



SDVOICES
FOR PEACE



2022

IMPACT REPORT

OUR MISSION

SOUTH DAKOTA VOICES FOR PEACE
BUILDS POWER AND ENABLES HEALING IN
IMMIGRANT, REFUGEE, AND MUSLIM
COMMUNITIES BY AMPLIFYING THEIR
VOICES AND WORKING IN SOLIDARITY
WITH ALL WHO DISMANTLE BIGOTRY AND
RACISM.

OUR VISION

WE IMAGINE A SOUTH DAKOTA THAT IS
DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE, AND ANTI-RACIST.



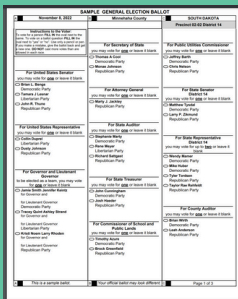
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

MEDICAID EXPANSION

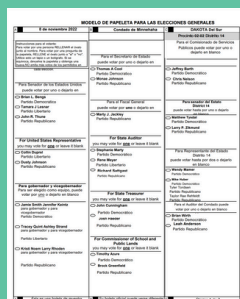
Our outreach team spent thousands of hours canvassing and educating the community about Amendment D, which increases Medicaid eligibility to include approximately 42,500 more South Dakotans. This included distributing translated sample ballots in Spanish, Swahili, and Nepali to community members.



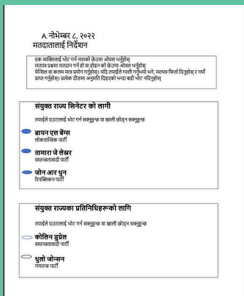
Chief Operations Officer Jen Dreiske speaking at the Love Your Neighbor Kickoff Event



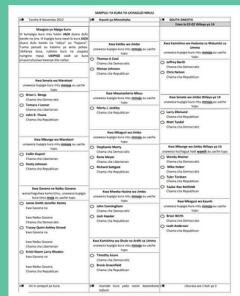
English Sample Ballot



Spanish Sample Ballot



Nepali Sample Ballot



Swahili Sample Ballot



Saliya Ali speaking at the Love Your Neighbor Kickoff Event

On the Love Your Neighbor Tour, our staff partnered with local faith leaders to visit 7 cities in SD to educate communities about the importance of Medicaid Expansion.



Members of the Love Your Neighbor team in Brookings, SD

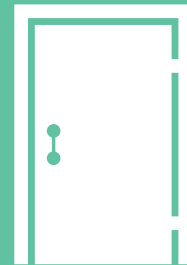
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

MEDICAID EXPANSION

1,000 miles traveled in **5** days
on Love your Neighbor tour



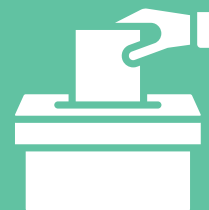
1,497 doors knocked on to
educate multilingual community
about Medicaid Expansion



300 flyers distributed to houses
of worship and community areas



5,000 multilingual sample ballots
distributed to community



RAPID RESPONSE

STANDING WITH UKRAINE AND OUR COMMUNITY

Close to 100 people gathered together in March 2022 to stand in unity with our Ukrainian community members at First Congregational Church in Sioux Falls. Free Covid-19 Test Kits were also available.

Community partners First Congregational Church, First United Methodist Church, and The Multicultural Center of Sioux Falls joined in partnership with us to provide the Ukrainian community with safe spaces for discussion.



CEO Taneeza Islam, Pastor Martell Spagnolo, and Ukrainian community advocate Alla Kureninova speaking at the rally.

