



**PATHFINDER CENTER**  
PROTECTING AND FINDING PURPOSE  
FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Indian Conference Dec 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> , 2018

*Helping Native Victims of Sex Trafficking to Heal and Find Their Purpose*




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## Our Mission

To provide a place of refuge for victims of human trafficking from all over South Dakota.

To promote the growth and development of those we serve by empowering them to experience healing and wholeness, while ensuring that each woman gains a sense of self-worth and the capacity to achieve their full potential.



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## Overview Of Pathfinder Center

- Pathfinder Center is a 14 bedroom place of refuge for victims of human trafficking
- Pathfinder Center is a program of Wiconi Wawokiya (Helping Families); a 501c3 non-profit organization, located in Central South Dakota.
- Safe, secure, confidential place for women and children to heal from the effects of trafficking.
- Referral process and intake interview prior to arrival to center.
- Commitment of at least 6 months, up to 24 months.



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## OVERVIEW OF PATHFINDER CENTER



**Before**



**After**

## *Needs of human trafficking victims/survivors*

- Individuals who have experienced violence and trauma in the past are more vulnerable to future exploitation.
- The psychological effect of trauma is often long-lasting and challenging to overcome.
- Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or social discrimination may be targeted by traffickers, who recognize the vulnerabilities left by these prior abuses.
- Violence and abuse may be normalized or beliefs of shame or unworthiness lead to future susceptibility to human trafficking.



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## **Objective Of Pathfinder Center**

- Have stable and safe housing
- Have protection from traffickers
- Become apart of a safe, healthy community.
- Have professional guidance and assistance while addressing complicated and stressful issues, such as legal, medical, and emotional support.
- Will be empowered by discovering and identifying their strengths.



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## *Needs of Human Trafficking Survivors*

- The needs of trafficking victims are among the most complex of crime victims. Some victims have DID also known as alters.
- It's important to have a multidisciplinary approach to address severe trauma and medical needs, immigration and other legal issues, safety concerns, shelter and other basic daily needs, and financial hardship.
- Trafficking victims come from all levels of education and socio-economic statuses (SES).
- Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking; however, victimization is higher in those populations considered "runaways" or those who are homeless.

## *Intake Process*

### *Screening process*

- What is their story? Is their ulterior motives?
- What medications are they on?
- Are they involved in a on-going case
- Have you ever been diagnosed with any of the following?
- Do you use now or have ever used drugs?
- Are you seeking long term shelter
- If yes, when was the last time you used?
- Have you ever recruited for a pimp, bf, or lover etc.?
- Do you have a cell phone?
- Have you ever attempted suicide? Are you having suicidal thoughts now? Do you self mutilate?



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## Services Provided By Pathfinder For Survivors

- > Case Management
- > Referrals to churches/spiritual support
- > Job Training and Education
- > Employment Assistance
- > Transportation
- > Food and Clothing
- > Crisis Intervention and Counseling
- > Emergency Shelter and Referrals
- > Spiritual Support and Healing
- > Medical Advocacy
- > Long term Mental Health Care
- > Safety Planning



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## HEALING SERVICES

- Art Therapy
- Cooking Therapy
- Beading
- Sewing
- Inner healing /Praying
- Essential Oil Therapy
- Ear Candling
- Smudging
- Sand Tray Therapy
- Bath Bombs
- Journaling
- Uplifting Self Care
- Acupuncture
- Aromatherapy



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## Sponsor "It Takes A Village"

- Providing spiritual and emotional guidance and support.
- Helping integrate the woman/woman and children into the community while helping to provide a healthy support system.
- Helping with occasional transportation to and from job interviews, college, or GED classes.

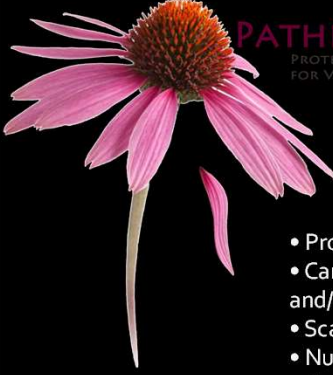
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# *TRAUMA INFORMED CARE*


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## What trauma reactions can look like:

- Problems telling your "story"
- Can't remember; memories are "snapshots" and/or disorganized
- Scan for danger & hyper-alert; not safe
- Numb, check out mentally or emotionally
- Can't "get over" things
- Avoid people
- Negativity, "crabbiness"
- Wait for the next bad thing to happen
- Constantly anxious or depressed
- Can't focus or concentrate
- Flash backs, panic attacks
- Nightmares
- Difficulty sitting still or relaxing
- Anger and over-reactions
- Sleeping a lot or can't sleep
- Difficulty making decisions
- Substance abuse
- Don't feel connected to others
- Hard to manage and share feelings
- Difficult to stay present
- Hard to feel relaxed, joy, happiness



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## PEOPLE RESPOND TO TRAUMA DIFFERENTLY

- People respond differently and are impacted by trauma in different ways. Not everyone who experiences trauma, will have "traumatic responses."
- Some people recover from trauma quickly. Sometimes trauma reactions last for weeks, months or a life-time. Some have chronic pain and illnesses.
- Substance abuse and trauma are connected. Many people turn to drugs to deal with the pain of violence and trauma. What starts out as a "survival tool" may turn into an addiction that can add another layer of trauma. Also, if people aren't safe, recovery is extremely difficult or impossible.

## *What does it mean to be trauma informed?*

- To make sure the people we help feel physically and psychologically safe
- Understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma.
- To understand events, experience and effects.
- Able to stop what you are doing and be available
- Listen without judgment and have compassion.
- Understand their definition of crisis vs yours
- Being trauma informed starts the minute you have a conversation with them till they leave your facility.
- What trauma does to the body

## *Who Can Help With Needs of Survivors*

### *Tribal Agencies*

- BIA POLICE
- Criminal investigators
- IHS clinic, mental health
- AA, NA programs
- Spiritual Counselors

### *Non-tribal*

- Churches
- Social services





- No cell phones
- No social media
- No visitors
- No soliciting while at the center
- No recruiting while at the center
- No sleeping in other survivor's room
- 30 day probationary period
- Belongings will be searched upon arrival
- If you are on medication it will be locked up and distributed to you on a weekly basis.



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## *Transitioning out of shelter*

- Get a resource list for them
- Help with housing
- Safety plan
- Support people
- Jobs
- Budgeting



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## **Our Vision For Transitioning Out Of The Center**

One of our many visions is to partner with individuals, businesses, organizations, and churches all across South Dakota. When survivors have decided it is time to move forward from the Pathfinder Center, we want to provide resources of support and love. We are asking individuals, businesses and churches to consider being a sponsor for survivors of human trafficking.



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**Questions or Comments?**

**[www.PathfinderCenter.org](http://www.PathfinderCenter.org)**  
**605-234-1540**

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