

Eckert

edition

Eckert
1102 7th Ave. E
Williston, ND 58801

Shaping Lives.... Building Futures

Williston Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award

Presented by Williston Economic Development

There is nothing like the feeling of anticipation that one receives as one is on the threshold of something new. This is the feeling that staff experienced about the possibilities of a new program for youth. There had been much planning and preparation for the new program. The facilities that would house the new program had been renovated, and staff had been hired to begin this new program. Eckert had already entered a contract with the State of North Dakota's Behavioral Health division to provide services for youth in the new Substance Abuse program. No one would have imagined that as the Adolescent Addiction program began on March 2nd, 2020, that in 10 short days the resolve of all staff would be tested.



The Eckert staff was presented with the Leadership Award from the Williston Chamber of Commerce.

As most of us remember the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality in March of 2020. This reality would affect how Eckert would carry out the new program. Some of the changes that would take place were the in-person family meetings with the residents that would become virtual meetings. The planned outdoor activities would become on-campus activities. The use of masks and social distancing would be implemented to protect staff and residents from the virus. It is in this setting that the Eckert staff manifested leadership qualities during a crisis.

It is for this very reason that Eckert was awarded the Williston Chamber of Commerce Leadership Award presented by the Williston Economic Development. The Eckert staff received this award in February of 2021 and celebrated it with the staff and the board of Eckert. This was an award that exemplified the leadership shown by Eckert's staff during a pandemic and the challenges this crisis created.

During the challenges of 2020, we were fortunate

“Eckert provides quality services which encourage the spiritual, educational, behavioral, emotional, and physical development of children and their families.”

Continued on next page »

John's Letter



Last year, like everyone else, we were faced with a worldwide health pandemic. The question we asked was, "What do we do now"? We did not have a choice to do anything else but serve youth in North Dakota. I have to commend our staff, every time we had a challenging situation, our staff worked together to find a solution. We are thankful to God that none of our residents contracted COVID-19 last year! So, what is next?

Eckert received grant monies to open and operate an outpatient program. In June of this year, we secured leased space to operate this program. There seems to be a great need in our community, and the need coupled with the opportunity to offer an alternative way of life for these young people, is a benefit. Our staff has been pro-active about talking to educators and counselors in the local schools to establish a relationship with these professionals to aid the young people in their care. There are many more opportunities in the coming year, as the need for our services has not diminished.

This year, we have seen a

maxing out of our facilities. We have experienced a waiting list for female residents as well as male residents. At the time of writing, we have 5 male residents, and three female residents. One of the components of the treatment at Eckert is to include the family in the treatment plan. When there is a caring adult(s) in the lives of the residents, this greatly improves their chance of gaining the support needed to experience a sober and drug-free lifestyle. Without a doubt, the key to success is the Lord's help in this process.

That is why we at Eckert encourage the spiritual development of our staff and residents. Our residents and staff all have different backgrounds, but they honor and respect the faith-based nature of our organization.

We covet your prayers as we are planting seeds in the lives of these young people. Seeds that may not sprout for many years. But we are confident that as we plant the seeds, the Lord will give the increase.

Thank you, John L. Harper
Facility Administrator at Eckert

'Love Does' Project



New Hope Church in Williston sent two crews to weed and plant flowers in front of the Eckert Youth Homes. Early on June 3, the first crew of 12 people arrived to weed the flower beds and plant the flowers previously purchased for this project. Later that day, the second crew showed up with 14 people to tackle the other home, also to weed and plant flowers. Pictured here is the group that worked on the Boy's Home at Eckert. We are grateful to New Hope for beautifying the flower beds at Eckert.

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as only one staff member contracted COVID-19. This staff member and all staff members followed our COVID-19 protocol and no other staff or residents contracted COVID-19. Even with all of these realities, Eckert was able to serve about 40 residents from all over North Dakota.

