



CCRI Review



A quarterly update on how our creative care options are helping improve the lives of the people we serve.

Fall 2023



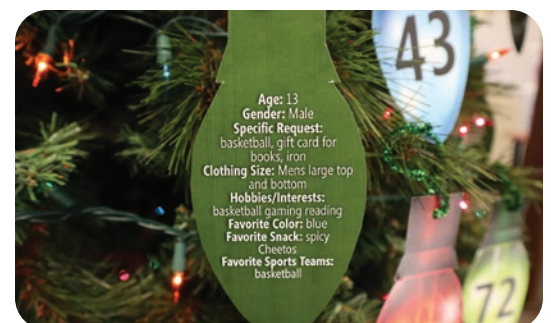
Improving Lives With Operation Brighter Christmas

Operation Brighter Christmas is back in full force. Last year was the inaugural year of our giving tree program, and this year, we have 40% more clients participating. Many of the clients who will receive gifts are in our Housing Stabilization Services program, may not otherwise receive a gift, and may not be able to afford gifts for their children. The gifts they request are often essentials—like winter gear, bed sheets, and pajamas.

To help make a difference this holiday season:

1. Grab a tag from a tree at our main office (2903 15th St. S., Moorhead) or register at: <https://tinyurl.com/BrighterCCRI>.
2. Shop for holiday gifts listed on the back of the tags.
3. Deliver your unwrapped gifts to CCRI by Friday, December 8.

Thank you for brightening the holidays of those we support!





 FM Area Foundation
Connecting people and purpose.

CCRI to Be Featured in FM Area Foundation's Caring Catalog

CCRI was one of only 25 local nonprofit organizations chosen to be featured in the FM Area Foundation's Caring Catalog this year.

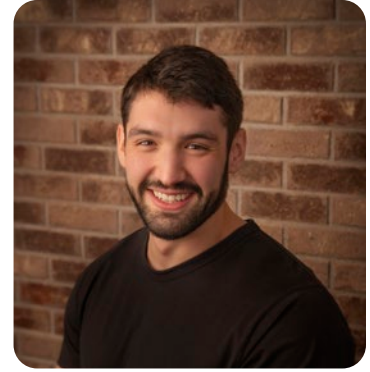
This online giving platform will be a great opportunity to help more community members learn about CCRI and our important work. Plus, the FM Area Foundation is paying all the credit card fees for donations to CCRI through the Caring Catalog November 27–December 8. That means CCRI will receive 100% of the donation.

There will also be opportunities for CCRI to win bonus donations from local businesses sponsors.

Learn more at <https://areafoundation.org/initiatives/caring-catalog/> and make sure to follow us on Facebook to participate in the Caring Catalog holiday excitement!

CCRI Helps People Find & Keep Housing

CCRI has a program that helps people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness find and maintain housing. A Minnesota Medical Assistance benefit established in 2020, Housing Stabilization Services helps seniors and people with disabilities—including mental illness and substance use disorder—with their housing.



"CCRI's supportive housing specialists work closely with each of their clients to help them achieve stability," says Zachary Sandbakken, Options Assistant Director and Supportive Housing Supervisor.

Housing Transition Services help people plan for, find, and move into housing, including helping with:

- Considering preferred housing options.
- Searching for housing.
- Applying for housing.
- Developing a budget.
- Understanding the terms of a lease.

Housing Sustaining Services help people keep their housing with support such as education on:

- Tenant-landlord rights and responsibilities.
- Developing relationships with property managers and neighbors.
- How to be a good tenant.
- Problem-solving to maintain housing stability.

Housing Consultation Services help people without medical assistance case management develop a person-centered plan to address their needs and goals for living in the community.

This includes helping clients:

- Develop a housing plan.
- Make an informed choice in their housing transition or sustaining services provider.
- Find resources for non-housing goals.
- Coordinate with other service providers.

Learn more about our Housing Stabilization Services at [CCRIMoorhead.org](https://ccrimoorhead.org).

Creative Care: *DSPs Honored for Exceptional Service*



From helping clients see the beauty in themselves and the possibility in each day to inspiring one client to walk when he never thought it'd be possible, Quinn Bang's work as a DSP has been inspiring—and it earned her a 2023 Minnesota ARRM Cares Rising Star Award.

Working in a home where her clients struggle with negativity, Quinn brought positivity and self-love into her clients' lives by creating an "I am" board—a mirror surrounded by positive affirmations. Every time her clients walk out the door, they see themselves surrounded by those statements.

Quinn transformed a calendar filled with appointments the clients often dread into something fun and approachable.

And she inspired another client to do his physical therapy by turning it into a game where she competed alongside him—doing wall sits while he worked on standing as they watched fun videos.

Because of Quinn's creativity and her relationship with her client, he conquered his goal and has progressed to walking—something he and his family never thought he'd be able to do.



For the past two decades, Nicole Carlson has dedicated her life to serving others as a DSP. She's done so with creativity, innovation, and the kind of leadership that led to her being named a finalist for the Minnesota ARRM Cares Award.