#HATE HAS NO HOME IN SOUTH DAKOTA



Neighborhood Market in Sioux Falls



Hayder Hayyawi and Reem Alsulaimawi, owners of the restaurant in Neighborhood Market



Staff and Volunteers cleaning up

Employees of South Dakota Voices for Peace responded to the terrible vandalism of Neighborhood Market in December 2022. Rapid response is critical to our work at SDVFP to assure victims of crimes are brought into belonging. We are proud to have raised over \$16,000 for the business and organized over 20 volunteers, including our staff and members of the Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Pagan communities. We came together to clean up the store and stand in solidarity with the owners and assure them that there is a community of support here in Sioux Falls.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

COHORTS OF COURAGE: YOUTH ADVOCATES

In August 2020, SDVFP hosted a youth forum that inspired our first Cohorts for Courage: Youth Advocates program, where BIPOC youth from area high schools and universities came together to understand and implement strategies for social change.



The culmination of the week-long intensive program was a public forum where participants presented on topics that they were passionate about and proposed solutions: health foods in schools, public transportation in Sioux Falls, and discrimination in public schools. Cohort members are committed to the social change work they developed during the program and SDVFP is continuing to support and uplift their voices. Ultimately, Cohorts of Courage: Youth Advocates is the next step to fight bigotry and racism strategically by giving Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) youth the tools and knowledge they need to make positive change in their communities.

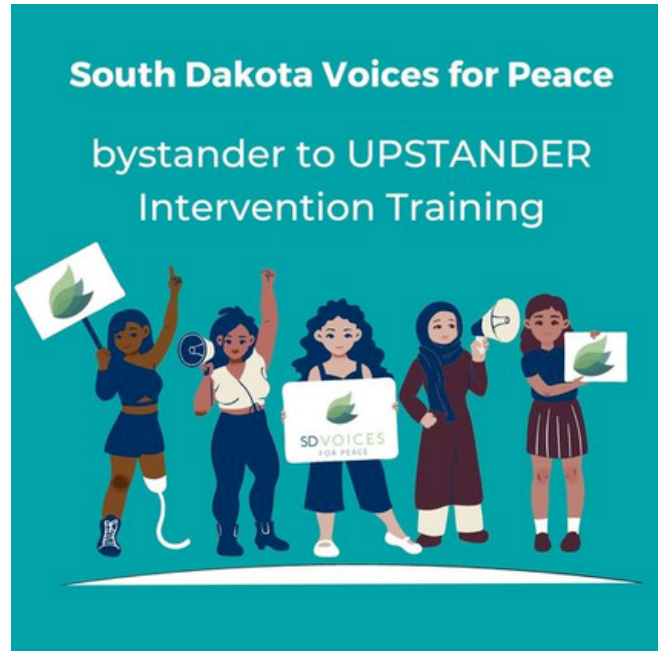
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

bystander to UPSTANDER Intervention Training

How can we support victims of hate? How can we do better for tomorrow?

Jen Dreiske, our Chief Operations Officer, helps listeners to answer these questions in her nationally acclaimed bystander to UPSTANDER intervention training!

Throughout this presentation, listeners become empowered to advocate for others by being equipped with skills to realistically disrupt incidents of discrimination and hate. Jen educates the audience on microaggressions, apathy, and strength, while sharing with us how to use courage to bring victims of bigotry back into belonging.

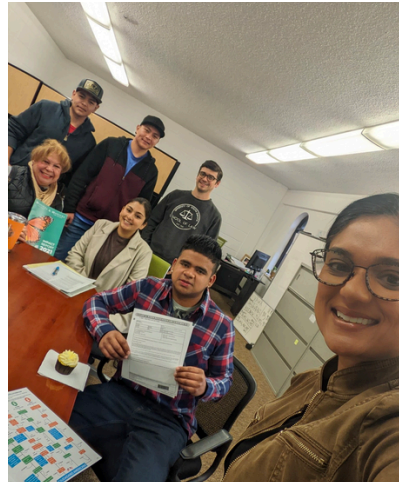


LEGAL SERVICES

SUCCESSES FOR OUR RESILIENT CLIENTS



This client received her work permit! She said she was so happy when she got our call that she cried. We told her that "sky is the limit" for her and to dream big. She didn't know she could have a career, but now she knows she can! With this permit, she can advocate for fair treatment and wages in the workplace.