As Eckert looks back, we are grateful for this award and recognition, but the need is great and the staff of Eckert must continue to carry out the mission of Eckert, which is as follows: *"Eckert provides quality services which encourage the spiritual, educational, behavioral, emotional, and physical development of children and their families."*

Community's Positive Response to Eckert

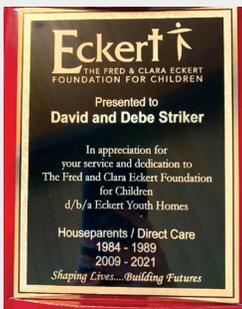
Eckert opened its doors to offer residential addiction treatment to youth ages 14-17 in March of 2020. The community responded by opening their hearts and doors to help us provide a positive treatment experience for our youth. Many private individuals have donated clothing, art supplies, fitness equipment, outdoor games and other materials that help us teach positive coping skills conducive to long-term recovery. When Christmas came around this past year, we were able to give each youth a nice gift and a beautiful Christmas dinner. We could not have done this without the generosity of those that know and understand what Eckert is and what it represents. Organizations that have been consistently supportive include the Arc, Job Corp, Safari, Painted Woods, James Memorial Art Center, Living on your Own, Agnes Theaters, Strike Zone, Adult Learning Center, Mondak Animal Rescue, Gloria Dei Lutheran church, and Shanda Harstad (Parent Educator). The Refuge, Wise Penny and

the Mondak Animal Rescue have allowed our youth to volunteer and offer service as part of their treatment program. In addition to providing necessary supplies and activities, we have had guest speakers come in and share their recovery story to offer strength, faith and hope to those in treatment. Eckert has received a generous, warm embrace from families, the community, businesses and other entities that have assisted in our endeavor to provide quality treatment services which encourage the spiritual, educational, behavioral, emotional, and physical development of children, youth and their families.



Carrie Burris, Program Director

Long Term Staff Members Retire



It is with a sad heart that after 17 years of devoting themselves to Eckert's youth, David and Debe Striker decided to retire this last June. David and Debe were houseparents from 1984 through 1989 and then returned to us in 2009. They tirelessly worked with our youth through our RCCF program and into our new addictions program. David and Debe modeled strong Christian values and passed their years of wisdom on to new generations. Debe loved crafting with our youth,



singing hymns, planning menus and endless hours of grocery shopping. When our program changed, so did their needs. Debe ended her direct care position and took on a new challenge as our administrative assistant where she flourished, keeping us organized and continuously mothering

the staff while still taking time to assist with our youth and offer them words of encouragement. David loved to take our youth hiking and fishing, created amazing meals, especially soups, and worked tirelessly in our garden producing mouthwatering vegetables. David was our go-to person for any maintenance-related items and he knew our homes better than anyone else, anticipating its needs before anyone else did.

David and Debe moved back to Illinois to be closer to their family, and Debe now enjoys her days playing with her granddaughter, Wren, and David, who could never sit still, is working for a facility similar to ours, but much bigger! David and Debe will always have a place in the hearts of Eckert staff and residents, and they are missed daily. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for all they have done for Eckert, and to wish them the very best on the next part of their journey.





Dr. Leah Hoffman, PhD, LMAC

Clinical Director

At the time of this writing, Eckert's residential addiction treatment program has been operating for 18 months (March 2020 – August 2021). During this time, Eckert has provided 79 different treatment episodes to 64 different youth from all over North Dakota. Returning to treatment takes significant strength. Recovery is possible; however, people often have an unrealistic idea of what healing from substance use and trauma looks like. Healing is awareness where there wasn't awareness before, seeing things a different way, having new information, trying to do this differently, and continuing to try after messing up. Healing is losing hope and gaining it back, feeling emotions less intensely over time, learning how to ride the waves, and looking back and seeing you're not in the same place you used to be.

While it is significant to be the only residential adolescent substance use treatment center for adolescents in North Dakota, it is the vision of Eckert to serve youth and families in our own community. The idea of opening outpatient treatment became a possibility sooner than expected when Williams County announced a behavioral health grant program funded by the county's net proceeds from the 1% Public Safety Sales Tax. The first part of March 2021 was spent preparing our application. We were awarded funding on April 6, 2021. This grant was specifically meant to fund projects that are going to add new services to the region. In August 2021, we began seeing youth at our outpatient office for both low and high intensity outpatient treatment. We also plan to expand our outpatient services into our smaller surrounding communities by traveling one day per week. We will provide monthly community education sessions for people of all ages, as well as Domestic Violence and Anger Management Curriculum for adults.

Eckert's ability to withstand the challenges presented in our pilot year and the preparation needed to grow our outpatient services responsibly has Eckert's core values of faith, integrity, excellence, and caring woven throughout. We will continue to serve adolescents in our residential homes, while also expanding options for new services to best benefit the families of our community.

