



THE WAY FINDER



STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM WAYPOST

Formerly known as River City Domestic Violence Center, we recently began an exciting new chapter as Waypost.

A waypost serves as a guide along a journey. It doesn't choose the path—it simply helps people find their direction. That's exactly what we strive to do every day as we walk alongside survivors seeking safety, stability, and hope. The new name reflects our commitment to creating a welcoming place where people feel supported rather than defined by their circumstances.

Same mission. Same commitment. New chapter.



- **SAAM Chalk/Windows**

Throughout April, our team created sidewalk chalk art and window displays around the community to spark conversations, show support for survivors, and remind people that help is available.

- **Color Run**

Our staff joined community members for a colorful day of fun, wellness, and connection at the YAA Color Run.

- **MMIW Walk**

Waypost staff walked alongside advocates and community members to honor lives lost and raise awareness of the ongoing MMIW crisis.



MEET OUR STAFF

Behind every service, every conversation, and every success story is a team dedicated to helping individuals and families find their way forward.

Cassie Nagel | Executive Director

Cassie has led Waypost for the past three years and brings more than a decade of experience in victim services and violence prevention. She is passionate about creating lasting change through prevention, education, and community accountability, helping build a future where safety, respect, and healthy relationships are the norm.

Anna Meredith | Shelter Director

Anna has been part of the Waypost team for six years and brings both compassion and lived experience to her role. As a survivor, she is passionate about ensuring others feel seen, supported, and never alone as they navigate their healing journey.

Kim Wells | Finance Director

Kim has served Waypost for more than six years and is driven by the belief that education and prevention can create healthier communities.

She is especially passionate about helping children experience safe, happy childhoods and supporting the long-term impact of Waypost's mission.

Beryl Olson | Occupational Therapist

Beryl has been helping clients regain independence and reconnect with meaningful daily activities for the past six years. She believes healing involves both the mind and body and is proud to be part of innovative services that support survivors on their path forward.

Rae Slowey | Advocate

Rae has spent eight years supporting survivors and helping ensure resources are available when she is needed most. She is inspired by the power of community partnerships, education, and advocacy to create safer, healthier communities for everyone.

Morgan Fellows | Program Coordinator

Morgan joined Waypost earlier this year and is motivated by a passion for serving the community and supporting individuals on their journey to safety and healing. She is excited about Waypost's growth and the opportunities to create an even greater impact in the years ahead.

Alissa Quinn | Advocate

As a survivor herself, Alissa understands the power of compassionate support and is honored to walk alongside others as they heal. She is passionate about helping survivors recognize their strength and reminding them they are never alone.

Michelle Brown | Monitor

Michelle brings compassion and empathy to every interaction with clients and families. Her personal connection to this work inspires her commitment to creating a welcoming environment where individuals feel supported, respected, and safe.

THANK YOU

Because of your support:

- Survivors have a safe place to stay.
- Families receive resources and advocacy.
- Children experience stability and support.
- Hope continues to grow.

Thank you for helping Waypost empower people on their path to safe and healthy relationships and for helping our community find a way forward.



COMING SOON: VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many people ask, "How can I help?"

Soon, we'll have even more ways to get involved. Waypost is developing a volunteer program that will provide opportunities to support events, facility projects, donation drives, community outreach, and awareness campaigns.

If you've been looking for a meaningful way to make a difference, we can't wait to welcome you.



Building Hope

The Diane Reese Welcome Center

We believe the first step toward help should feel welcoming.

Construction of the Diane Reese Welcome Center has helped us create a more comfortable, accessible, and inviting environment for clients, families, and community members.

This space helps ensure that every person who walks through our doors feels respected, valued, and supported from the very beginning.

A NEW NAME. A NEW CHAPTER. RIVER CITY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER IS NOW WAYPOST

After decades of service, River City Domestic Violence Center has officially become Waypost.

Why the change?

For many years, victim service organizations worked quietly to protect survivor privacy. While that was important, it sometimes created barriers for people who needed help. Some hesitated to reach out because of the stigma attached to labels and assumptions. Our new name reflects a more welcoming, hopeful approach.

A waypost is a guide along a journey. It provides direction without choosing the path. That's exactly how we view our role—walking beside survivors as they determine their own next steps.

As we begin this new chapter, we remain committed to providing confidential advocacy, emergency shelter, support groups, safety planning, court accompaniment, and resources that help individuals and families move toward safer, healthier futures.

Welcome to Waypost.
Find your way forward.

GROWING TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS TWO NEW VEHICLES JOIN THE FLEET

Because of generous community support, Waypost recently added two new vehicles to our fleet.

Reliable transportation means survivors can access appointments, court proceedings, housing resources, and critical services when they need them most. These vehicles help us reach more people throughout the seven counties we serve.

