

VOA Giving FAQs

What is Volunteers of America, Dakotas? Volunteers of America, Dakotas is called by the Gospel to guide people to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Our roots were planted in Sioux Falls, SD in 1920 with the goal of transforming the world through a ministry of service that feeds, clothes, shelters, and demonstrates to all people that they are beloved children of God. Our services in homelessness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children, youth and families, and behavioral health serve 10,000-11,000 people each year in the Sioux Empire. In addition to compassion and empowerment, one of our core values is commitment to serving people and communities right around us. We invite you to be a part of this!

DNA of VOA Dakotas

What services do Volunteers of America, Dakotas provide? Volunteers of America, Dakotas offers 21 different services, ranging from behavioral health to homelessness and Veteran's support to childcare. Our scope is vast, allowing us to meet many needs in our community. If you would like to learn more about our service areas, please visit 'Services' on our website's main page.

Is my gift tax-deductible? Yes! To minimize overhead costs and maximize the impact of your generous support, we send you an automated gift acknowledgement after the gift is processed. At the end of each year, we will mail you an annual giving statement for your taxes.

How does my gift impact the community? Volunteers of America, Dakotas serves between 10,000-11,000 people in the Sioux Empire. Your gift helps provide meals, rides, childcare, counseling, housing, and more. For Example, the Street Outreach Program provides a cost-benefit by helping youth become more financially stable through education and employment. Youth experiencing homelessness are more likely to drop out of school, and one study found that 42% of youth experiencing homelessness drop out at some point. This has a significant impact on their successful transition to adulthood. The unemployment rate for South Dakota adults without a high school diploma is 6.5%, three percentage points higher than the national average. Individuals without a high school diploma earn on average \$520/week, compared to \$712/week for individuals with a high school diploma. By helping youth complete high school, we have the potential to increase a person's annual earnings by almost \$10,000. This has a significant cost benefit for the community, as it reduces the likelihood of relying on adult social supports later in life.

Can I specify how my funds are used? Yes! If there is a program area that you feel passionate about, you are able to designate your dollars towards their use. You will see a list of options to choose from when donating or becoming a Community Builder.

In what ways can I give?

Community Builders – A monthly giving program of individuals committed to shaping the future of Sioux Falls with civic engagement.

Annual Fund – The annual fund provides operating dollars to meet the greatest needs of the organization and directly support all program efforts.

Rise & Shine – A yearly breakfast event with corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities.

1896 Society – A dedicated group of individuals demonstrating financial commitment to the future of Volunteers of America, Dakotas.

Capital Campaign – The 2018-2019 HomePlace Capital Campaign is striving to raise \$3.5 Million to build a new 21 unit apartment complex for homeless youth in our community.

Gift-In-Kind Donations – Various gently used items, depending on need, may be accepted and put to use in our programs.

Community Builders FAQs

What does it mean to be a Community Builder? Being a Community Builder means you are a part of an extraordinary community committed to enhancing the Sioux Empire. Your involvement through event participation and monthly giving progresses the work being done by Volunteers of America, Dakotas. Being a Community Builder means you receive special perks, too!

Why monthly giving? Because it's easy, efficient, and you'll have a greater impact. By automating your giving, you are stretching every donated dollar further, which helps even more people achieve well-being every day. That is why your gift is so important.

How much should I donate each month? Monthly giving is meant to be tailored to you! You are able to select the amount which you feel called to give. Currently, the average gift is \$30 – just \$1 a day that builds up your community!

How do I get involved? Upon signing up, you will receive a newsletter each month providing opportunities to get involved. These activities include quarterly service outings, monthly Tasty Tours, and other special events throughout the year. If you would like to learn more about Volunteers of America, Dakotas happenings or opportunities, reach out to giving@voa-dakotas.org.

Who should I contact about additional questions I may have on Community Builders (i.e. general questions, changing gift amounts, updating contact/payment info)? You may increase, decrease, pause or cancel your monthly gifts at any time. You can update your contact information or payment information any time as well. Simply contact giving@voa-dakotas.org.

Annual Fund FAQs

What is the annual fund? The annual fund supports the operations of Volunteers of America, Dakotas. These donations are critical to the work being done as they help keep doors open, programs running, and staff paid.

How are dollars in the Annual Fund used? Annual Fund donations back the 21 programs of Volunteers of America, Dakotas in various ways. You have the option to designate your dollars to a particular service area when donating to the Annual Fund. When selecting the 'Greatest Need' option, your dollars are immediately put to work where they are most urgently needed. Sometimes this may be something simple like diapers for daycares, food at the Veteran's Service Center, or clothing for individuals within one of our behavioral health or treatment facilities; other times it supports larger operating aspects of the organization.

Rise & Shine FAQs

What is Rise & Shine? Rise & Shine is our annual breakfast and fundraiser where local businesses, community leaders, and individuals come together to celebrate the mission of Volunteers of America, Dakotas and to learn about the people and programs that help create a bright, positive change in the lives of so many.

How can I get involved with the Rise & Shine event? There are multiple ways to be a part of the event. To receive information on becoming a corporate or individual sponsor, being a table host, or attending the event, please email giving@voa-dakotas.org.

HomePlace Capital Campaign FAQs

What is HomePlace? HomePlace is a transitional home for youth experiencing homelessness. It will be a new 21 unit apartment complex, costing \$3.5 million, which will allow Volunteers of America, Dakotas to operate the established Axis180 program more efficiently. Axis180 provides shelter, case management, life skills, and education services to young people ages 16-21 who are preparing for independent living.

Why is HomePlace needed? There are homeless children and teens in every school in the district. During the 2017-2018 school year, the Sioux Falls School District identified 1,256 K-12 students who had experienced homelessness, 102 of those between the ages of 16 and 21. With our current facility needing costly repairs and the increasing need for supportive housing, the HomePlace campaign began. Together we can help guide these youth toward self-sufficiency and success.

What if I want to learn more about this campaign? You can visit voa-dakotas.org/donate/homeplace to learn more or email giving@voa-dakotas.org with any questions.

1896 Society FAQs

What is the purpose of the Foundation? The Volunteers of America, Dakotas Foundation reflects the beliefs of a dedicated group of individuals impacting the future of this ministry and the lives being impacted. Donations to the Foundation help Volunteers of America, Dakotas respond to emerging needs with effective programs and help us to invest in growth opportunities to meet the needs of our community.

How do I become a member? To become a member of the 1896 Society, you are asked to consider two important financial commitments: an initial pledge of \$5,000 to \$100,000 to be paid over a maximum of 5 years or an ongoing gift of a minimum \$1,000 per year and a legacy commitment where you consider including Volunteers of America, Dakotas Foundation as a recipient of your Estate Plan. Please email giving@voa-dakotas.org to get connected with our Foundation Director and learn more about the importance of this membership.

GIK Donations FAQs

What can I donate? Although cash donations are most easily put to use and better meet the needs of Volunteers of America, Dakotas, in-kind donations are still appreciated. The goods and services accepted are dependent on the program destination and time of year. Generally speaking, small appliances, kitchenware, diapers, bedding, clothing, towels, or used electronics may be accepted. The best way to find out whether we are able to take your in-kind donation is to email giving@voa-dakotas.org.