SHONDA STIVERS, Teacher of the Week

Williston Auto arrived at Eckert in early January and surprised our very own Shonda Stivers with awarding her the Teacher of the Week Award! Shonda's dedication to the youth and her ability to educate the youth on their addictions, how to recognize different aspects of their substance use disorder, and modeling how to live a sober life was widely recognized as she was presented with a new vehicle to drive for the week.



Shape a Life.... Build a Future

You can make a difference in the lives of the youth at Eckert.

You may never meet the youth or know their names, but you can make a difference. They are young people who are brilliant and have so much potential, but they have been sidelined by Substance Use Disorder. The staff at Eckert view their time with the youth as planting seeds. We never know what seeds will grow, or if we are given the opportunity to water what has already been planted. The average stay of youth in the Adolescent Addictions program can range from 3-8 weeks. It is a more intense program with youth that are dealing with multiple difficulties that come with substance use disorders.

There are moments however when we see what a difference we are making in the lives of the youth who come through the program. Read what one youth's parent wrote to the Eckert staff.

“ Thanks to everyone at Eckert. My son was at Eckert in 2020 and received the support he needed to live a sober and drug-free life. Since leaving Eckert, my son completed all of the required after-care counseling and is drug-free. He joined the football team, has a job, his license, and is enjoying life. My son is doing well in school and will graduate from high school in May of 2022.”

Would you take a moment and consider a partnership with Eckert?

Your faithful giving makes it possible to plant seeds in the hearts of these young people. Thank you in advance for your partnership with Eckert as we make a difference in the young people of North Dakota. Fred and Clara Eckert saw the need and responded, will you?

Eckert 

**I want to
help a child
in need!**



Your tax-deductible gift will help provide care, counseling and shelter to adolescents struggling with addiction.

This Gift is made: ____ In Memory of ____ In Celebration of ____ Other

Name: _____

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email : _____

Amount of gift: \$ _____ *(please make checks payable to Eckert Youth Homes)*

Donor's (Your) Name: _____

Address: _____

*Mail this form and payment to Eckert, PO Box 2291, Williston, ND 58802

Friends of Eckert

April 2020 - March 2021

Thank you to the following for cash donations:

Erv and Donna Flaten	Selid Plumbing and Heating, Inc.	InFaith Community Foundation
Ora Fredericksen	Zion WELCA - Noonan	Zion Women of ELCA - McGregor
American Legion Post 37 - Williston	Secured Investment Corp	Bruce and Amanda Johnson
Dakota Smokehogs - Fire & Iron MC, St-116	Writing Rock Church - Alkabo	Paul and Karen Prout
Crescent Point Energy	Lee Stenson	Lyjean K. Smith
Yvonne Hurley	Dolores Olson	John and Charlene Wesoloski
Bethlehem Women of ELCA - Noonan	Carla Jean Jaeger	George and Laurie Pederson
Jerome & Patricia Hanson Family Foundation	Greg and Char Quarne	Miriam Poole
Martin and Arlis Haug	Jon and Nancy Taverna	Shirley Groth
Stewart and Carol Vachal	Richard Halvorson	Carroll and Michon Sax
Bill and Melanie Stillwell	Peggy Lund	Loring and Marlene Johnson
Linda Stordahl	Jim and Debra Kellogg	Curtis A. Hansen
Ronelle Gravgaard	Paul Govig and Julie Krenz	Jason and Janae Berger
Patrick and Durelle Hatlestad	Rick and Tina Lund	Robert and Deb Kemp
Edwin and Loretta Engebretson	Tanya Vachal	Diane Thompson
Andrew and Maggie Martin Family	Keith and Marlene Olson	Terra Ellingson
Sjon and Lisa Zunich	Barbara Everson	Mike and Claudette Neether
First Lutheran Church WELCA - Tioga	Leland and Beverly Tong	David and Debe Striker
Great Plains Women's Health Center	Jeff and Beth Zarling	Jason Moore
Faith Lutheran WELCA - Watford City	Virginia Anderson	Robert and Kimberly Rust
Lowell and Carol Jean Sandvik	Michael and Shawnta Wilson	
	Bainville Faith Fellowship	

Thank you to the following for donations of non-cash items:

First Lutheran - Chat and Pray Group	Chris Haux (Medex, LLC)
Danny and Rita Bowdin	Jason and Janae Berger
Anonymous	Terra Ellingson
Faith Lutheran Church	Allan Laurel
Roger Cymbaluk - Basin Brokers	Yvonne Hurley
St. Joseph's Catholic Church Youth	Caitlin Pallai
Opportunity Foundation	Rodney and Dawn Ledahl
Dan and Rita Bowdin	Dustin and Michele Metz
Anonymous	Anonymous
	Caitlin Pallai

Thank you!