When Nicole's client needed major surgery, but her extreme fear of hospitals and concern about staying in a rehab facility post-surgery made it a hurdle, Nicole worked with her on a variety of physical therapy exercises to help her better understand what her recovery would be like. This experience helped her client's aftercare go a lot smoother than it otherwise could have.

Because the aftercare was so intense, Nicole filmed informative "how to" videos for the other staff to ensure everyone knew how to best complete—and were consistent with—her client's therapy and care.

When Nicole's client struggled post-surgery and ended up in the ER, Nicole was often there, holding her hand and reassuring her.

Nicole's creativity and dedication made her client's surgery possible and recovery successful.



Reaching Independence: *Nicole Atherton* *Advocates for Down Syndrome Awareness*

October was Down Syndrome Awareness Month—a time to raise awareness and celebrate the many abilities of those with Down syndrome.

One of our clients, Nicole Atherton, took the opportunity to spread the word and teach people about Down syndrome.

"I've got good ideas, and I have a creative mind," Nicole says. "I like going around places to spread the word and change the world."

Nicole is truly a world-changer and difference-maker. Her advocacy work for the Arc Minnesota earned her a human rights award, and she serves as GiGi's Playhouse Fargo Adult Advocate and Down Syndrome Awareness Month Chair.

Showing Appreciation to Those We Serve

Our Client Appreciation Dinner, held November 6 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, is an opportunity to show our gratitude (complete with a Thanksgiving-style feast) to the amazing folks we get to serve every day and their wonderful families.



The evening—filled with great conversations, delicious food, and lots of laughter—is a small token of our appreciation for the big impact they've had on us.

From Cooking Meals to Playing Games, *Volunteers Make an Impact at CCRI*

Volunteering at CCRI is a great way to give back to the community and to enhance the lives of the people we serve, all while having fun! Check out what some recent volunteers have been up to.

Volunteers from **Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota** cooked delicious meals for the people we serve. These precooked meals allow our team to spend more time with our clients.

Jane, a **North Dakota State University** student, volunteered with us for Serve with the Herd Day! Showing how one person can make a big difference, she organized all of our prom attire, so next year the people we serve will be able to more easily find their dream outfits.

Edward Jones volunteers helped us decorate our lobby for the holidays, frost cookies for our clients, and prepare our giving tree ornaments for Operation Brighter Christmas. Several volunteers even took ornaments to help make sure the people we serve have gifts to open on Christmas!

Members of the **Moorhead High School Key Club** had so much fun making game night extra fun for the people we serve, that they decided to come back and do it again!

And once again the **Boy Scouts—Troop 215**—helped us with our Client Appreciation Dinner.

We have opportunities for individuals of all ages and for groups of any size. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator at Sara.Peterson@CreativeCare.org to learn more.





In the Community: Fall Festivities Offer Sweet Experiences

Our Halloween celebrations kicked off with a dance party at CCRI, featuring “spooktacular” favorites like “Monster Mash,” while those we serve danced the night away, decked out in their costumes.

Trunk-or-Treat Moves Indoors

This year’s trunk-or-treat moved indoors, where participants could wear their costumes without coats—and without freezing. **CCRI’s Halloween Candy Crawl at the FARGODOME** was a success, filled with magical moments of pure joy as our clients roamed from table to table, showing off their fantastic costumes and collecting treats.

Local businesses, volunteers, and CCRI staff members dressed up and set up unique tables to enhance our clients’ trick-or-treat experience.



CCRI Clients & Staff Celebrate Halloween at The Haunted Farm

Many of our clients and staff braved the cold October 31 temperatures to spend Halloween at The Haunted Farm just south of Moorhead.

Owner Mel Nygaard and his team generously invited us out again this year for a pizza party around the bonfire and the opportunity to go through a “not quite as scary” version of The Haunted Farm.

“We absolutely love sharing this experience with the folks at CCRI,” notes Nygaard. “Being in a wheelchair myself, I understand the importance of providing accessible opportunities for all.”

The folks we serve had a blast dressing up and walking through all the incredibly creative displays.

“This is one of our clients’ favorite experiences of the year and a prime example of the incredible difference members of our community make in the lives of those we serve,” says Shannon Bock, CCRI executive director.





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TableScapes 2023 Surpasses Fundraising Goal

Our TableScapes fundraiser was a night of inspiration and celebration as our community came together to make a difference for our mental health program and the people we support. We were trying to raise \$100,000 to bridge a major funding shortfall.



Our supporters answered the call and helped us blow past our goal to raise \$115,000!

We are so grateful to everyone involved in helping with our event and for the outpouring of support for our mental health program and in honor of our Champions of Change—Bethany Berkeley and Joe Hohenstein. ***There is no way we could do the important work we do every day without your support.***

DO YOU LOVE CCRI?

If so, vote for CCRI in LOCALS LOVE US FARGO–MOORHEAD!

CCRI is nominated for the following categories, and we'd love your support!

- ✓ Assisted Living Facility
- ✓ Counseling Services
- ✓ Charitable/Community Services
- ✓ Home Health Services

Cast your vote by Monday, December 11, by scanning this code!

