steps in the Security Building, 223 North Central Avenue, Valley City. Janice Dronen of Valley City was named the first director of APOC and on November 22, 1986, the 24-hour crisis hotline went into operation at 9:00 a.m.

**Prior to the institution of this program**, Valley City was the largest city in the state of North Dakota without any type of program for domestic violence victims.



# ABUSED PERSONS OUTREACH CENTER, INC.

2025



80% women victims  
18% male victims

143 minor children  
were directly  
impacted

4 women were known  
to be pregnant at the  
time they were  
assaulted

23 victims were  
homeless when  
accessing services

## Direct Services Provided to Victims:

- 1344 advocacy services
- 289 counseling support / therapy hours
- 73 support groups held
- 273 crisis intervention / crisis response
- 455 service identification & assistance
- 227 protection / restraining order assistive services
- 191 emergency financial assistance
- 36 individuals provided relocation assistance
- 228 complementary therapy services
- 19 nights of emergency safe shelter
- 235 transportation services

WEAPONS  
reported in 35%  
of reported cases  
including  
6 firearms &  
19 asphyxiations.

Reported ALCOHOL  
USE by abuser was  
indicated in 26% of  
domestic violence  
cases.

ILLICIT DRUG USE by  
abuser was indicated  
in 22% of domestic  
violence cases.

## The Litas Fargo Support APOC & Ride to Rise Against Domestic Violence



The Litas Fargo held their first annual *Ride to Rise Against Domestic Violence*, this past August in Fargo. The event aimed to raise awareness and provide vital support for survivors of domestic violence. Members of this womxn's motorcycle collective presented APOC a check for \$2,350 and additional donations collected during their ride.

## VC Eagles Help Make APOC Fundraisers Possible



The Valley City Eagles remains a strong supporter of APOC, including sponsoring fundraiser suppers made possible through its gaming funds. Stay tuned for upcoming dates.

### What your donations to APOC can provide:

- \$20 = 10 taxi rides to appointments, court hearings, work, etc
- \$50 = meals for a family in Emergency Shelter
- \$100 = 1 professional counseling session
- \$300 = 1 month CrisisLine operation
- \$500 = 3 nights emergency safe shelter for an abused family



APOC's crisis line operates 24 hours, every day of the week & provides crisis intervention & advocacy services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault & stalking. **Crisis Line: 701-845-0072**

**EVERY1  
KNOWS  
SOME1**

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or Text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) [hhs.nd.gov/988](https://hhs.nd.gov/988)  
**Substance use - Suicidal thoughts - Depression - Relationship conflict - Stress - Mental health concerns -  
 Concerns for loved ones - Isolation - Trauma**



**Here to listen. Here to help.**

**988** Call, text  
or chat anytime.



*Monetary Donations – Thank you!* **Thank you to the donors who chose to remain anonymous.**

Thank you to those who donated household & material items.

John Deere Seeding  
 Norma Voldal  
 Carol Knutson  
 Eileen Hannig  
 Margaret Undem  
 Maureen Birchem  
 The Litas Fargo  
 James & Sharon Buhr  
 Dawn Ihry  
 Susan McCarthy  
 East Rogers Homemakers Club  
 Fingal Area Community Action  
 Team  
 Perry & Brenda Laub  
 Michael & Peg Ferrel  
 Ross & Caron Berg  
 Women of the ELCA First Lutheran  
 WELCA, Litchville  
 Susan & Scott Jorissen  
 Bethel Lutheran Church WELCA,  
 Rogers  
 Epworth United Methodist Church  
 United Women in Faith  
 Deb Beck  
 Hilligje Van Gijssel  
 Faith Lutheran WELCA, VC  
 Waldheim WELCA, Kathryn  
 Amvets Auxiliary Post #3, VC  
 Willis W Weber Amvets Post #3 ND  
 Karen Enge  
 Messiah WELCA, Fingal  
 Connie Winkler  
 Robert Elstrom  
 Betty Koslofsky  
 Trinity Lutheran Church, VC  
 St Petri Lutheran Church WELCA,  
 Casselton  
 All Saints Episcopal Church, VC  
 Dacotah Bank, VC  
 Donald Vig & Darcee Weber  
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church  
 WELCA, VC

