

# FYI on NDR

National Disaster Resilience

May 2024



## A Beacon of Hope and Community Strength

In the heart of the Minot community stands the Lord's Cupboard, a testament to the power of collective action and the enduring spirit of compassion. Since its humble beginnings in 1994, in a small 8x10 storage room at Faith United Methodist Church, the Lord's Cupboard has grown into a vital resource for hundreds of Minot's most vulnerable citizens. It is now housed in the NDR-funded Broadway Circle Complex's 6,000-square-foot commercial facility that includes not only the food pantry but also the new Welcome Table kitchen; also located in the complex will be the future Family Shelter and an affordable housing community.



From its modest beginnings to its present status as a community cornerstone, according to volunteer Vickie Pippins, "In the early days, our vision was simple but profound—to feed our neighbors in need." What started with six volunteers, a makeshift shelf of plywood boards, and a monthly budget of \$400 now serves 325-400 guests weekly, with 14 dedicated volunteers each open day.

The Minot community's response to the opening of the new location of the Lord's Cupboard has been overwhelmingly positive. "Numerous community groups continue to bless us with food drives and volunteers, and youth groups often come in and sort through the food drives," Vickie notes, highlighting the community's active involvement.

The pantry does more than just feed the hungry; it meets crucial nutritional needs for

families struggling to make ends meet, providing a mix of perishables and non-perishables. For instance, a few years ago, a single mother of three, who was struggling to put food on the table, found a lifeline at the Lord's Cupboard. She was able to access fresh produce, canned goods and meat for her children. Vickie recalls the impact on a particular individual, "A lady whose husband left her devastated and struggling... her story is a reminder of why we should never judge anyone." Nowadays, the Lord's Cupboard is exclusively dedicated to providing perishable and non-perishable food items; residents are referred to other community organizations for assistance with clothes, personal items and household goods.

The road has not been without challenges, from navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic with innovative solutions like a drive-through service, to dealing with logistical hurdles while constructing the new facility. The volunteers tackled each issue with determination and creativity.

The volunteers have also embraced the expansion. They have shared that volunteering at the Lord's Cupboard is more than a duty; it's a journey of personal growth and community building. As one volunteer shared, "It's not just about giving back. It's about the relationships you build and the lives you touch. It's genuinely God's Work in our hands."

What does the future look like for the Lord's Cupboard? Looking forward, the Lord's Cupboard plans to expand its services further. "The Welcome Table will soon open to serve brunch on Saturdays, with plans to add more days as needed," Vickie reveals. This addition aims to minimize overlapping services with other local soup kitchens, filling gaps in community support effectively.

What sets the Lord's Cupboard apart is its unique model of care—a volunteer-driven model—and the broad community support it garners. "We operate a summer garden to



supply fresh vegetables, and local farmers and gardeners also contribute," Vickie explains, underscoring the community's integral role in the pantry's operations.

As we look at the Lord's Cupboard, it's clear that it is much more than a food pantry. It is a beacon of hope, a hub of community support, and a place where every hand that helps adds to the strong fabric of our society. Through unity, dedication, and compassion, the Lord's Cupboard continues to be a powerful force for good, inspiring us all to partake in the journey of community service in Minot.

### Invitation to Join

The message to anyone considering volunteering is clear and compelling: "Do it—you will receive great satisfaction from it. It's a good way to give back to the community, and while it can be hard work, it truly makes a difference," says Vicki Pippins, volunteer at the Lord's Cupboard.



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### Acquisition Program

- Currently, the NDR Team is working to acquire a mobile home park needed for the flood project, as well as prepare for a new round of upcoming acquisitions. Overall, the City of Minot has acquired 229 properties to date: 91 properties using NDR-CDBG funds and 138 properties using State Water Commission Funds; 8 properties included in the 91 NDR properties were partially funded with State Water Commission funds. These properties are needed for on-going or upcoming flood mitigation projects.
- Demolition activities for 2024 started in May. Overall, the City has demolished 169 properties, with 79 of those being funded by NDR-CDBG funds.

### Affordable Housing

- The Milton Young Towers (MYT) renovation project is complete; renovations of the first-floor public restrooms were completed this spring. Minot Housing Authority (MHA) continues to backfill vacant apartments. The final payment was approved in March.
- Construction of the Broadway Circle 17-unit affordable housing complex continues. Truss installation is underway. Elevator installation is slated for summer.

### Family Homeless Shelter

- Construction of the Broadway Circle 6-unit Family Homeless Shelter continues; fire sprinkler installation started in April and drywall work is underway.

### City Hall

- The final warranty walkthrough was conducted at the new City Hall location earlier this year; contractor's final payment was processed in the spring.

### Center for Technical Education

- Construction is complete at the CTE; contractors are addressing any minor punch list items that remain.

## Advance Your Career in Healthcare

Interested in a rewarding career that makes a difference in people's lives? Minot's healthcare sector is actively seeking skilled Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists. Elevate your career with specialized training with Dakota College at Bottineau's Dental Programs, which will be taught in the new NDR-funded Center for Technical Education. Discover the programs that can set you on a path to a fulfilling career in dental hygiene. For more information about the Dental Assisting program, please visit [www.dakotacollege.edu/academics/programs/dental-assisting](http://www.dakotacollege.edu/academics/programs/dental-assisting). For more information about the Dental Hygienist program, which starts in 2025, please visit [www.dakotacollege.edu/academics/programs/dental-hygiene](http://www.dakotacollege.edu/academics/programs/dental-hygiene).

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### Reduce Flood Risk/ Improve Water Management

#### A. Buyouts / Acquisitions / Demolitions / Relocations

- a. Total Budget - \$21,085,968
- b. Spent to Date - \$21,077,658

### Build Affordable Resilient Neighborhoods

#### A. Multi-Family Affordable Housing

- a. Total Budget - \$27,466,685
- b. Spent to Date - \$26,315,049

#### B. Single-Family Affordable Housing

- a. Total Budget - \$6,296,429
- b. Spent to Date - \$6,179,365

#### C. Family Shelter

- a. Total Budget - \$3,512,797
- b. Spent to Date - \$3,374,810

### Foster Economic Resilience and Diversification

#### A. Center for Technical Education

- a. Total Budget - \$3,540,000
- b. Spent to Date - \$3,401,316

#### B. Relocate City Hall

- a. Total Budget - \$8,222,593
- b. Spent to Date - \$7,526,230

### Administration

- a. Total Budget - \$2,965,450
- b. Spent to Date - \$2,738,136

### Completed Projects

- Park South Phases I & II
- Blu on Broadway
- Souris Heights
- Resilient Homebuyer Program
- Souris River Decision Support Tool
- Affordable Housing Neighborhood Master Plan
- Affordable Housing Supply & Demand Study