Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.
Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.
Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

AGENDA

Crow Wing County Committee of the Whole
Regular Meeting

04/21/2026
9:00 AM
County Board Room, 3rd Floor, Historic Courthouse, Brainerd MN

*Note: Times are approximate

The agenda has been published as shown below but is subject to change to include such business as may come before the Board.

ATTEND IN-PERSON OR BY MICROSOFT TEAMS (CALL 218-302-1725, CONFERENCE ID: 491 110 781#); LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE AT WWW.CROWWING.GOV OR ON THE CROW WING COUNTY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD MAY ATTEND REMOTELY

1. **9:00 AM - Introduction to DNR Regional Director - Clarissa Spicer**
   - DNR Update
2. **9:10 AM - BLADE Grant Presentation - CWC React Program - Ann Pickar**
   - Monthly Expenses
3. **9:20 AM - BLADE Grant Presentation - Burlington Homes - Megan Adams**
   - Informational Flyer
4. **9:30 AM - Community Services Fraud, Claims and Collections Work - Kara Terry**
5. **9:50 AM - Community Services Annual Report - Kara Terry**

For more information, call 218-824-1067
Crow Wing County Committee of the Whole meeting agendas are available online at
www.crowwing.gov

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Crow Wing County

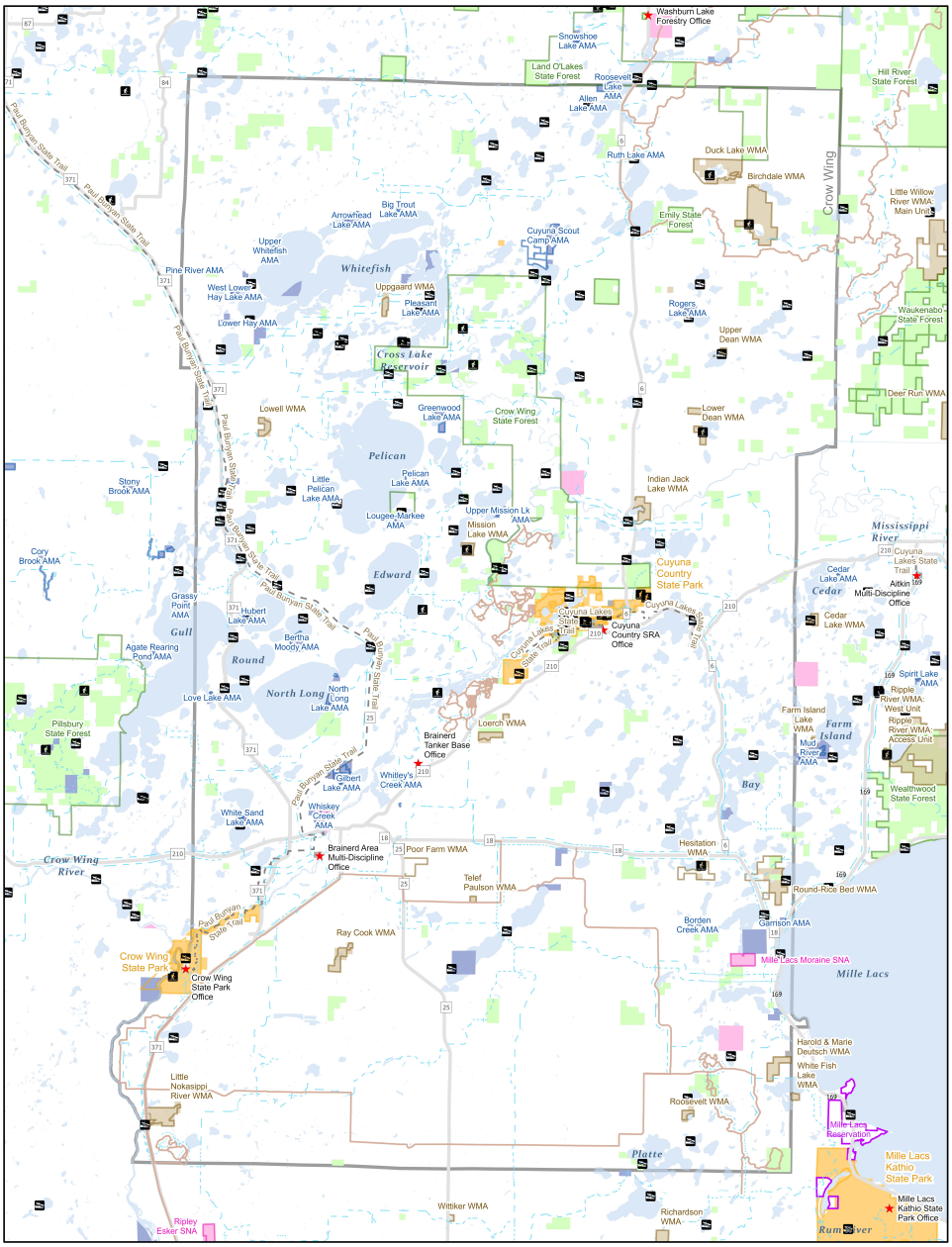
DNR Administered Lands

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) to Crow Wing County

April 2026

2025: $914,479.38

An overview of PILT, payment history, annual payment increases and FAQs can be found at: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo/pilt/index.html



DNR Division Administered Lands

- Wildlife
- Forestry
- Ecological and Water Resources
- Other DNR Units
- Fisheries
- Parks and Trails

