



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM

# DAKOTA FAMILY SOLUTIONS

~CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF SERVICE~  
[WWW.DAKOTAFAMILYSOLUTIONS.ORG](http://WWW.DAKOTAFAMILYSOLUTIONS.ORG)

## 10 for 10

It is hard to believe that Dakota Family Solutions (DFS) is wrapping up its 10th year of service to the Williston area! To celebrate this special milestone, we have chosen to hear from 10 different people who have been involved with this organization in various ways over the last 10 years. A majority of the quotes included are from those who have participated in our programming in some way; after all they are the reason Dakota Family Solutions exists!

We are humbled and grateful for the investments that so many people have made to help this ministry prosper.

To ALL who have...

- \* Served on our board
- \* Volunteered
- \* Given financial support
- \* Provided meals
- \* Donated toys/gift cards
- \* Hosted meetings in homes
- \* Planned and hosted events
- \* Encouraged
- \* Prayed
- \* Participated in our programming

# THANK YOU!



## Board President

Dakota Family Solutions was incorporated on January 11, 2012. The first board meeting was held on February 20, 2012. Our current board president has been with us since that very first meeting! Here are her thoughts.

*"I have been a part of Dakota Family Solutions from the very beginning. I was invited to serve on the board as I could be a voice for single moms.*

*I had been a part of a single moms group the Goldades had going long before this organization was started. In fact, I have been associated with them over the last 25 years! I don't know where I would be without the support and comfort I received those many years ago. At that time, it helped get me through some very difficult and dark situations and I was able to get back on the right path. God has blessed me so much as I have followed Him.*

*I am grateful that now, by serving on the Dakota Family Solutions board and volunteering when I can, I am able to give back in some small way!"*

~Evonne Hickok

## EMBER Single Moms

Encourage | Mentor | Bless | Empower | Refresh  
The **EMBER** Single Mom program has been operating under Dakota Family Solutions from our inception. It meets weekly during the school year. Over the years, many topics related to parenting, personal development and spiritual growth have been covered. Community members provide meals that moms and kids share. It is such a blessing for moms to have a night off from cooking. Kids go to children's programs at area churches while the moms meet in a local host home. There is a sweet sense of community amongst these amazing moms and their children!

*"I've been a part of EMBER Single Moms for five years. This faith based group has been such a valuable support system for me. All of the moms have such varied life experiences that so much helpful advice can be given from different perspectives. I'm so grateful for this group of ladies and their kids!"* ~Single Mom

*"EMBER Single Moms provided a light at a dark time in my life. I was feeling lost and alone, and the group welcomed me in and showed me grace. I am so thankful for the leader and the other women in the group!"* ~Single Mom

Two giving options: Online with the QR Code or by Mail!



SCAN ME

**Dakota Family Solutions**  
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 A charitable, nonprofit organization  
 Tax ID: 45-4508610

Let the spirit of  
love gently fill  
our hearts & home



### EMBER Teen Moms

EMBER Teen Moms officially began on September 24, 2012. We offer a few different classes for credit at Williston High School. Over the years we have had several teen moms complete one or more of our classes. A total of about 40 teens have participated in our program at some level. It is amazing to watch these young women become incredible mothers!

*"EMBER Teen Moms class has taught me many ways to help raise my son as a single teen mom while finishing school. I have learned many useful tips and ways to help my son grow into an amazing young boy."*  
~Teen Mom

### Bethel Home

For five years, DFS has been connecting community members with the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts to bless residents at Bethel Home. The elderly can often feel alone and forgotten, especially around the holidays. We are honored that we are able to partner with the staff at Bethel to learn what is needed for residents and present them as giving options to the public.

*"It is a joy to participate in giving knowing that the love of Christ, the reason for the Christmas season, is being shared in a practical way to bless Bethel residents!"*  
~Giver



### Classes

Many classes have been offered over the years to community women. These classes have been hosted at various places throughout the community including the Williston ARC, the Family Crisis Shelter, and churches. More recently we meet online via Zoom. Topics covered encourage personal and spiritual growth, boundary setting, and healthy relationships. It is heartwarming to hear how the knowledge these women have gained through their studies has positively impacted them!

*"DFS has provided a much needed foundation, and the tools for good boundary setting, to change my family tree!"*  
~Woman Participant



### EMBER Young Moms

This group was created in the summer of 2015 in response to our teen moms aging out and wanting to continue meeting! Some of them are now married with more children and are still connected with us. Topics and issues young moms face are covered at our weekly meetings throughout the school year. We meet at the Williston ARC and are able to use their childcare services. Thanks to local restaurants who generously provide supper before our meetings. EMBER Playgroup meets weekly throughout the year.

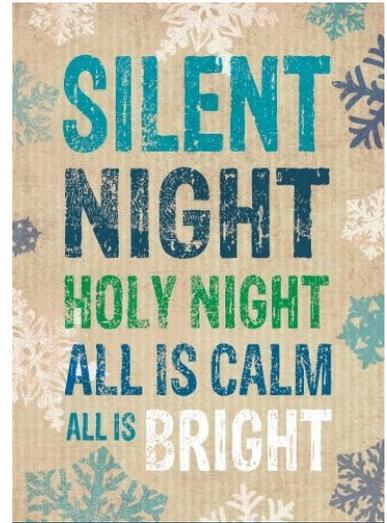
*"I am so glad my friend brought me to the EMBER Young Moms Group last year...there are so many amazing women and leaders involved. It has really become my safe space and comfort zone."*  
~Young Mom

### Autism Group

On September 8, 2015, our Autism group was started to provide support in the Bakken region for families of loved ones with Autism. Over the years we have offered monthly meetings to address unique challenges parents and caregivers must navigate. In 2016, we started creating events for the whole family to participate in. These events offer a special autism-friendly experience where everyone is welcome and no one feels out of place. This results in a comfortable and fun environment for all.

*"I am so happy to volunteer for DFS Autism events. They are carefully developed and monitored for success for the families and children. DFS identifies unique needs and provides opportunities within the Autism community which have been fun for all!"*  
~Volunteer

*"We are thankful for a safe space for our family. A space where our son is loved and accepted for who he is. We love meeting other families who understand and walk this journey."*  
~Parent



### HOPE Group

In May of 2016, the HOPE Infertility Group was launched to provide support for those facing infertility issues. Over the years there have been monthly meetings and events. Now our presence is primarily online where women can connect for one-on-one support with other women who have also faced infertility.

*"I have been a part of the HOPE Group since the beginning, first as an attendee and then as a co-leader. I have walked through miscarriage, recovery, infertility and then the birth of our two babies! Solid friendships have developed as I have shared this journey, crying and rejoicing with other women in the group. I have loved every minute."*  
~Co-Leader



### Praise to God for His faithfulness and provision over the years! Prayer Requests

- \*For God's love and grace to flood the souls of those we serve
- \*For Dakota Family Solutions to be sustained by God's hand
- \*For God's wisdom, direction and continued guidance

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