This client got approved for his Special Immigrant Juvenile Status! He is now on a path to citizenship which he will hopefully get in 4-5 years!



This client is 7 years old. Her family was worried for her safety due to the persecution they faced in their home country because of political involvement. In this picture, CEO Taneeza Islam is learning about her dreams and how she misses her Grandmother and puppy. With our help her application towards a path to citizenship has been filed, and she will become a US Citizen In the next 7-10 years, just in time for when she starts college!

LEGAL SERVICES

South Dakota Voices for Peace is the only organization in the state that provides free legal services and representation to immigrant survivors of crime and children in immigration court.

Our clients have come from:



Our clients now live in:

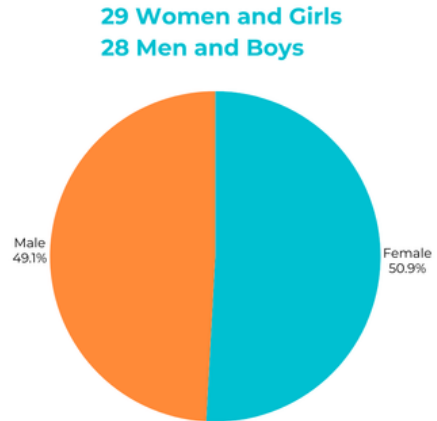
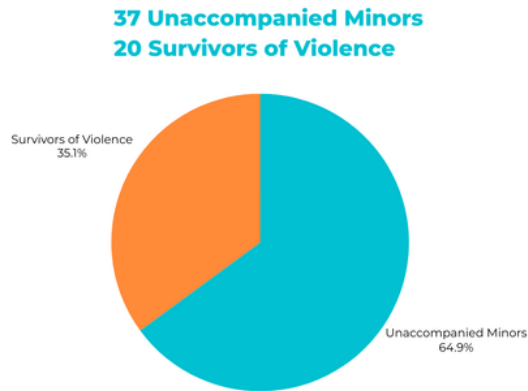


Recent Legal Services Wins:

- 14 Work Authorizations
- 14 Social Security
- 1 Prima Facie Determination
- 1 Asylum Approval

LEGAL SERVICES

Our clients consist of:



Our UAC clients range in age from 7-23, and our clients who are survivors of crime are aged 6-49.

Our clients qualify for these citizenship pathways:

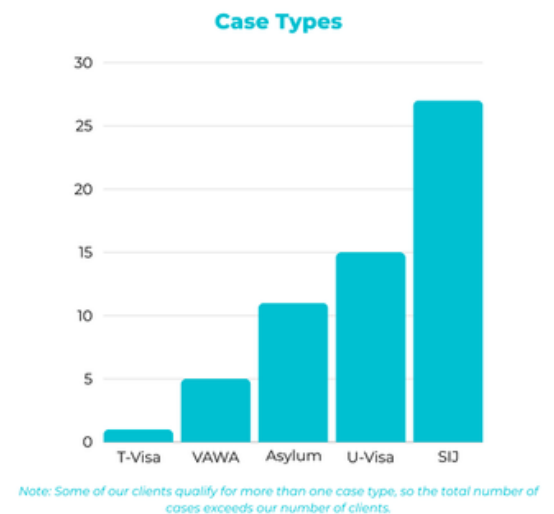
Asylum: Prove past persecution of well founded fear of future persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or "particular social group."

T Visa: Granted to those who are or were victims of a defined form of severe human trafficking.

U Visa: Suffer from mental or physical abuse from qualified crime and are helpful to law enforcement in investigation or prosecution.

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJ): Granted to children under 21 who prove they have been abused, neglected or abandoned by one parent and it is not in the child's best interest to return to their home country.

VAWA: Victim is an abused spouse, parent or child of a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) abuser.



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING CLIENTS

This year found us adding a new position to the SDVFP team: the Community Health Worker! Community Health Workers are a growing part of the workforce that act as a bridge to connect clients to the social services they need. Our Community Health Workers work directly with the legal team and clients to ensure a holistic approach to immigration where clients can realistically dream of a better future.