We also wish to acknowledge those individuals and businesses who contributed to Eckert in previous years.

In Memory of:

Shirley Winczewski

Gwen Roffler

Bill Ferrell

Erik and Linda Rognlien

Connie Jean Wold, our daughter

Orrin and Joyce Moe

Gary Nehring

Rick and Denise Nehring

Barbara Johnson

LaVern Jorgenson

Jason and Sarah DeLorme

Steve Larvick

Marvene Larvick

Bill Snyder

David and Carol Hauser

Melvin and Hazel Sandstrom

Jim and Cheryl Lingenfelter

Lacey Oyloe

Richard Bronson

Les Benth

Donny Arnson

Pat Welsch

Carol Burvee

Klynn Cole

Fred Hansen

S. Del Ray Peterson

Ted Lindseth

James and Phyllis Stokke

George and Irene Panasuk

Bland and Bernice Carter

Dana and Brenna Panasuk

John Fosland

Sherill Fosland

My sister, Lora Workin

Betty Bruins

Verna Walsh

Mark and Neva Walsh

Clayton Benth

Edwin and Loretta Engebretson

Lila Fee

Diane Murphy

Trudy Swan

Clyde Sailer

Del Easton

Peggy Arnt

Susan Snyder

Loren Stenson

Lee and Tammy Stenson

Lucas Cowgill

Joel and Nina Cowgill

Ron Shimek

DeLores Shimek

Robert "Bob" Mackley

Chuck and Millie Callahan

Jeff and Nancy Vickers

In Celebration of:

Our children and grandchildren

Richard and Jane Studsrud

Rollin and Joyce Wolter

Hope and Joy in Eckert's children's lives

Gwen Roffler

Karen Ellingson

American State Bank & Trust Co.

Our four grandchildren

Gary and Martha Sorenson

Seven healthy grandchildren

Larry and Myrna Nelson

Our granddaughters

Rick and Sue Johnson

Our seven grandsons and one granddaughter

John and Kay O'Connor

His Life

DeLores Shimek

Our kids and our grandkids

Tom and Gloria Jacobson

Our 13 grandchildren and one grandson

Larry and Vicky Schaff

Pete Korwin

Mary Ann Gaudreau



1102 7th Ave E.
Williston ND 58801

www.eckertyouth.com

Please direct all inquiries to Diane
Thompson at (701) 572-7262.

Eckert Welcomes New Therapist

We welcome our new counselor Logan Jangula who joined in the spring of 2021



Preferred name: Logan

Current job title: licensed addiction and mental health counselor.

Current job responsibilities: conduct integrated assessments when the clients first come to Eckert, facilitate group therapy and individual therapy throughout the week to address both substance use and mental health disorders.

Alma mater: North Dakota State University, Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School of Addiction Studies, Master's Degree in Addictions Studies: Integrated Recovery for Co-Occurring Disorders.

Certifications and industry honors: Certified Clinical Trauma Specialist Addiction, 2018 Williston Herald 20 Under 40 award recipient.

Personal fun facts: I love spending time with my family doing activities and I love Tom Brady.

What interests you about providing residential

treatment: What interested me about coming to work at a residential treatment facility was the challenge itself, as I had worked outpatient for 3.5 years as a licensed counselor and 16 months as a graduate school intern. I wanted to become a better counselor, and by challenging myself to work within a setting I wasn't use to, this could help me become better at my job and provide more adequate services to the clients that we serve.

What is your favorite part about residential treatment:

For me, it has been fun coming to work with the population we serve on a daily basis and rewarding by seeing the growth from the residents when they first come in to when they discharge. In addition, developing connections with them from the get-go to help them become more comfortable with their experience in the residential setting has been something that I have enjoyed while working here.