Public Water Access Sites

- Carry-In
- Trailer Launch
- DNR Worksite Locations
- Minnesota OHV Trails
- Minnesota Snowmobile Trails
- Minnesota State Trails
- Native American Reservations

Contacts:

Clarissa Spicer, NE Regional Director
Grand Rapids Regional Headquarters
(218) 328-8783
clarissa.spicer@state.mn.us

Brainerd Area Offices:
Ecological & Water Resources (218) 203-4351
Enforcement: (218) 839-5842
Forestry: (218) 947-8600
Parks & Trails: (218) 203-4442
Wildlife: (218) 203-4302
Fisheries: (218) 203-4302



Infrastructure Overview

Aquatic Management Areas	52
Wildlife Management Areas	17
State Forests	3
State Parks	2
Scientific & Natural Areas	1
Miles Grant-in-Aid OHV	193
Public Water Access Sites maintained by DNR (82 trailer launch, 19 carry-in)	101
Miles Hunter Walking Trails	15.1
Miles Grant-in-Aid Snowmobile Trails	576
Permanent DNR staff, at four work sites (plus seasonal workers when fully staffed)	120

By the Acre: Lands Managed by DNR

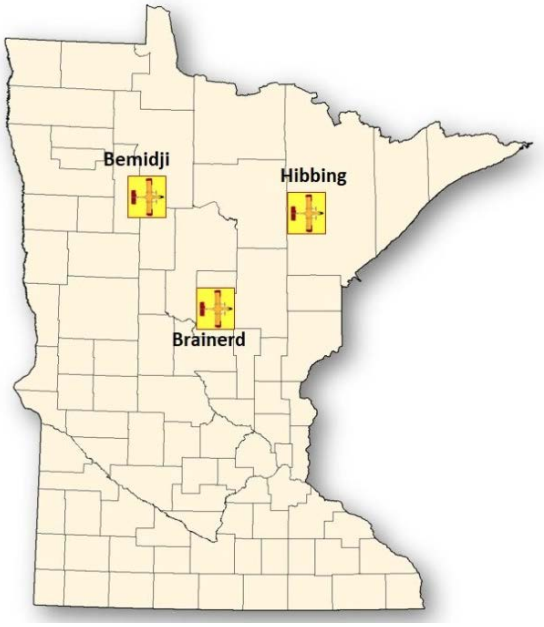
Parks and Trails	10,031
Ecological & Water Resources, and SNAs	320
Fisheries & Aquatic Management Areas	2,328.27
Wildlife Management Areas	5,177.9
Other Misc. DNR	438
Forestry Administered:	
- Forestry Acquired Lands	1,298.19
- Swamp Lands and University & School Trust Lands	23,991.37

Lands Deeded to the State, Managed by the County

County-managed tax-forfeit	100,897.9







Wildfire Response & Brainerd Tanker Base Update

Brainerd is one of the state's three aircraft tanker bases and serves as a central hub and critical location for statewide wildfire response. Along with tanker bases in Bemidji and Hibbing, the Brainerd tanker base supports wildfire response aircraft that serve most of Minnesota's land base. Unsuccessful bonding requests to update the aging tanker base and infrastructure date back to 2020. An updated bonding request fact sheet is attached.

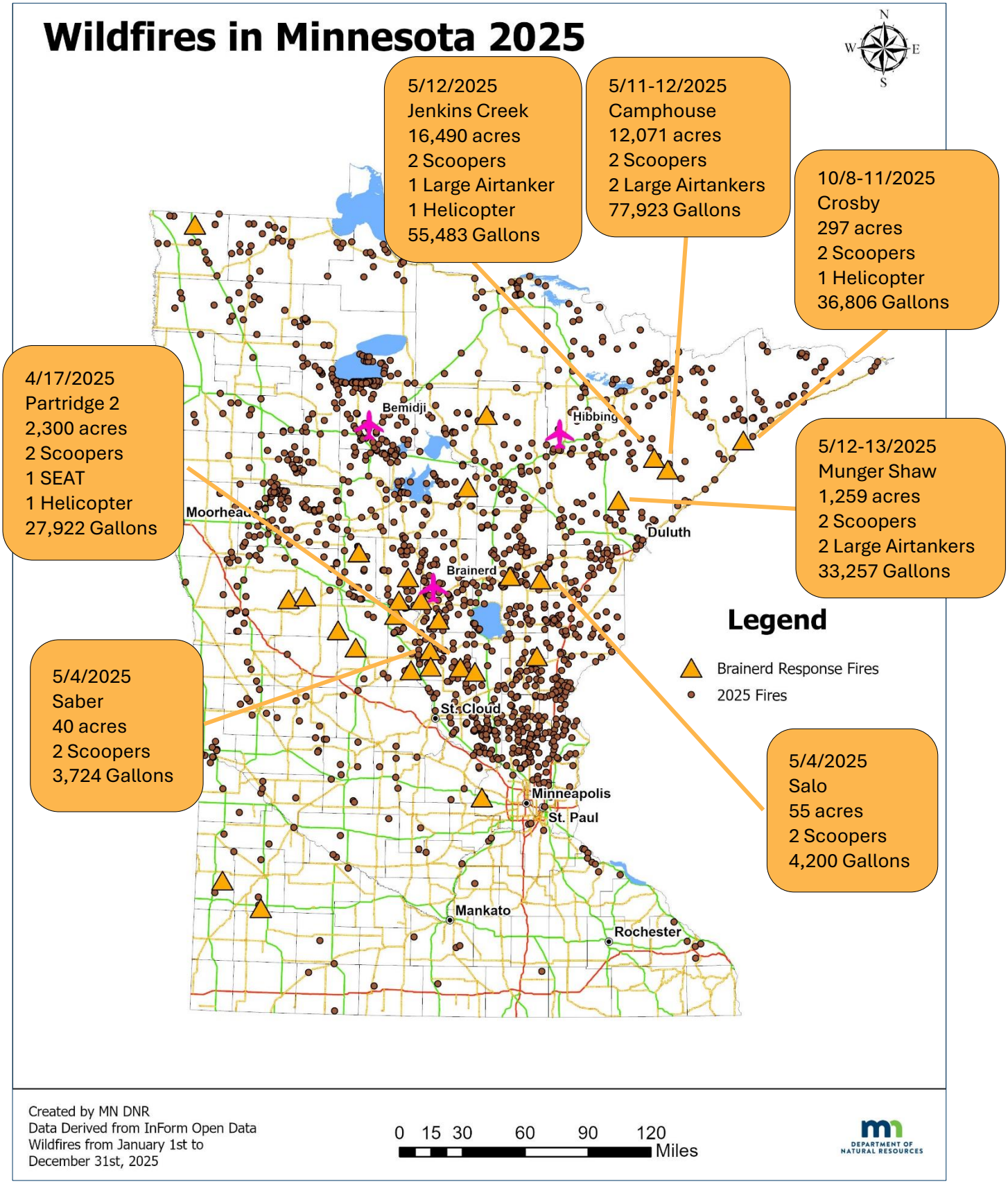
DNR works closely with local fire departments through it's federal surplus program and appreciates the good working relationships with local departments.

