

---

THE **JOURNEY**

---



**STEPPING FORWARD**  
*at the*  
*Stepping Stones Resource Center*

---

THE JOURNEY  
SPRING 2026  
A PUBLICATION OF FRASER, LTD.

---

## FRASER LTD'S MISSION

Supporting children, youth and adults on their life's journey toward independence.

- CHILDREN'S SERVICES –
- YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SERVICES –
- ADULT SERVICES –
- VALLEY HOPE  
COUNSELING SERVICES –
- REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE SERVICES –

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brenda Kaspari**  
Chairman

**Michael Kirk**  
Vice Chairman

**Sheila Carney**  
Treasurer

**Danny Tungseth**  
Secretary

**David A. Laske**

**Ronald McLean**

**Joseph Paul**

**Sandra Leyland**  
President & CEO



Every community has places that quietly change lives.

Sometimes it's a classroom where a child discovers confidence for the first time. Sometimes it's a therapy session where someone finds the courage to say, "I need help." Sometimes it's a steady source of support that brings stability when life feels uncertain.

For more than 130 years, Fraser, Ltd. has worked to be that place for individuals and families across our community - meeting people where they are and walking alongside them as they move forward.

The stories in this edition of The Journey reflect the many ways that mission comes to life today.

You'll read about the vision behind the Stepping Stones Resource Center, a space designed to ensure that youth facing housing instability have somewhere safe to turn and people ready to walk beside them. You'll learn how Fraser Child Care creates an inclusive environment where children of all abilities learn, play, and build friendships together. You'll discover how Representative Payee Services help individuals maintain financial stability and independence, and how Valley Hope Counseling provides a safe space for honest conversations about mental health and healing.

While each of these services meet a different need, they are all connected - part of a broader continuum of care designed to support individuals at every stage of life. Whether someone is taking their first steps into a classroom, navigating a difficult season, or working toward long-term stability, Fraser is there with support that is consistent, compassionate, and built around their needs. This issue of The Journey offers a glimpse into that work - the people, the partnerships, and the possibilities that are helping build stronger futures across our community.

We're grateful you're part of it.

- Fraser, Ltd.

# Supporting Stability Through Representative Payee Services

For some individuals, managing monthly benefits can become overwhelming. Bills, paperwork, and day-to-day expenses can quickly feel like too much to navigate alone. In these moments, having the right support can create stability and peace of mind.

A Representative Payee is appointed by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to manage benefits for someone who is unable to do so independently. This ensures that essential needs like housing, food, and medical care are consistently met, while also helping individuals maintain financial stability over time.

At Fraser, Ltd., Representative Payee Services are designed to protect and empower those we serve. Our insured and trained team works closely with individuals, families, case managers, and other support providers to

ensure each person's needs are met with care and professionalism.

Fraser assists individuals in managing Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans Administration, and Railroad Retirement benefits. We help ensure essential expenses are covered, maintain detailed financial records, and communicate with agencies as required.

Like all Fraser services, this support goes beyond the task itself. By reducing financial stress and creating consistency, Representative Payee Services protect individuals from financial exploitation, unmet needs, and housing instability. By managing funds responsibly and compassionately, we help people thrive.

## KEEP FAMILY DINNER ABOUT FAMILY - NOT FINANCES.

When a loved one needs help managing benefits, family members often step in.

But conversations about bills, spending, and money can quickly become uncomfortable.

**Representative Payee Services** provide trusted, professional support so families can focus on what matters most - their relationship.

We help manage Social Security, SSI, VA, and Railroad Retirement benefits.

Let us handle the finances so you can enjoy dinner together again.

 (701) 356-0182  [RepPayeeServices.org](https://RepPayeeServices.org)





# STEPPING FORWARD AT THE STEPPING STONES RESOURCE CENTER

When Fraser Ltd. first introduced the Stepping Stones Resource Center (SSRC) to the community, the conversation centered on possibility and what could happen if young people had one safe, accessible place to turn to when stability felt out of reach. Since then, that vision has only grown clearer.

Today, SSRC stands as more than a project in progress. It represents a commitment to youth and young adults ages 16 to 26 across Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead and a promise that support doesn't have to be fragmented, unsafe, or hard to find.

At its heart, the SSRC is about people. About young individuals navigating housing instability, trauma, or uncertainty, and about meeting them with dignity, consistency, and care before crisis becomes chronic.

## **From concept to community impact**

As Fraser continues its work to complete the SSRC, the need it was created to address remains urgent. Youth homelessness doesn't always look the same. It can mean sleeping outdoors, staying in cars, couch surfing, or relying on unsafe situations just to get through the night.

What Stepping Stones offers is an alternative to that reality.

The Resource Center brings essential supports together in one place, including basic needs, trained staff, and trusted community partners working side by side. The goal is simple but

powerful: remove barriers, reduce risk, and create a clear path forward.

This approach allows youth to focus on what comes next, instead of where they will sleep or how they will eat.

## **A space built around prevention**

One of the most important elements of Stepping Stones is its focus on prevention. The Resource Center is designed to support young people before they slip into deeper instability or long-term homelessness.

By offering a welcoming, youth-centered space, Fraser helps interrupt cycles that are often hard to break. Youth can meet immediate needs while also connecting to longer-term supports like housing assistance, mental health services, education resources, and individualized case management.

