ConnectMedicalClinic.com

CONNECT MEDICAL CLINIC

The Connect Experience

FALL 2026

Alondra's Story: From Helping Others Be Heard to Finding a Home at Connect

Nearly four years ago, Alondra first came to Connect as an interpreter, helping Spanish-speaking women connect with their health. What she witnessed was a unique and special healthcare experience: time to explain, listen, and respond to each person's needs. She also saw women receive preventive care they had gone years without because cost had kept it out of reach. **"I saw how much Connect cared about the Hispanic community—and really, about every community,"** she remembers.

That experience built trust. Alondra attended Connect banquets, became a donor herself, and eventually chose ConnectED to walk alongside her as a new mom. **"I had seen the attention they gave their patients, the time they spent with them, and how they really listened to what people needed,"** she says. The care she once helped others access became the care she chose for herself.

Her journey came full circle during Connect's AAAHC accreditation survey, when Alondra was interviewed by the surveyor not as an interpreter or supporter, but as a patient. Asked what Connect had meant to her and her community, she told the surveyor: **"Connect gave my family and my community a home; a safe place to feel welcome and cared about."**

Because of you, that welcome is possible. Your generosity creates more than an appointment. It helps build a place where people are known, listened to, connected to the care and support they need, and treated with dignity- a place they can trust with their health, their family, and their community.



Alondra with her family. What began as serving others through interpretation grew into a relationship of trust and a place her own family now calls home.

what's inside...

Come to the Table Banquet

Inclusive Healthcare Initiative with Able, Inc.

Rural Community Grant Fund (RCGF)

Accreditation Success with AAAHC



*The **Rural Community Grant Fund**, funded by AgriBank in partnership with AgCountry Farm Credit Services and Farm Credit Services of Mandan, supports projects that strengthen western North Dakota communities impacted by mineral development.*

Because Every Patient Deserves to Be Cared for Well

This year, with generous support from the **Rural Community Grant Fund, (RCGF),** Connect completed $53,667 in improvements to cybersecurity and HIPAA compliance, secure computer hardware, electronic medical record technology, maternal health supplies, staff training, and our emergency alarm system.

Much of that work RCGF funded is intentionally invisible. Patients may never see the cybersecurity monitoring protecting their information or the systems helping our team respond safely and effectively. **Men, women, young people, and families are simply able to walk into Connect knowing they have entered a place prepared to serve them with both compassion and competence.**

That is what your generosity builds. You are helping create a community where people can access care that recognizes their inherent dignity and worth, and where that belief is reflected not only in how they are treated, but in the quality, safety, and stewardship behind their care.

Because every human life matters, every person deserves to be cared for well. ***Huge thank you to RCGF!***



We Did It—Connect Medical Clinic Is AAAHC Accredited!

We are thrilled to share some very big news: **Connect Medical Clinic has officially achieved AAAHC accreditation!**

This milestone represents far more than a certificate on the wall. At Connect, we believe every human life has inherent dignity and worth. And if life is sacred, how we care for people matters.

The accreditation process gave an independent surveyor from AAAHC the opportunity to examine the systems, safety practices, clinical processes, and culture behind our care. What they found affirmed something deeply important to us: our mission is not simply something we say, it is something patients can experience.

"The organization's commitment to treating patients with respect, consideration, compassion, and dignity stands as its greatest strength, priority, and value."
— AAAHC Surveyor

The surveyor recognized Connect's culture of quality, strong safety practices, comprehensive clinical processes, and commitment to faith-based, dignity-centered, patient-focused care.

But perhaps the most meaningful affirmation came directly from a patient interview:

"I don't feel like a number. They always care about what I need and take time to answer my questions."

That is the Connect Difference, now affirmed by the country's leading ambulatory healthcare accreditation body. This accomplishment belongs to you, too. **Your generosity helps make possible a clinic where compassion and conviction are supported by serious clinical excellence, where families can confidently refer those they love, and where community partners can trust the care we bring into their schools and organizations.**

Today, we hope you celebrate with us. Together, we are creating a community where the value of human life is not simply something we proclaim—it is something people experience through excellent, dignity-centered care.

Thank you for believing in this work and helping make this milestone possible.

For more information about AAAHC, visit AAAHC.org.

CEO Corner



Waking Up to Life-Affirming Support

Waking up to a bright new day and your morning coffee can now support the mission of Connect! Through an exciting new partnership with Aspire Health Clinic and Seven Weeks Coffee, supporters have two ways to make their coffee count: Aspire is carrying Seven Weeks Coffee locally and donating **10% of its retail coffee sales to Connect,** or you can order directly through **Connect's Seven Weeks partner link, where 15% of your purchase comes directly back to our mission.**

Seven Weeks Coffee is harvested in the most natural way possible, only sourcing coffee that is 100% organically farmed, pesticide-free and mold-free. It's as clean as coffee gets! Seven Weeks was founded to strengthen life-affirming organizations across the country! If you are interested, visit Aspire Health Clinic on Elks Drive or use the link to order directly.

Tara Kelly Zettel



Coffee with a cause: *our partnership with Aspire Health Clinic and Seven Weeks Coffee gives supporters another everyday way to invest in the mission.*



Dignity-Centered Care Means **Care Designed for Every Person**

Every person deserves healthcare that honors their dignity, protects their agency, and helps them feel safe enough to participate in their own care. Yet traditional healthcare systems are not always designed around the communication, learning, sensory, or trauma-related needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That is why **Connect Medical Clinic and ABLE, Inc. are co-leading a new Inclusive Healthcare initiative** to ask a better question: *What does this person need before, during, and after an appointment to feel informed, respected, comfortable, and in control?* Together, our teams are testing longer appointment times, adapted education and communication tools, pre-visit preparation, and individualized, trauma-informed approaches to care.

Because of the clinic and care team **you help sustain, Connect can both welcome people through our doors and help change the systems they encounter once they arrive.** This pilot will work directly with people with disabilities, listen to their experiences, measure changes in understanding, comfort, and trust. It also aims to identify approaches that can become sustainable and available to all patients and potentially be shared with healthcare providers across North Dakota.

This is what dignity-centered healthcare looks like: instead of asking a person to fit the healthcare system, we are learning how the healthcare system can better fit the person.

CONNECT MEDICAL CLINIC

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We welcome you

to make an appointment for any of our
CONNECTION, **CARE**, **CHOICE**, and **CENTEREDNESS** Services

connectmedicalclinic.com/services/

Save the date for **April 8, 2027,** and come to the table with us.



Annual Fundraising Banquet
04.08.27

This year's Connect Medical Clinic banquet will feature MCs Tara and Jillian sharing the story of the mission from the inside out. **Around the figurative family dinner table to the exam table,** we'll share where Connect has been, what is happening now, and how this family of supporters is helping make dignity-centered care possible for families across our region. **It will be a warm, personal evening focused on connection, belonging, and the very real difference your support makes.**

There are **three ways to come to the table.**

First, become a banquet sponsor, with opportunities beginning at **$1,000 and extending through $10,000,** and help underwrite the event so the funds raised that evening can go directly toward the mission.

Second, **host a table** by inviting 8–10 people you know who have both an affinity for the mission and the capacity to give generously that night.

And third, **plan to attend and experience the Connect Difference for yourself.**

Pull up a chair, hear the stories, meet the people doing the work, and consider how you can help make room for the next patient, family, and generation we are called to serve.