



# **ROUTE TO SUCCESS**

**THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The Community Outreach and the Sioux Empire will raise \$25,000 to assist the unemployed, under-employed, and recently employed by providing 30-day bus passes to help aspiring workers find and attain gainful employment to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.



# ROUTE TO SUCCESS

## TESTIMONIALS

“Thank you for this Bus Pass. I really appreciate riding the SAM busses, they are warm, drivers are well trained, and I own no vehicle”

- Vicki R

“This bus pass will help me get around the city to find work. I was really worried about doing so because of the weather. I am really happy now.”

- Michael R

“I am currently unemployed and have no transportation to find work. I need to find work to support my children.”

- Allison B

“I am starting a new job next week and this will help me to get there and back until I get paid.”

- Derek B

“This bus pass will help me find a job and succeed. Thank you for the help!”

- Jason

“I am just starting fresh and don't have anything and am looking for work. This is very, very helpful for me. Thank you!”

- MW

“Thank you! This bus pass will help me find a job and a better chance at living better.”

- Alwood RH

“I would greatly appreciate it if I can have a monthly bus pass for job seeking and to classes on the other side of town. Thank you and God bless!”

- Anonymous



# ROUTE TO SUCCESS

**WHAT:** The Community Outreach and the Sioux Empire will raise \$25,000 to assist the unemployed, under-employed, and recently employed by providing 30-day bus passes to help aspiring workers find and attain gainful employment to achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

- WHY:**
1. Stable employment provides for the ability to maintain safe and affordable housing and *keeps families together, under the same roof.*
  2. Transportation has consistently been among the top five unmet needs in our community and was labeled as **the top unmet need** in 2014, according to the 211 HelpLine Center.
  3. In their 2013 survey, transportation related calls *increased 9.6% over the past year* and the Sioux Falls community sees transportation needs that are *2.21% higher than the national average.*
  4. The Community Outreach has provided transportation assistance for many years but also runs out of its current supply of bus passes **within the first week of every month.**
  5. Reaching this goal would allow us to **more than double** our current budgeted transportation assistance.

**HOW:** We will partner with local businesses, churches, organizations, and individual donors to help meet this local need.

Stories of individuals whose lives are touched by this program will be shared with contributors and the community at-large.

We will create a culture of collaboration to address and meet this need.

# WHO IS THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH?

Founded over 30 years ago, The Community Outreach is an ecumenical, non-profit ministry dedicated to *restoring hope* to those in need in the Sioux Empire and helping them *return to self-sufficiency*. Our service area includes Minnehaha, Turner, Lincoln, and McCook Counties.

Our mission calls us to partner with churches, community organizations, businesses, and individuals to provide tools for daily living. But what does that mean? Through our comprehensive intake process, we take the time to **explore with our clients** the full scope of their needs. We create a basic budget with every person to help them prepare for their financial future. This process allows us to *holistically and financially meet needs* as well as partner with other organizations to meet the needs that we are not equipped to meet.

The Community Outreach is **unconditional** and **invitational**. We serve all who walk in our doors regardless of their faith or lack thereof. We serve because we feel that in doing so we fulfill our calling to meet people where they are. Our clients are invited share their questions regarding their faith as they feel comfortable.

We financially assist people in immediate crisis in three missional areas:

1. Housing – Eviction Prevention and Deposit Assistance
2. Utility Disconnection Prevention
3. Work Related Transportation – 30 Day Bus Passes, Gas Vouchers, and NeedsFree Car Repairs

We provide financial assistance based on the idea that if we assist in overcoming the presented crisis, *the client will be better able to care for themselves in the coming months*.

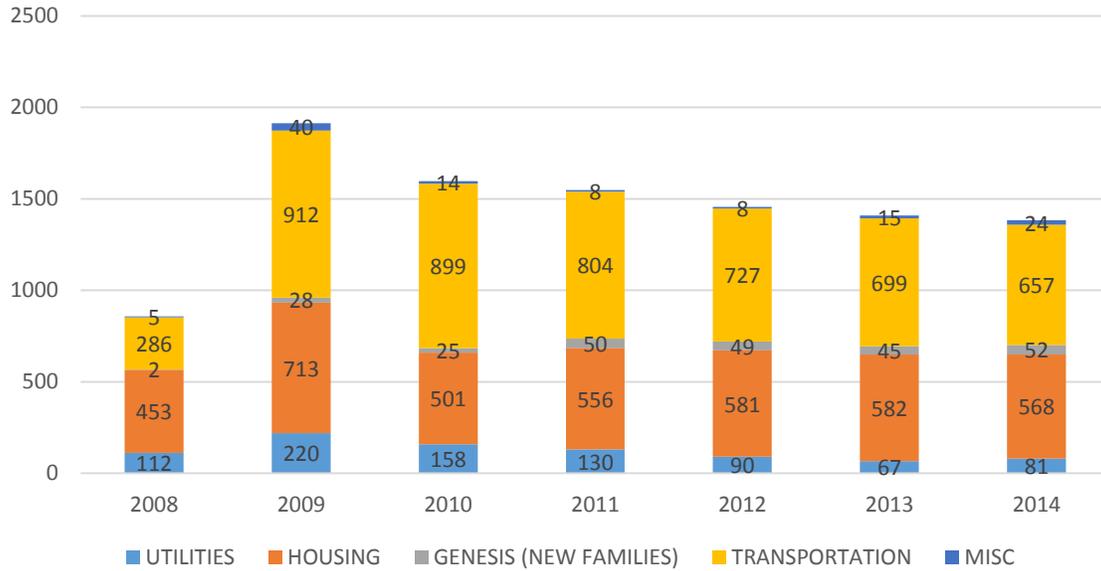
The ministry is proud to be a Partner Agency of the *Sioux Empire the United Way*. This partnership has allowed us to expand our mission to include the **Genesis Project**, our adult mentoring and financial education program. Genesis reaches over 50 families per year to assist in obtaining and maintaining safe and affordable housing. These families come to the ministry homeless or in immediate danger of being evicted. However, since the start of the program over five years ago, **97% of Genesis participants were safely and affordably housed at the end of one year.**