Eden Liebenthal, one of our Community Health Workers

SAMPLE OF SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Reduced fee for dental services
- Sliding fee referrals for doctor visits
- Enrollment/ re-enrollment for Medicaid
- Assist clients in finding volunteer opportunities

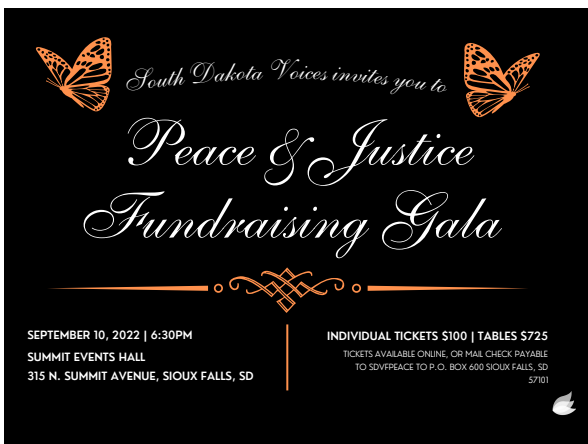
CLIENT POPULATION:

- Multilingual (usually not English speakers)
- Not from United States
- Varying immigration statuses/situations
- Single parents
- Minority Groups

2022 GALA

A NIGHT OF SUPPORT AND GRATITUDE

We were able to express our gratitude and engage with community members through our 2022 Peace and Justice Fundraising Gala. Through the generous support of our community, our Gala raised spirits, awareness, and over \$19,000 in donations!



2022 GALA

COURAGE AWARD WINNERS: COMMUNITY ALLIES

COURAGE IN ACTION: NITZA RUBENSTEIN

Nitza Rubenstein was honored with the Courage in Action Award. Nitza is a longtime ally of the immigrant community. She has advocated for countless community members by helping them find furniture, translating for students and their parents, and even taking unaccompanied minors into her home and contacting us for legal services.

Courage in Action



NITZA RUBENSTEIN

PRO BONO SERVICE: MEGAN GRODE WALTERS

Megan Grode Walters was the recipient of the Pro Bono Service Award. Many of our clients have experienced psychological distress due to the trauma experienced in their home countries. Megan supports our clients by providing them with free psychological assessments. She is also able to speak Spanish, which is incredibly beneficial to many of our clients.

Pro Bono Service



MEGAN GRODE WALTERS

ALLYSHIP: PASTOR MARTELL SPAGNOLO

Pastor Martell Spagnolo received the Allyship Award. Martell supported our organization in an incredibly important way by providing us with a home at First Congregational Church in downtown Sioux Falls. When we outgrew our original space, Martell provided us with even more office space on the second floor! Martell is a major ally for our organization in many ways.

Allyship



MARTELL SPAGNOLO

J.M. KAPLAN FUND



SD Voices for Peace gathered several BIPOC non-profit leaders in a round table discussion to help uplift their work with funders from the J.M. Kaplan fund. We were able to connect these nonprofit leaders with funders from across the state, as well as show the representatives from the J.M. Kaplan Fund around the city of Sioux Falls.



SOUTH DAKOTA VOICES FOR PEACE

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$510,480.17	\$537,048.88	\$300,662.16	\$157,933.62	\$117,407.86
OTHER - PPP LOAN	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,809.67	\$80.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$510,480.17	\$537,048.88	\$328,471.83	\$158,013.62	\$117,407.86

NET ASSETS	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
ASSETS	\$405,579.03	\$462,296.67	\$400,265.96	\$230,691.91	\$129,933.60
LIABILITIES	\$2,385.69	\$11,479.11	\$3,861.08	\$1,126.45	\$0.00
NET ASSETS	\$403,193.34	\$450,817.56	\$396,404.88	\$229,565.46	\$129,933.60

