



The Connect Experience

SPRING 2025

Light Behind the Darkness

A Patient's Story of Finding Dignity, Truth, and Hope at Connect



When Tarrence first walked into Connect Medical Clinic, he kept his hood up and his eyes to the ground. Life had worn him down. **He didn't know who to trust, where to go, or even how to ask for help.** "Before I heard about Connect Medical...it was on and off—mostly off. I didn't know nobody here. So it was hard to shout out to people 'cause I didn't know what to look for or where to go or who to ask," he shared.

But something shifted the day he met with the Connect Cares Coordinator for a Consultation. For the first time in his life, Tarrence felt seen. Heard. Safe. **"I ain't never reached out to nobody to ever talk to anybody in my life... I always held it in. But at Connect, it's just like talking to your best friend. That's how they make you feel!"**

What started as a routine check-up turned into a turning point. "I just wanted to make sure I was still healthy... but then we started talking about myself and stuff, and I started telling them how I was coming up. And they just listened."

He opened up. And life began to change.

"They showed me that I matter. That there's always someone there that will take time out of their day to make sure my day is going well," he said. "Once I started seeing things more clear, the body followed. I started talking more and laughing more and feeling better. **My gray sky started letting sunlight through."**

The **ConnectED Life Skills Pathway became a lifeline—** providing tools, encouragement, and real support. "Connect makes you feel good in ways that make you always want to come back. It's a breath of fresh air just stepping in the door."

For Tarrence, it all came down to dignity. His outlook on life, his confidence in being a father to his grown sons and newborn daughter, his understanding of God and His purpose for him all resulted in a visible transformation. More than once, staff noted the change in him—before he even said a word. "They really paid attention. And I love them for that."

Now, Tarrence is not just standing tall—he's reaching back to help others. "I've been in your situation before, and these people helped me. **Now I'm a better person. So the least I can do is help somebody else get lifted too."**

He shares one final message to all who make this care possible:

"I would say thank you to everybody who's donated... If I could shake everybody's hand, I would. Because if you only knew the change that y'all have done for me... it's big. And man—it's like the best feeling ever."

what's inside...



CEO Corner



Priceless Event



Campaign Announcement



What's Next



A Priceless Evening: Kelly Lester's Story and the Mission of Connect

At this year's Priceless Banquet, keynote speaker Kelly Lester delivered more than a testimony—she gave a voice to the kind of healing and hope that transcends politics and ideology. With humor, humility, and deep honesty, she shared her journey through trauma, abortion, addiction, and eventually, redemption.

Kelly spoke not from a place of judgment, but from lived experience—experience that included working inside the abortion industry, battling addiction, and believing that her story was beyond repair. But God, she said, met her not with shame, but with mercy. And through His grace, her identity was restored.

"What you have here at Connect," Kelly told the audience, "is unlike anything I've ever seen." She described Connect as the answer not only to the needs of women in crisis, but to the deeper cultural divide surrounding life, dignity, and healthcare.

*Scan QR code
to donate!*



Your Gift Matters!

Your gift today fuels Connect Medical Clinic's ability to meet patients with compassion, truth, and time. Whether through a one-time special banquet gift or an ongoing monthly commitment, your support allows holistic, dignity-centered care to continue in our region.

Since the overturning of Roe v. Wade, she explained, **both the pro-life and pro-choice movements have been asking hard questions**—Why are abortion numbers still rising? What kind of care truly supports women? What does compassion look like in action?

"Connect is the answer to those questions," she said.

