



# 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

**167**  
INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED

STALKING

9

DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

141

OTHER  
PERSONAL  
VIOLENCE

3

SEXUAL  
ASSAULT

14

## WEAPONS

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

## 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

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

ILICIT 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 Eagels 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.

**988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE**

**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.

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

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

## **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!