Wildfires each year over the last six years

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total	Average/Yr
Crow Wing County wildfires by year:							
127	40	48	56	71	8	350	70
Statewide wildfires by year:							
1375	527	616	893	1106	95	4612	922

Debris burning is the single largest cause of wildfire each year.

Wildfires in Minnesota 2025



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Governor Walz's 2026 Infrastructure Plan: $5 million for DNR Aviation Infrastructure

Advancing safety, improving efficiency, and promoting collaboration at the Brainerd Wildfire Aviation base.

- Modernize workspaces to efficiently accommodate 30 people for daily fire briefings, emergency dispatch, and crew readiness. Build airtanker loading facility, emergency equipment storage, and pilot rest areas to replace existing mobile homes (1997 and 2006), outdated sheds, and piecemeal constructed storage buildings that lack capacity to effectively accommodate wildfire response personnel. Estimated $5 million.



Current DNR Brainerd airtanker base operations and ramp facilities.



Current aerial view of DNR airtanker base (right) with water scoopers, helicopter, and large air tanker on duty. Adjacent (left), recently updated Brainerd Airport fire, rescue, and maintenance facility.



Crew quarters for readiness and pilot rest area.



Brainerd airtanker base pumphouse.

Future Needs:

- Upgrade aircraft parking and airtanker loading area (ramp) which was constructed in 2004 and is near the end of its useful lifespan. Deteriorating infrastructure may soon limit operations of large airtankers. These airtankers support fire suppression in Minnesota and the Great Lakes region. Estimated $5 million.
- Replace three hangars leased from the Brainerd Regional Airport by DNR and Minnesota State Patrol with a single hangar that includes adequate storage for aircraft equipment and areas for aircraft maintenance. Current hangars have no restrooms or vehicle parking areas. This joint hangar will facilitate coordination, interoperability, and familiarity, to aid in crisis and disaster response. Estimated $6 million.

Recent funding:

- 2023 bonding for $6.36 million to replace the ramp, airtanker base buildings, and support structures at the Chisholm-Hibbing Regional Airport. Project completion expected 09/30/2026.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR Project Highlights in Crow Wing County

Land & Habitat Protection

The DNR continues to expand and protect high-value natural areas, with a strong emphasis on shoreline conservation and aquatic habitat:

- Recent acquisitions on Barbour Lake and Big Trout Lake protect sensitive shorelines, support loon nesting, and preserve high-quality fisheries (including a Cisco refuge lake).
- An in-progress Cedar Lake AMA project will safeguard additional shoreline habitat across Aitkin and Crow Wing counties.
- Forestry land additions—largely through donations and partnerships—are improving management of wetlands and consolidating public lands.

Wildlife & Access

Efforts are focused on increasing public access and protecting habitat:

- A small parcel added to Ray Cook WMA unlocks access to ~800 acres of previously landlocked public land.
- A new 268-acre WMA near Spider Lake protects significant shoreline and enhances waterfowl habitat.
- Active habitat management includes wild rice lake water level work (~3,000 acres) and prairie restoration at Poor Farm WMA.

Fisheries & Aquatic Management

Work centers on data-driven fisheries management and sustaining angling opportunities:

- Ongoing angler surveys (2024–2026) are providing insights into fish populations, angler behavior, and technology impacts.
- Annual walleye egg-take and stocking operations support local and statewide fisheries.
- Proposed northern pike regulation changes aim to improve trout fisheries in Cuyuna-area lakes.
- Continued land acquisition partnerships are protecting water quality and long-term lake health.