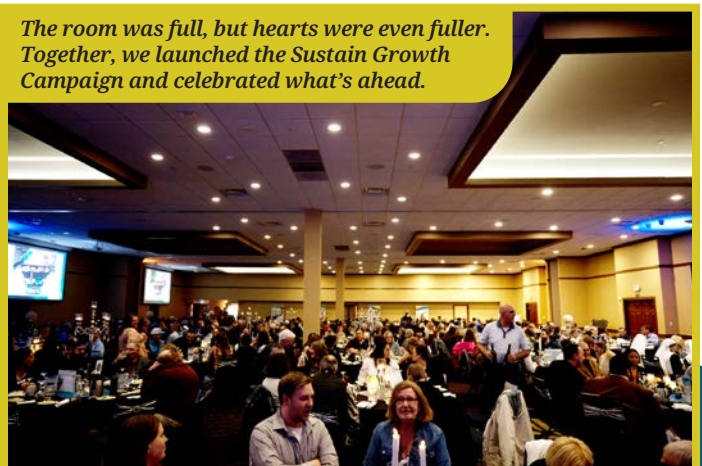
Not because it fits neatly into one side of a debate but because it lives out the dignity of every person—patient and staff, parent and child—through consistent, relationship-based care.

"If I had walked into Connect at 15, 19, or 25," she shared, "my story might have been different. **You are the difference.**"

In a culture hungry for hope, Kelly reminded the audience that Connect doesn't just respond to needs—it builds something better. Her closing message was clear: **God will provide for Connect. The question is—will you partner with what He's doing?**



An evening of connection, conviction, and calling. Nearly 500 guests gathered to say "Yes" to building a culture of life.



The room was full, but hearts were even fuller. Together, we launched the Sustain Growth Campaign and celebrated what's ahead.

CEO Corner



Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the powerful evening we shared at the Priceless Banquet—and the incredible generosity and unity it inspired—I'm filled with gratitude for what God is doing through Connect. Your prayers, presence, and support shape a future where compassionate, whole-person care isn't the exception, but the expectation.

Looking ahead, we're stepping into three exciting new chapters that will deepen our impact and expand our ability to serve.

First, we are preparing for our **AAAH survey**, a key milestone in our journey toward national accreditation. This rigorous review affirms that Connect meets or exceeds **551 nationally recognized standards for quality and safety**. It's a big step forward—and a clear sign to our community and our patients that we are committed to excellence in every detail of our care.

Second, we're turning our focus to **Connect Cares**, our long-anticipated holistic needs-based program. Through a dedicated Connect Cares Coordinator, we offer **whole-person assessments** that look not only at physical health, but also emotional, spiritual, and environmental factors that impact a person's wellbeing--and responding to needs with real, tangible help. **It's compassion in action.**

We anticipate completing the Sustain Growth Campaign goal this year. While the banquet addresses annual operational needs, the campaign enables the mission to meet the demands of its growth. Growth you make happen!

This is care that truly connects. And this is care that **invites you to connect further, serve deeper, and build stronger - today and for future generations.**

Thank you for walking with us—not just on banquet night, but every day. **You're helping build something lasting: a place where every person is seen, known, and cherished.**

Grateful as Always,

Tara Zettel

P.S. The next steps we are taking provide opportunities for you to give time, resources, or financial support. Stay tuned for more information in the weekly Connect 4! We couldn't do any of this without you!

Experience the Priceless event — including Tarrense's story and the Sustain Growth Campaign Announcement — now through April 30, 2025, at connectmedicalclinic.com/event under "Priceless Replays."



"Connect is the answer." Kelly Lester called our model of care revolutionary—and worth replicating.



The Connect Care Team and Kelly welcomed guests with a powerful vision for the future: healthcare that heals not just treats.

CONNECT MEDICAL CLINIC

683 State Avenue, Suite E
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-483-9353

Help Us Reach the Finish Line!

Connect Medical Clinic has officially launched the public phase of its \$1.35 million Sustain Growth Campaign—and with nearly \$1 million already raised, we're inviting our entire community to help us cross the finish line.

This campaign supports the future of dignity-centered, holistic healthcare in our region by funding:

- Expanded space and staff to meet growing patient demand
- Pursuit of national accreditation with AAAHC
- Development of new, life-affirming services
- Innovation for long-term sustainability

Every pledge helps ensure Connect continues to provide compassionate, personalized care without compromise.

Will you join us?

Visit our website or connect with a campaign ambassador to learn more or make your gift today.

Together, we can sustain the growth—and impact lives for generations to come.

ConnectMedicalClinic.com

\$1.35M

\$1,000,000

March 2025

January 2025

August 2024

December 2023

October 2023