This proactive model reflects Fraser's broader continuum of care, an intentional system of support that recognizes stability is built over time, not in a single moment.

Instead of isolated services, youth experience continuity. Instead of starting over at every door, they are guided forward by people who know their story.

## **Collaboration that changes outcomes**

We designed the SSRC as a shared space where service providers can collaborate in real time, respond more quickly, and work together toward better outcomes.

This coordination matters. It reduces duplication, closes gaps, and allows support systems to adapt as needs change. Most importantly, it ensures youth are not left navigating complex systems on their own.

Stepping Stones becomes not just a resource hub, but a living network of care that reflects the collective commitment of the Fargo–Moorhead community to its young people.

### Why this work matters

While the physical space continues to move toward completion, the mission behind Stepping Stones is already shaping how Fraser serves youth. The center embodies a belief that every young person deserves safety, stability, and the opportunity to imagine a future beyond survival.

For our supporters, this phase of the project is about sustaining momentum. It's about investing in a model that prioritizes prevention, dignity, and long-term impact, not quick fixes.

Every contribution helps ensure that when a young person walks through the doors of Stepping Stones, they find more than services. They find consistency. They find support. They find people who are ready to walk alongside them.

### Looking ahead

As Fraser moves forward, the SSRC remains rooted in the same guiding principle it began with: meet youth where they are, and help them move toward where they want to be.

The work continues, not just to complete a space, but to strengthen a system of care that will serve young people for years to come. Stepping Stones is a reflection of what's possible when a community chooses to invest in prevention, partnership, and hope.

And for the youth it supports, it represents something even more important: a place to land, and a path forward.

We Need People Like You!

Volunteers and employees help move our mission forward.

Fraser Ltd.  
A Chance for Choice

Visit FraserLtd.org to learn more

FRASER GEAR. GOOD VIBES. BIG PURPOSE.

BRAIN REST DAY

TEACH LOVE

Snack Time  
It's my happy hour!

Toddler Size!

ORDER NOW

ShirtsFromFargo.com/Fraser-Ltd



# FRASER CHILD CARE OVER 30 YEARS OF CARING!



FraserLtd.org



## A Place Where Every Child Belongs

Every child deserves a place where they feel safe, supported, and excited to learn.

At Fraser Child Care, that environment is intentionally created each day for children of all abilities. Serving children from 6 weeks through 12 years of age, our program brings together typically developing children and children with special needs in an inclusive setting where everyone has the opportunity to grow.

Through play, exploration, and connection, children build the social, emotional, and academic skills they need for their next stage of learning. Activities are thoughtfully planned based on each child's age and interests, allowing them to discover and grow at their own pace.

What sets Fraser Child Care apart is the level of support built into the environment. A dedicated

Special Needs Coordinator helps ensure children with additional needs receive individualized support, while on-site nursing staff provide an added layer of care and safety.

We also know that supporting a child means supporting the whole family. Our family-centered approach creates strong partnerships with parents and caregivers, helping build a foundation for long-term success.

As part of Fraser's continuum of care, Child Care is often one of the first connections families have - offering a nurturing start and a pathway to additional supports as needs evolve.

# Times Have Changed: Making Mental Health a Conversation

**Sometimes, the hardest part of navigating life's challenges is knowing where to start.**

At Valley Hope Counseling, individuals and families are met with compassionate, professional support in a space that is welcoming, confidential, and centered on understanding. Since 2012, this Fraser service has provided mental health care to people of all ages, helping them work through difficult seasons and build healthier paths forward.

Our licensed therapists bring a range of therapeutic approaches, allowing care to be tailored to each individual, couple, or family. Through conversation, guidance, and support, clients can explore challenges, develop coping strategies, and move toward meaningful change.

Valley Hope Counseling is part of Fraser's broader commitment to supporting the whole person. Whether someone connects through counseling or another Fraser service, each program is designed to provide stability, connection, and support at the right time.

Accessibility is a key part of that care. Valley Hope Counseling accepts most insurance plans, Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), and offers a sliding fee scale. Telehealth services are also available, making it easier for individuals - especially those in rural communities - to access support privately and conveniently.

At its core, Valley Hope Counseling offers something simple but powerful: support when and where it's needed most.



We call it **depression**.  
Our grandparents just called it **sadness**.

We call it **anxiety**.  
Our grandparents just called it **nervousness**.

We call it **burnout**.  
Our grandparents just called it **being tired**.

We call it **mental health awareness**.  
Our grandparents just called it **keeping it to yourself**.

**Times have changed.**

**Book a session with Valley Hope Counseling.**

📞 701-232-3301  
🌐 [www.fraserltd.org](http://www.fraserltd.org)  
✉ [valleyhope@fraserltd.org](mailto:valleyhope@fraserltd.org)





2902 University Drive South  
Fargo, ND 58103

# Play for Fun. Give for Good!

Enjoy a night out at our charitable gaming partners and help Fraser continue providing vital services for children, youth, and adults.

## Locations & Games:

**SPICY PIE - Downtown Fargo**  
322 Broadway N, Fargo  
Electronic Pull Tabs



**Space Aliens Grill and Bar**  
1840 45th St SW, Fargo  
Electronic Pull Tabs & Hard Cards



## Play. Have Fun. Make a Difference!