EXPENSES	2022	DISTRIBUTION %	2021	2020	2019	2018
PROGRAM	\$370,489.65	66%	\$529,327.62	\$116,935.49	\$50,595.60	\$7,406.67
SUPPORT	\$187,614.74	34%	\$82,322.83	\$22,505.62	\$7,786.16	\$3,574.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$558,104.39	-	\$611,650.45	\$139,441.11	\$58,381.76	\$10,981.34

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GALA SPONSORS

- The J.M. Kaplan Fund, Inc.
- Transforming Wealth
- Johnson, Pochop, and Bartling Law Office, LLP
- Huber Wealth Strategies
- South Dakota Urban Indian Health
- Marsh McLennan Agency, LLC
- Waltner and Olson Family
- Connecting Cultures Yankton
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church
- Tate Profilet and Mary DeJong
- The Breaks Coffee Roasting Co.
- Guatelinda Bakery
- Sioux Empire Regional Labor Federation AFL-CIO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

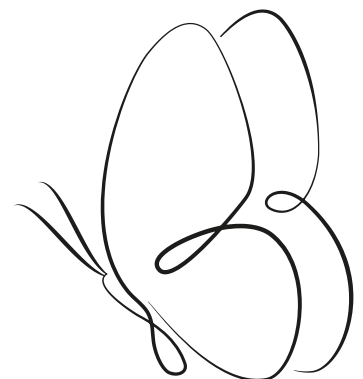
- Taneeza Islam, Esq. (ex-officio)
- Jen Dreiske (ex-officio)
- Rev. Jean Morrow
- Colleen Moran, Esq.
- Araceli Hernandez
- Kuol Malou

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DONORS

- Mark and Mary Kay Fausch
- Krista Hoyme
- Russell Levsen
- Mike and Paula Wagner
- Notable Press
- Amy Kelley
- Leopold R. Gellert Family Trust
- David and Cathy Brechtelsbauer
- Lori and Stuart Levin
- Anonymous
- Lutheran Social Services
- The J.M. Kaplan Fund
- Zeal Startup Sioux Falls
- Mona Wade
- Mary DeJong
- Joe and Jennifer Kirby Charitable Fund
- Stanford Adelstein
- Spirit of Peace United Church of Christ
- Donald Knudson
- Gene and Ann Burrish
- Kira Kimball
- Serra Goldman
- Anne Waltner
- Khandaker Ahad
- Terra Shepherd Boutique and Apothecary
- South Dakota Gives

Thank you to all our generous donors for your support.



"To Us"

Hannah Catlyn

When I close my eyes
at night, I wish a simple wish,
with an ever heavy solution

I wish for you, and I, and them; To live.

To you,
the people of a place
far-far-away
unclaimed or unscathed,
who are the generations of
1st, 2nd, or 3rd,
you will be accepted as an American
with peace, and no war
no protest and no roars.

To you,
the peering eyes of a little girl,
boy, mother, father, or merely
-the eyes of a refugee
down at the borders of my country.
you will thrive,
paint your culture's color
and make your way to freedom.

To you,
who harbors a skin darker than the rest,
you, whose nose- however flat- is beautiful
you, whose eyes- however brown- are filled with
depth/not dullness,
you, whose skin- however dark- is rich with lineage.

To her,
my best friend
trapped in a cycle of
poverty, loans, and "aid",
funds that are demanded
demanded to be paid, with tears and labor
you will succeed, be the academic
your family needs.

To her,
the child of a broken home,
a life filled with dysfunction
hurtful-split ways, and alone
you will be whole
and you will create a way
to function.

To him,
who wishes not for a Barbie
-but Ken,
his desires and wants have been masked
who has been mocked and laughed
you will find your prince charming
and chivalrously fight for love.

and- to me,
who was the little brown girl
roaming, walking the streets of a country,
a corrupt/a broken-down government
of drugs, hate, and greed
you will continue to write, and dream.

When I pick up my pen
and write, I help ratify a wish,
a step closer to an aspiration

I wish for us

To live.



Hannah Catlyn,
SDVFP Poetry Contest Winner



@sdvfpeace



sdvfpeace.org



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