

Dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for the proposed **Dickinson Supportive Housing and Homeless Response Center**, which will provide supportive and emergency housing for families with children and adults at the current Evergreen site located at **2143 6th Avenue West in Dickinson**.

We understand that the **zoning changes necessary for this project** to move forward will be considered at your upcoming **City Commission meetings on September 16, 2025**. We urge you to vote in favor of this critical initiative.

This project represents a vital step toward addressing the urgent needs of community members experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Stark County has one of the highest rates of homelessness in North Dakota. In 2023 alone:

- The **Badlands Human Service Center** served **143 individuals** experiencing homelessness.
- **Dickinson Public Schools** identified **80 children** experiencing homelessness throughout the school year.
- The **Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center** in Dickinson regularly reaches capacity, forcing staff to turn away women and children due to lack of space.

Supportive housing is a proven intervention that ends homelessness, improves health and well-being, and reduces community costs. It combines deeply affordable, low-barrier housing with tailored support services, making it one of the most effective models available.

The Evergreen site offers a timely and thoughtful opportunity to create **35 units of supportive and emergency housing** with services aimed at:

- Reducing homelessness among children, families, and adults in Dickinson and the surrounding region;
- Increasing access to services that address economic, physical, and behavioral health needs;
- Enhancing safety and livability by expanding affordable housing options; and
- Lowering the economic and social costs of homelessness in our community.

We are encouraged that critical funding has already been secured for the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Evergreen Hotel into the Dickinson Supportive Housing and Homeless Response Center. This project will improve lives and strengthen the overall health, safety, and well-being of our city and region.

We urge you to vote in favor of the zoning change and demonstrate your commitment to solutions that benefit all residents of Dickinson.

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Sincerely,

Chuck Andrus
Shawna Baker
Tori Barnum
Gabrielle Blaine
DeeDee Boehm
Erika Brennan
Isabela Bulgan
Chris Bulgan
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Heather Ingman
Tricia Joern
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Alexa Lang
Cheryl Lantz
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Sarah Moe
Ronda Pedersen
Christina Pugh

Nicole Rascon
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Wendy Wilson
Paige Worley

Organization Signatories:

ABLE, Inc.
Heartview Foundation
Painted Canyon Counseling Services
ND DHHS Badlands Human Service Center