Water Resources & Environmental Review

- Public Waters Inventory update underway, with mapping corrections and upcoming public input process.
- Extensive county coordination on shoreline management, culverts, flood elevations, and park development.
- Joint work emphasizes natural shoreline restoration and improved water infrastructure.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) & Water Management

A major focus is prevention, coordination, and research:

- Strong coordination with Crow Wing County on watercraft inspections and decontamination, improving efficiency and coverage.
- Active starry stonewort response on Rush Lake (Whitefish Chain) includes containment, treatment, and ongoing management.
- Continued zebra mussel monitoring, including one of the longest-running studies in the U.S. (Mille Lacs).
- AIS grants awarded to local lake associations to combat infestations.

Parks, Trails & Public Water Access

- The Lower Hay Lake public water access was fully modernized in 2025:
    - Expanded parking, new ramps, improved traffic flow
    - Enhanced AIS management features
    - Updated stormwater and accessibility infrastructure

Lingering Issues

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) remains a concern, with a new positive case bringing the total to four in the area.

Big Picture

Across divisions, DNR work in Crow Wing County is focused on:

- **Protecting lakes, shorelines, and forests**
- **Improving public access to land and water**
- **Enhancing fisheries and wildlife habitat**
- **Combating invasive species through partnerships and research**
- **Coordinating closely with local governments and stakeholders**

Crow Wing County Community Corrections

	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Totals	
Drug Test	0	4	10	20	25	30	16	$2625.00	
Alcohol			1	2	2	2	2	$333.00	
Bus				$12.00	$10.00	$6.00		$28.00	
Gas	0	0	0	0	$20.00	$120.00	$40.00	$180.00	
Monthly Total		$100.00	$287.00	$586.00	$729.00	$950.00	$514.00		
Final Total		Grant Amount	$15,000					$3166.00	21%

BURLINGTON
RECOVERY HOMES



Our mission is to provide a safe living environment for people who desire recovery. The homes are designed to help individuals stay sober through community living and accountability.

Comittee of the Whole Presentation -
Crow Wing County Board

April 2026



WHO WE ARE

Burlington Recovery Homes is independent living for individuals in substance use disorder recovery with supportive services:

- Offer a family-like environment that fosters accountability
- Transportation services
- Mentoring and friendship
- Connection with community resources

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS

OUR FOUNDATION

We have been serving CWC for 9+ years.
Connected to many area resources.

OUR TEAM EXPERIENCE

11 team members, most full time, with real or lived experience in SUD
RN’s, business degrees, and various trades.

OUR CONNECTION

We grow and foster deep relationships with each resident.

OUR ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

We have a few scattered sites (apartment units) for couples, families, or a few men.
We have connections with area landlords.





OUR IMPACT

“Thank you very much for all your support and devotion to our clients. I’m very impressed and grateful for the service you provide.”

COMMUNITY PARTNER

STATISTICS

9
Men Sober Homes

7
Apartments

120
Currently Serving

775+
Total Served

IN OUR HOMES

FULLY FURNISHED

Basic needs met
Pride in homes
Participate in cleaning

LAYOUT

Many living areas
Single and shared bedrooms- max 2 people per room
9-13 men in each home

