



## Northland Christian Counseling Center

### NCCC SURPASSES GOAL!

#### Donors around region and nation make Giving Hearts Day another huge success!

Thanks to our generous donors in the region and around the country NCCC raised **\$24,217** on Giving Hearts Day, February 12, 2015. This total put NCCC at 161.4% of our goal and included many new donors who have recently learned of the mission and services of our non-profit ministry.

*"This is an incredible show of support and generosity and we are so grateful," said Executive Director Stephen Seay who also serves as a counselor for the center, "Financial support from donors allows us to provide healing and hope to those who otherwise would go without because of inability to pay. It also helps us to pay our staff that often does not get fully reimbursed through health insurance because of the complexities of those new regulations."*

Giving Hearts Day is a one-day, online fundraising event hosted by Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation based out of Fargo, North

Dakota. This year a total of **\$6,938,206** was raised for area non profits.

One of Northland's supporters said about her experience with Giving Hearts Day:

*"I love going online to [impactgiveback.org](http://impactgiveback.org) and selecting the charities I am giving to. It feels like Christmas! It gives me such joy to give in this way to groups that are so deserving and doing so many good things in people's lives."*

Northland Christian Counseling Center is a ministry of restoration offering clients the opportunity to move from despair to hope even if they don't have the ability to pay for their counseling sessions. Funds raised from Giving Hearts Day will be used to help pay for those sessions.

### SAVE THE DATE!

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NCCC Luncheon June 25<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am-1:00pm  
Held at the Gorecki Center UND Campus  
Our own counselors Marna & Renae will be part of a panel discussion.  
Limited Seating – Tickets \$20

**A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEPHEN SEAY**

**Character Qualities of Those Who Do Well in Counseling**

After years of working with people, I've become aware of something. When I think about why some people do better than others in counseling, there is almost always, the same character qualities present. I find myself intrigued. The character qualities I am observing over and over again are: *humility, honesty, self-reflectiveness, and some sense of ultimate truth.*

*"Pain is the megaphone God uses to awaken a deaf world."*

In this newsletter I'll talk a bit about humility and in subsequent ones the other qualities. Scripture speaks of humility as having a 'lowly' view of ourselves. I don't believe it is the view that says "I'm not good for anything," that would ultimately be an affront to the Great Commandment which says we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. We have a dignity that matters. But, it is a sense of distrust in our moral goodness. It is the part that Romans 7 recognizes, "there is no good thing that dwelleth in me...that is in my flesh." Humility that grows out of that heart knowledge quiets my compulsive desire to finally find a place in myself that isn't messed up. Humility has a level of peace with its imperfections and the imperfection of others.

The opposite quality that stalks the reality of my internal world is pride. C. S. Lewis, in the chapter on Pride in Mere Christianity says that it is 'the essential vice and the utmost evil.' Pride will energetically war against the declared truth that we are flawed. It wants to fight. Whether I am seeing Christians or not as clients, it is virtually certain that I will be in for a battle if I point out something wrong with how my client may be relating. To point out a sinful pattern will most certainly prick the pride of those I'm helping. The blindness that accompanies the

arrogant response makes it impossible, unless the Spirit illumines, for the person to receive good news which starts with bad news first. Christians may be the most difficult to work with because our tastes of truth make it difficult for us to except a richer version of what we already know. After all, who can tell me something I think I know everything about? The following sentence communicates an attitude I often see: If I think I know all there is to know about something, than I'm not open to learning more about something I think I know. This form of arrogance is incredibly common and I stand as the chief example. It seems virtually impossible for me not to stray in this direction.

For example, if I'm humbled, I automatically assume I now know everything about brokenness...If I taste Grace, I am tempted to claim I now know its depths. Over and over I see myself pulled toward this arrogant certainty.

Again, C. S. Lewis hits it on the head when he exclaims, "Pain is the megaphone God uses to awaken a deaf world. Pain gives me some pause that allows this thought to enter. Maybe I am missing something."

Even in finishing this short article, I am aware of a level of richness that I've failed to convey. Oh how I long for all that could be said to be said with the richness and integrity it deserves...Sigh.

**Did You know?**

About 18% of our clients received financial help for counseling services from our client assistance fund in 2014. Every gift can have an eternal impact!