Every mile driven represents another barrier removed.



BECOME A WAYFINDER \$40, 40 PEOPLE, 40 YEARS

Forty years ago, a small group of people believed safety was possible for everyone in our community.



This year, in honor of our shelter program's 40th anniversary, we're inviting 40 people to become monthly givers of \$40 or more.



Some people need a waypost. Others become one. Be the one someone needs. Give \$40/month today and help us reach 40 givers for our 40th year.

Scan the QR code to give now.



WISH LIST CORNER

Your in-kind donations help create a safe and welcoming environment for survivors and families.

Most Needed Items:

- ✓ Toilet Paper
- ✓ Laundry Detergent
- ✓ Cleaning Supplies
- ✓ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ✓ Grocery Gift Cards

QUARTERLY REPORT

Q1

Total Clients Served: 86
 Children: 7
 Adults: 79
 Shelter Nights Provided: 533
 Help line Calls: 88
 Protection Orders: 7

Q2

Total Clients Served: 88
 Children: 11
 Adults: 77
 Shelter Nights Provided: 841
 Help line Calls: 60
 Protection Orders: 12

Waypost

Success Story:

One day, a survivor walked through our doors without an appointment and without a plan. They had simply reached a point where they knew something needed to change.

During the initial meeting, the survivor shared a long history of trauma that stretched back to childhood, along with ongoing mental health challenges. At the time, they were seeking assistance with obtaining a protection order against a former partner who had subjected them to repeated abuse. During the intake process, the survivor also disclosed struggles with substance use but expressed a desire to address one challenge at a time.

In one of our first meetings, the survivor was invited to access our food pantry. As they carefully selected only a few items, they explained that they did not want to take too much because other people needed the food more. They were gently reminded that they were one of the people who deserved support. Later, the survivor reflected that this moment helped them realize just how difficult their circumstances had become and that it was okay to accept help.

Over the following months, the survivor and advocate met regularly. While there were periods of progress, there were also missed appointments and setbacks as the survivor worked through fear, self-doubt, and self-sabotaging behaviors. Despite these challenges, they remained committed to moving forward.

Together, we successfully completed and filed a petition for a protection order, which was granted by the court. When the offender later violated the order, the survivor took the courageous step of contacting law enforcement and reporting the violation.

"I deserved support too."

As a result, the offender was charged for violating the protection order. This was a significant milestone in the survivor's journey toward safety and empowerment.

As trust grew and stability increased, the survivor reached another turning point. They shared that they were tired of living with addiction and were ready to pursue recovery. They contacted a treatment program, placed themselves on a waiting list, and eventually entered treatment. Through determination and hard work, the survivor successfully completed the program.

Throughout this process, our agency provided financial assistance with rent to help reduce immediate stressors and allow the survivor to focus on treatment, recovery, and rebuilding their life. We also connected them with ongoing counseling services, which they have consistently attended. Today, we continue to support the survivor as they work toward securing affordable housing and long-term stability.

When this survivor first entered our office, many conversations were accompanied by tears and overwhelming uncertainty. Today, they arrive with confidence, hope, and a smile. Their journey has not been easy, but their commitment to healing, recovery, and safety has transformed their life. Their story is a reminder that change is possible when survivors are met with compassion, support, and the opportunity to believe in themselves again.



Guardian Angel Program

Waypost serves survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking, and stalking. Federal grants cover many of their needs — but some urgent situations fall outside traditional funding: emergency relocation, medications, work uniforms. The things that make a real difference when someone is rebuilding their life.

That's when we call a Guardian Angel. Guardian Angels are on-call supporters who give us the confidence to say yes when it matters most.

How it works

One pledge — an 12-month commitment beginning July 2026

One call — you may be asked once — and only once — to contribute \$100

Five days to give — when contacted, your gift is needed within five days

Your pledge lets us act fast in a crisis.

Guardian Angels are more than donors — they are steady, protective presences walking alongside survivors from crisis to healing.

Fill out the application form [HERE](#) or email morgan@waypostsd.org.

Your Generosity Changes Lives

Every day, survivors walk through our doors carrying more than they can put into words — and they leave knowing they don't have to carry it alone. That's only possible because of donors like you.

Right now, Waypost is seeking both monetary and in-kind donations to keep meeting survivors where they are.

In-Kind Donations

Our food pantry and support programs rely on community generosity.

- Tangible Good
- Gift Cards
- Professional Services

Monetary Gifts

Financial donations allow us to respond quickly to urgent needs — emergency rent assistance, transportation, treatment costs, and other essentials that can't wait.



In-Kind

Every contribution — big or small — helps us say "yes" when a survivor needs it most.

Ready to give? Scan the QR code.

P.O. Box 626 Yankton, SD 57078



Monetary