RENT

Rent Assistance - PSN
Lower self pay option
No minimum or maximum length of stay

THE RESIDENT JOURNEY WITH BRH

1 Inquire

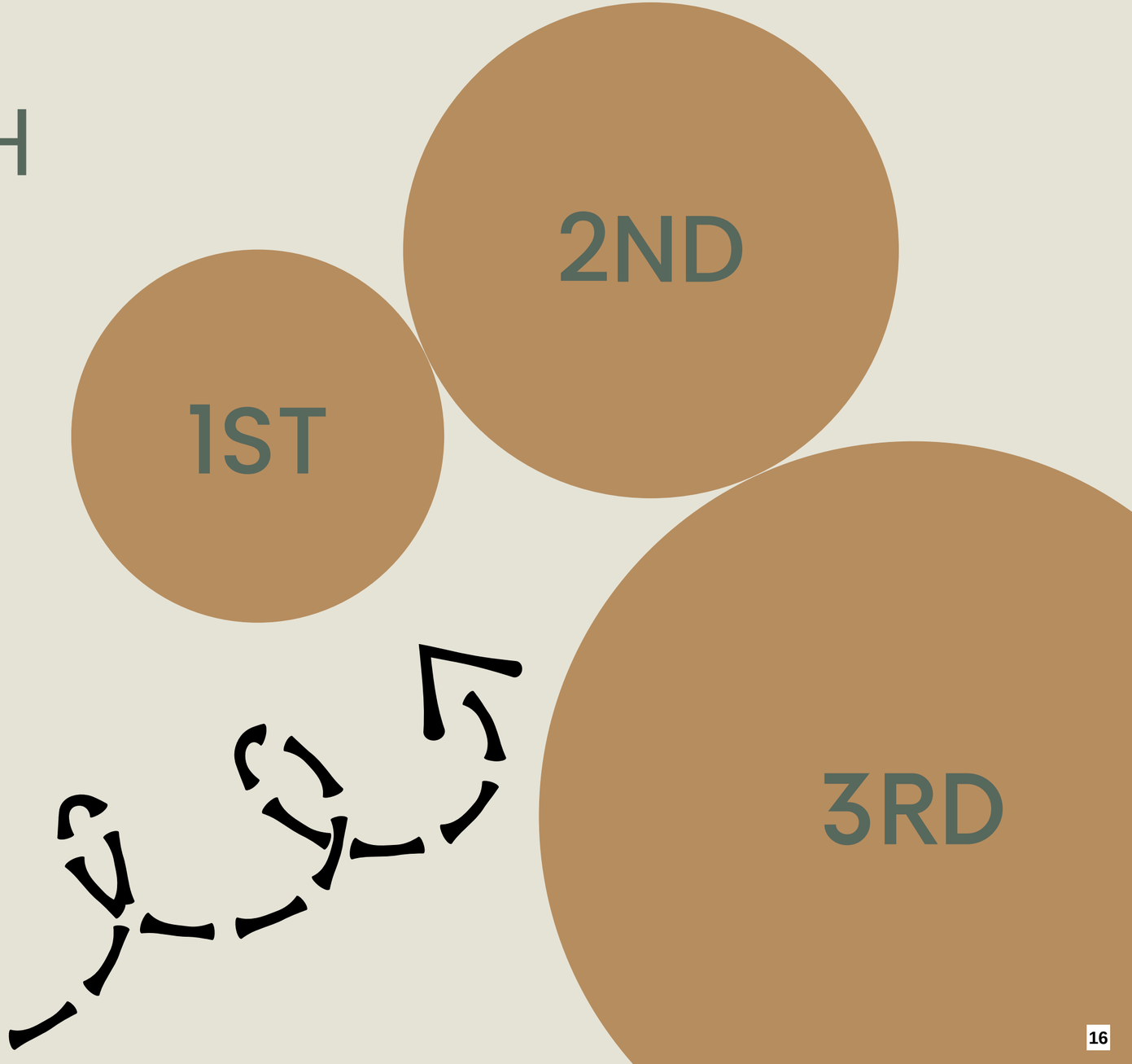
2 Interview

3 Intake

4 Stablize

5 Life Goals

6 Housing Goals



INTERVIEW AND INTAKE

Burlington Recovery Homes interviews and collects resident data on the following:

- **County of origin**
- **Connection to the area**
- **Criminal history**
- **Probation**
- **Referral**
- **Medical and mental health history**
- **Drug of choice**



STABILIZE

- Focus on Recovery
- BRH Team role in stabilization:
  - Connect with area resources
  - Offer safe enviornment with basic needs met
  - Foster accountability and sense of family
  - Assist in recovery from incidences of relapse
  - Offer healthy coping outlets - opioid grant dollars