In 2014, the ministry served over *4,800 cases with information, referrals, and financial assistance* (including 657 cases with work related transportation needs). With your help in this fund drive, we will be able to double the amount of transportation assistance we provide in the coming year.

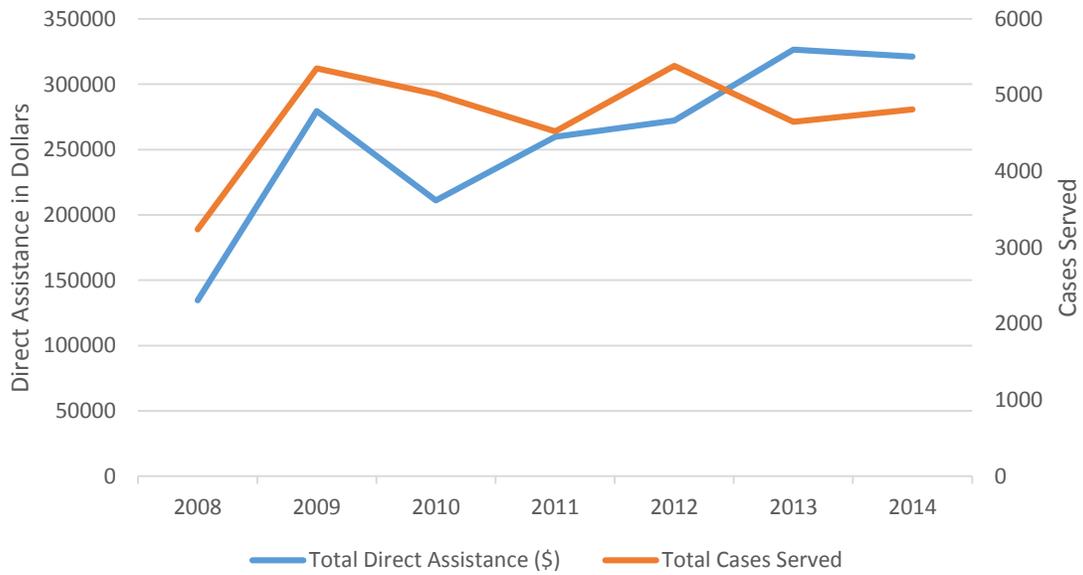
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# HOW DO WE SERVE?

Cases Where Financial Assistance was Provided



Total Direct Assistance and Cases Served



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# THE TWO SIOUX FALLS'

- The top unmet needs in our community according to the 211 Helpline Center:
  1. **Transportation Assistance**
  2. Housing Assistance
  3. Holiday Food & Gift Assistance
  4. Utility Assistance
  5. Pet Care Assistance
- Sioux Falls Affordable Housing currently provides 2,036 vouchers to households below 50% of the Adjusted Median Income.
- The current wait list for housing vouchers exceeds 3,600 households and is over 4 years.
- The January 2014 Homeless Count identified 488 persons in our community as homeless, *including 146 children*.
  - When asked “What services do you NEED that you are NOT receiving?”, respondents’ top two answers were Housing Assistance (17%) and Transportation Assistance (11%).
  - 24% of Respondents cited unemployment or job loss as the primary reason for their homelessness.
  - 58% of Respondents report that the lack of full-time employment is the primary reason preventing them from having permanent housing.
  - **21% of people who do not have income cite the lack of transportation is the primary reason for being unable to obtain employment.**
  - 85% of Respondents have at least the equivalent of a GED or High School Diploma with 24% having at least some post-secondary education.
  - 54% of Respondents receive no Federal, State, or Local Assistance.
- Currently 49.1% of students in the Sioux Falls School District are enrolled in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, up from 47% in 2012.
- In 2014, The Community Outreach assisted with 657 work-related transportation requests. However, we were unable to assist with 621 requests due to lack of supply and other issues.

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# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

## 1. HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$25,000

- Visit our website at [www.thecommunityoutreach.org](http://www.thecommunityoutreach.org) to make an online contribution.
- Checks can be made payable to 'The Community Outreach' with 'Route to Success' memo line.
- Consider a matching gift through your employer or service group.
- Organize a 'Bus Pass Drive' in your workplace.

## 2. SHARE OUR STORY

- Share this information with your church small group, pastor, or outreach board.
- Become a Church Champion.
- Involve your co-workers in meeting this need.

## 3. HOST AN AWARENESS EVENT

- Organize an event with small group of your friends and invite The Community Outreach staff to share the story.
- Contact Dane ([dane@thecommunityoutreach.org](mailto:dane@thecommunityoutreach.org)) to discuss this further!

## 4. GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Become a Genesis Mentor, Share your talent in the Sharing Christmas Program, Volunteer as a Receptionist in our ministry office!



**THANK YOU**

**“CARRY EACH OTHER’S BURDENS, AND IN THIS WAY YOU WILL FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST.”**

**- GALATIANS 6:2**