In Memory of *Peggy Lee*  
 - Myron, Jenneice, Bonnie  
 Sommerfeld  
 In Memory of *George Gaukler*  
 - Loni Trapp  
 - 24<sup>th</sup> District Democratic NPL  
 - Anonymous  
 - Joseph & Katherine Satrom  
 - Craig & Michelle Larson  
 - Leland & Marlene Eyres  
 - Stephen & Cheryl Michel  
 - Phil & Darlene Mueller  
 - Stan Ryan  
 - Joe Scherr  
 - Carol Larsen  
 - Tracy Smith, Mike Smith,  
 Geoff Gaukler  
 - Alois & Agatha Gaukler  
 - Judy Mathias  
 - Madeline Luke  
 - Duemelands Commercial Inc.  
 - Dawn & Jeff McGuire  
 - Sarah Dodge & family  
 - Chris Dohman  
 - Cheryl Biller on behalf of the  
 Democratic NPL  
 - Carol Nelson  
 - Ronald Jacobson  
 In Memory of *Audrey Gaukler*  
 - Carol Nelson  
 In Memory of *Gregory Hansen*  
 - Anonymous  
 In Memory of *Pat Nielson*  
 - Anonymous  
 In Memory of *Jake Riedman*  
 - Debra Beck  
 - Jon & Kasey Skalicky  
 - Anonymous  
 - Connor Wright  
 In Memory of *Gerry Gamrath*  
 - Judy Mathias

Rolene Amundson  
 Trinity Lutheran WELCA, Binford  
 Our Saviors Lutheran Church, VC  
 Ramona Klein  
 Peggy Wieland  
 Lee Isensee  
 Dennis Laumb  
 Lyle & Marietta Behm  
 Genevieve Goven  
 Lynn Holcomb  
 Bernadette Botner  
 Michelle Grebel  
 Oliver Nathan Funeral Chapel  
 Stephanie Morse  
 Rush Rental  
 Renee Ronsberg  
 Alan Adams  
 Angie Martin  
 Lori Thompson  
 Linda Wesby  
 Cass County Electric Cooperative  
 Sheyenne Valley Community  
 Foundation  
 Barnes County United Way  
 Bill's Variety Eats  
 Patricia Hansen  
 Nicole Johnson  
 NorthStar Mutual Insurance  
 Melody Peterson  
 Larinda Velure  
 Fraternal Order of Eagles VC  
 Aerie #2192  
 Edna Elsner  
 Karen Richman  
 Dennis Nathan  
 Carol Faulkner  
 Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies  
 Auxiliary VC #2192  
 St Paul's WELCA, Kathryn  
 Bruce & Carol Schmidt

**Current Needs:** toilet paper, paper towels, kitchen garbage bags, size 6 diapers, women's deodorant

**Household Donation Items We Are Currently Able to Accept:** pots & pans, cooking utensils, can openers, hot pad holders, measuring cups/spoons, dinner dishes, drinking glasses, silverware, kitchen towels/rags, shower curtain rings



## **PHILOSOPHY OF THE ABUSED PERSONS OUTREACH CENTER**

The Abused Persons Outreach Center is dedicated to the conviction that all people are entitled to live in safety, free from the fear of incidence of violence.

As guiding principles, we who comprise the Center believe:

- In respect for the dignity and equality of the individual.
- That each person has the right to self-determination.
- In fairness and good faith in dealings with individuals.
- That individuals should not be discriminated against in any respect.
- In respect for the confidential nature of personal information.
- That people should have access to resources and services they need.
- In provision of advocacy for people in need.
- In promotion of societal justice, particularly related to sexual assault and domestic violence.

To activities that enhance and further these beliefs, we dedicate ourselves.

### **Abuse is rooted in power and control.**

Abuse is intentional. It is a myth that abusers are "out of control". They are very much in control of the tactics they choose to use in order to harm their partners.

Abusive actions are purposeful with the goal of gaining power & control over a partner

Does the abuser "lose control" at work? With a friend? With other family members?

### **Trust the survivor's perspective.**

Survivors know their stories better than anyone. Abusers work to take power & control away, but empowering survivors can help bring it back

## **DONATION FORM**

Your donation will help us continue our work to end intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Your donation is tax deductible. ☐ **I wish to remain anonymous**

**Donor Information:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like this donation to be in memoriam of someone, please complete the form below. A card of recognition will be sent to the individual/s you list and provide addresses for below:**

In Memory of (name): \_\_\_\_\_

From (your name): \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a card to (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: APOC - 160 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW, Valley City, ND 58072

Or online through our website [www.apocnd.org](http://www.apocnd.org)



Thank you for your support!