RESIDENT GOALS

Residents will gain community resources and relationships

Residents will develop a sense of family and accountability in the home

Residents will develop healthy coping mechanisms

Residents will develop and strive towards life goals

GOALS

- Increasing self worth, employment opportunities, and independency
- BRH Team role in goal setting:
  - Assist in establishing life goals
  - Breaking down goals into attainable steps
  - Offering assistance where we can
  - Keep them accountable on follow through



RESIDENT GOALS

Residents will gain community resources and relationships

Residents will develop a sense of family and accountability in the home

Residents will develop healthy coping mechanisms

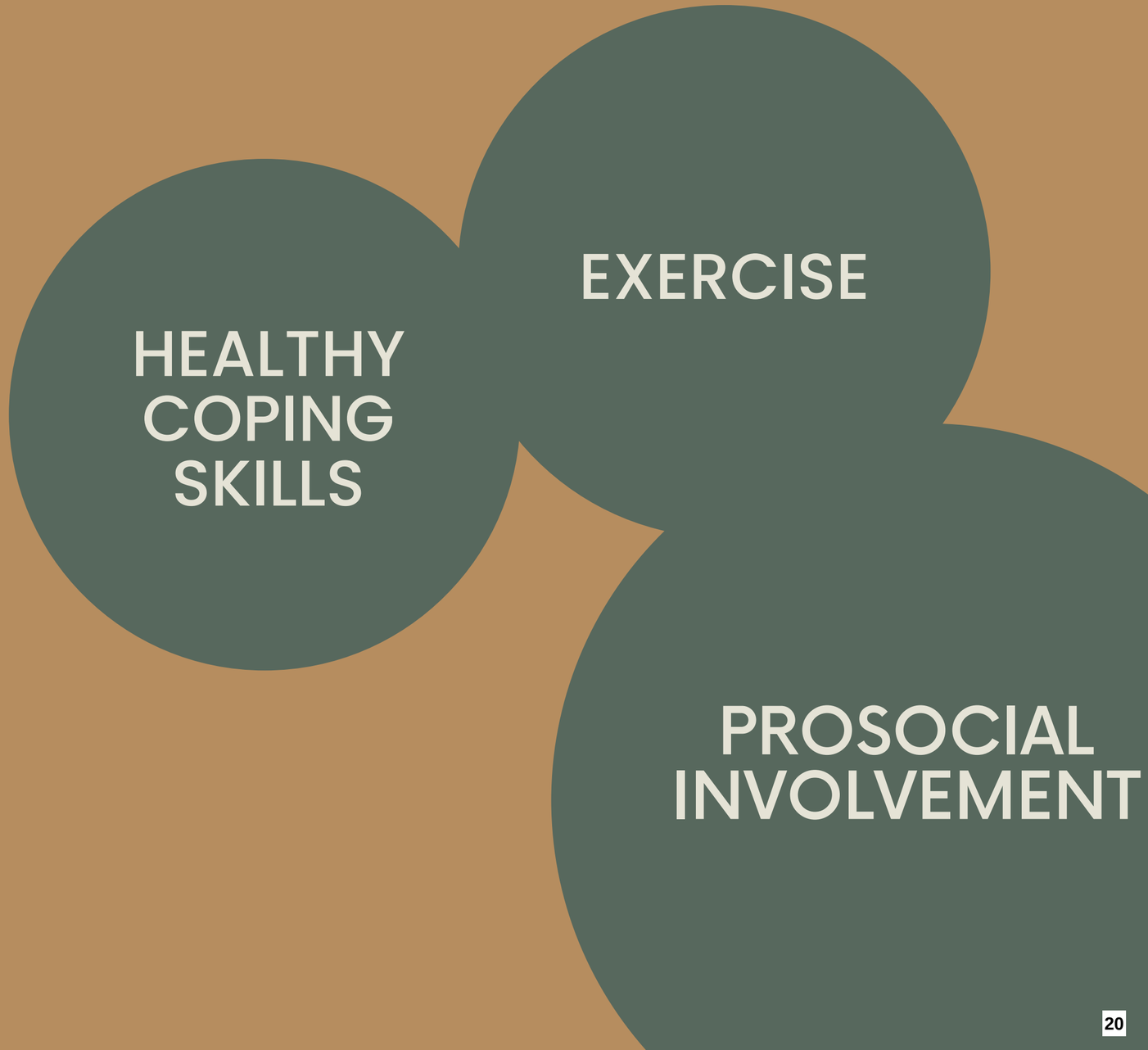
Residents will develop and strive towards life goals

