



*Representing the Diocese of  
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September 9, 2025

**Via Email and Regular U.S. Mail**

Dickinson City Commission  
Mayor Scott Decker  
Dr. Robert Baer  
Mr. Jason Fridrich  
Mr. John Odermann  
Mr. Joe Ridl

RE: Letter in Support of United Way Treatment Facility in Dickinson

Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the United Way treatment facility for homelessness and addiction recovery being proposed for location in the former Evergreen Senior Living Community in Dickinson.

There is a serious need for a facility like this in western North Dakota. Currently, homeless people suffering from addiction and mental health issues are already living on the streets and in cheap hotels in Dickinson and elsewhere, so they are already in the community, just not getting the shelter or treatment they need. With a comprehensive care facility like the one being proposed, these people can receive the continuum of care they need and more readily get back onto their feet. This will also benefit the entire community by reducing crime, alleviating homelessness, and saving taxpayers money in the long run.

But more than these practical considerations, caring for the least among us is a Gospel mandate. Jesus describes the Final Judgment of mankind in terms of separating the sheep from the goats (Matt 25:31-42), and teaches, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do to me." The sheep invited into his heavenly kingdom are those who serve Christ in those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, homeless, and in prison, but the goats are those who ignore those in greatest need and as a result are cast into the darkness. In the end, we will all be judged on how we treated the poor, the marginalized, and the least among us.

While I understand the concerns expressed by residents, the Gospel requires us to serve marginalized people like those the treatment facility is meant to help, despite our fears. Please vote "yes" for the United Way facility in Dickinson.

Sincerely,

David A. Tamisiea, JD, PhD  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Catholic Conference