OPIOID GRANT

1 Community Involvement

2 Education

3 Recreation and Healthy Hobbies



OPIOID GRANT TIMELINE

<u>1st Quarter</u>

1.) Fall Highway Clean Up

2.) Holiday Dinners

3.) Naloxone Training Event

4.) Coordination Reimbursement

5.) Fishhouse

<u>2nd Quarter:</u>

1.) Fishing Fun Continued

2.) SAPST Tickets Purchased

<u>3rd Quarter:</u>

1.) SAPST Staff Training

2.) Spring Highway Clean Up Event

3.) Bowling Event

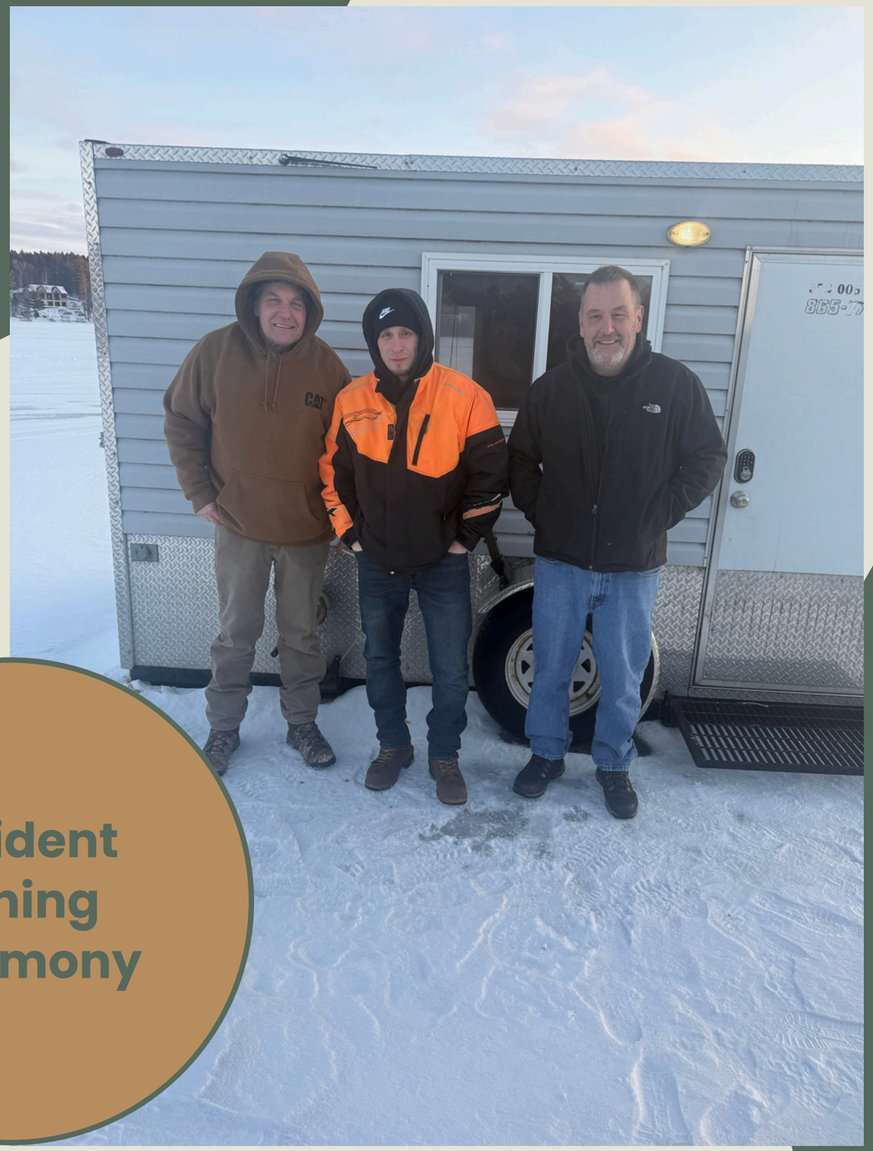
<u>4th Quarter:</u>

1.) Summer Recreation Equipment

2.) Let’s Go Fishing - Event



FISHING EVENTS



Resident Fishing Testimony



NALOXONE TRAINING





Essentia Health

TRANSFORMED by Love Ministries

NALOXONE TRAINING CONTINUED







Essentia Health

TRANSFORMED by Love Ministries

HOLIDAY DINNERS





FALL HIGHWAY CLEAN UP





SAPST TRAINING



TESTIMONIES



NIC P.



TIM H.

CONTACT US

BURLINGTON RECOVERY HOMES

HTTPS://BURLINGTONRECOVERYHOMES.COM/

Sheila Haverkamp
Gene Haverkamp
Joe Wasnie
Megan Adams
Nate Adams
Michaela Hart
Pat Shaw
Jeffrey Elledge
Alex Wasnie

218-330-0249
burlingtonhouse218@gmail.com

“They shower you with love, discipline, and understanding. Without Burlington Recovery Homes, and Gene & Sheila I would not be where I am today – my own apartment, single father to my children, and working full time.”

JOE S.





"These people are Godsends, giving people a place to stay.
I was homeless and on drugs, now I'm reuniting with my kids. They helped bring me to church, doctor appointments, dentist appointments. I consider them family."

CHAD B.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

BURLINGTON RECOVERY HOMES

Burlington Recovery Homes (BRH)
2025 Overview

Nearly 9 years of operations with more than 775 people served to date.
(Total of 9 homes and 7 apartments)
This past year we served a total of 237 people, with 120 still with us.
We have a total of 11 team members in a variety of capacities.

Resident referrals are from Probations Officers (mostly Crow Wing County), DOC Release Planners, Social Workers, Treatment Centers, Homeless Communities, Word of Mouth, and Judges.

Our residents:
18-72 years old, with an average age of 42 years old
They have had a 4th grade education to doctoral degree,
In 2025 residents stayed an average of 10 months
(as short as one day to many being with us for years – it is their home and family)
90% are from Crow Wing County and/or the central MN Region 5 area.
70% of our residents have mental health conditions in addition to Substance Use Disorder
70% are on parole, probation or intense supervised release from prison
(Acknowledge those in attendance)
50% have spent time in prison, some of them multiple times
Their primary Drug of Choice is meth, alcohol, followed by opioids.
(Several residents have used fentanyl, but meth is still the preferred DOC)

Are we helping people - Absolutely
Letter by JH (Received in late 2025)
Sheila (House Mom)
God bless your whole family. You all are God's Angels. I so can't thank you enough for everything. I want to thank you very much. You all are amazing. Got me to where I am now. Fifteen months clean and sober. Moving out into my own place to help my son and watch my grandson. Was dropped to unsupervised probation- 6 months to go. Yay. I am doing all this because of God. He is always so good to me. Sheila and Gene and others on the BRH team - Thank you for believing in me. I want to say I hope I don't see you again. But maybe once. I will stay in touch. That's how we stay sober-is by staying connected. Love you all. Thank you. Signed JH. 15 months sober.

I want to share that each man's journey in recovery is unique, but we stand by them. The process usually begins with them settling in, so they feel safe and realize they have a home. Frequently they begin with outpatient treatment or therapy, start going to AA meetings and maybe church. When they start believing in themselves again, they venture into the realm of employment, which is not easy with some of their criminal histories. Plus, most don't have a car – I am up many mornings driving men to work.

I would like to add/respond to the Brainerd Dispatch Feb. 4, 2026, article that could have resulted in a misunderstanding – that was in follow up to a commissioner's meeting:
First, not just anyone is served by BRH –
Most residents need a "Professional Statement of Need" that are prepared by medical doctors or Licensed Drug and Alcohol counselors, that indicate our type of home is needed for an individual's situation. This documentation typically lasts one year and then needs to be reevaluated.
Our homes qualify for a housing assistance program, if individuals meet eligibility requirements. The rental assistance is paid by the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services, not CWC.
Mn State law mandates no minimum or maximum length of stay.
We follow MN Building Codes and work with city building and rental professionals in designing our homes.
Federal law prohibits discrimination against sober homes by neighbors and local governing jurisdictions.

Finally, I would like to say how thankful I am for God's plan for me and my family. I would also like to thank Crow Wing County Commissioners and their employees for believing in BRH and enabling us to serve people in addiction and help them to become productive people in society.
We sometimes have daily communication with your community corrections team members, social workers, and others. We see ourselves as team members trying to help individuals with this deadly disease.

Now I would like to introduce Megan Adams - who is very involved with BLADE and their subcommittees - to present on how we used our $20,000 opioid grant.



BURLINGTON RECOVERY HOMES

Independent Living for those in Substance Use Disorder Recovery

What is a "Recovery Home"?

Recovery homes are one piece of the larger picture of recovery.

They aren't treatment programs or halfway houses; rather the residents enter Recovery Homes to **sustain** their recovery.

BRH understands the journey of recovery is different for everyone. Residents are independent to attend programs if they need/desire to maintain sobriety such as: support group meetings, outpatient CD treatment, church, etc.

With the BRH team members and tenants, the homes create **support and accountability** in recovery.

There are not staff on site 24/7, however, team members regularly stop by and are on call 24/7.

Our Team

The house managers are regularly at the homes and support the residents in a variety of ways: **We're here as an extended family, ready to listen, encourage, and offer support.**

On call seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

We provide mentoring and friendship, support with identifying community resources including employment opportunities, help with basic life skills and other needs unique to each individual resident. We are not licensed addiction counselors and on-site therapy is not provided.

Our Team Members:
Sheila Haverkamp, Gene Haverkamp, Megan Adams, Nate Adams, Travis Elledge, Michaela Hart, Pat Shaw, and Alex Wasnie.

We've either lived it ourselves or have walked with a loved one as they've suffered from substance use disorder.

House Expectations

- Each BRH is a recovery home and intended to be **drug and alcohol free.**
- Periodically the team members will request drug and alcohol tests to be completed by the resident.
- If a resident relapses, they will be evaluated to determine what is the best course of action to help them in their journey in recovery.
- **All residents are expected to report any suspected use to the house manager immediately.**
- **No overnight guests, without permission.**
- Other rules include topics on: house and chore expectations, medications, quiet time, guests, personal belongings, expectations with fellow housemates, searches, release of information, etc.

Our Homes

BRH has seven homes in Brainerd, one in Little Falls, and one in Pine River, all serving men in recovery.

Additionally, BRH has a few apartments a.k.a. "scattered sites" available for couples, families, or two individuals in recovery.

The homes vary in size with anywhere from 9-13 men, with single and shared bedrooms.

The homes are all located in the city limits and close to community services, shopping, government centers, and other resources.

The homes are **fully furnished and stocked** to allow individuals to move in and make it home immediately, even if they have no belongings:

- Well-equipped **kitchens** for preparing and storing their own food.
- Multiple shared living spaces with comfortable furnishings.
- Shared **internet** and a land line telephone is available at each home.
- Smart **TVs** are in the bedrooms and the shared living spaces.
- Linens, pillows, and blankets are provided.
- 2+ **bathrooms** per home with towels, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies.
- **Laundry** on site with 1-2 washer/dryer sets and laundering supplies.
- **Bikes** are available at each home.
- **Recreational activities** available for resident use: fishing equipment, bikes, kayaks, patio areas with fire-pits/grills, books, games, and various events/outings.

Admission Information

Admission Requirements:

- Must be an addict or alcoholic by admission, or be impacted by addiction.
- Must be sober and detoxed.
- Must be a male 18 years of age or older.
- Must have a strong desire to continue a personal journey of moving their life forward in recovery.
- Must be able to live independently.

Admission Process:

- **Call us at 218-330-0249**
- We will set up a 30-minute telephone interview.
- **Referrals** can come from county staff, treatment facilities, social workers, counselors, homeless programs, probation, MN department of corrections, word of mouth, etc.

Facts about Burlington

- **The average length of stay is a little under one year.** For some, BRH is a transitional period while they prepare to return to another living environment. For others, it's a forever home as they continue their path in recovery.
- Our beds are approved for **a MN state program: housing support.** However, several residents are (or become) **self-paid** once they settle in and find work or have other sources of income.
- Residents in BRH vary from limited education to doctorate degrees, lifelong addict to new addict, 18-72 years of age.
- **Recovery takes a village:** Even with treatment and consequences, a resident's ability to recover is based on their individual efforts. It can still be a mountain of great proportions to overcome, and our team works to provide you with access to resources for success.

Testimonies

"These people are Godsends, giving people a place to stay." "I was homeless and on drugs, now I'm reuniting with my kids. They helped bring me to church, doctor appointments, dentist appointments. I consider them family." – Chad B.

"Thank you very much for all your support and devotion to our clients. I'm very impressed and grateful for the service you provide."- Community Partner

"I lived in the BRH for about six months. Allowing me to focus on my recovery and aftercare from treatment. When I was ready to get my own place Joe helped me with resources to furnish my apartment and helped me get moved in. Joe's been a mentor to me through recovery and become my best friend. I'm now a house manager trying to pay it forward and help other men in recovery." -Travis E.

"Rusty and I wouldn't be where we are without the continued support of Megan and Nate, house managers from the Burlington Recovery Homes. They are extremely helpful, kind and patient. We consider them family. Megan is fun to talk to and is always willing to listen. Nate and Rusty enjoy racing RC cars together and Nate is willing to help out with fixing things or getting things done in general." - Rusty and Masa

"Burlington Recovery Homes believed in me and encouraged me to believe in myself. I am forever grateful for the love and support I found there. Thank you." -Steve W.

"We had a CPS case, Alicia was homeless, and I was looking at significantly more prison time when I moved into the BRH. The entire team surrounded both of us with guidance, love and support. They helped us find a home, we now have our children back, and Alicia has started her own company and is providing cleaning services to all the Brainerd Burlington Recovery Homes. They are our friends and we thank God for bringing them into our lives. - Nic and Alicia

"With Gene and Sheila, you get a true sense of belonging. They shower you with love, discipline, and understanding. Without Burlington Recovery Homes, and Gene & Sheila I would not be where I am today – my own apartment, single father to my children, and working full time." -Joe S.