



A publication of the Community Violence Intervention Center

Vol. 30 | No. 1

2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER



**Rural Outreach:**

*Meeting  
survivors  
where  
they are*

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vendors, and provision of services. We  
are committed to providing an inclusive  
and welcoming environment for all.

Platinum  
Transparency  
2025

Candid.

## Platinum Seal of Transparency

We recently earned our 2025 Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency! Check out our nonprofit profile to keep up to date with our impact by searching "Community Violence Intervention Center" on the Candid website. We want to make sure you always have the information you need to support our work with trust and confidence.

# Change has never been more constant or necessary

Dear Friends,

Recently as I was driving to Bismarck for legislative meetings and testimony, I was reminded of the beauty of our state—the vast prairies, the open sky, and the close-knit communities that make North Dakota home. As each mile passed by my window, I thought of survivors in rural towns who face unique barriers and the partnerships that enable us to meet them where they are. Now, thanks to a generous vehicle donation from Rydell, clients can talk with an advocate right where they live. Meeting clients in a designated safe space, this donation provides CVIC's rural advocate greater flexibility to drive to a variety of locations throughout Grand Forks and Nelson counties. Check out other rural highlights on pages 4-7.

The first few months of 2025 have certainly reinforced how many people work together on behalf of the safety and healing of families facing interpersonal violence and why education and prevention goals are essential. Among the partners walking alongside CVIC clients are special donors who led the way this Giving Hearts Day as Challenge Partners: Minnkota Power Cooperative and Nodak Electric Cooperative. Thanks to their inspiring generosity, and many other businesses and individuals, we raised more than \$96,000 during this year's regional day of giving. The day's events also included timely program updates from staff and donor guests, who participated live on the Ryan Cunningham show on KNOX radio. Read more about the Champions for Change who invested in CVIC programs and services on pages 8-9.

As we look ahead, we continue to wait for clear direction following the uncertainty of the executive orders which could affect federal funding, which comprises roughly one-third of our \$7 million annual operating budget. Within the past several years, we have worked diligently to build CVIC's operating reserve, and partner with both longstanding and new private grantors/donors while pursuing revenue diversification strategies. These past few months of uncertainty, and the possibility of having to dip into our operating reserve as well as make other operational adjustments to sustain our holistic services, highlights how important private partnerships are to our long-range planning. On behalf of CVIC as well as our coalition statewide, I recently took our concerns to Washington DC via in-person visits with Rep. Julie Fedorchak and Sen. John Hoeven and their staff, as well as Sen. Kevin Cramer's staff. We will keep you posted as new information becomes available.

Regardless of federal changes, we remain committed to our mission and those we serve. We will not stop serving our neighbors in underserved populations. We answer to those we serve and the next generation who will help us overcome violence.

At the state level, we appreciate our legislators, legislative staff and professional relationships we have with our sister agencies throughout North Dakota. In our testimony to several house and senate committees during the first quarter alone, we reminded legislators that more than 250,000 North Dakotans will be impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault during their lifetimes. In 2023, domestic and sexual violence impacted 7,400 newly reported survivors and more than 4,200 children statewide. Our statewide request for increased funding within the Department of Health & Human Services budget (House Bill 1012) has passed the House with \$2 million more than the executive budget recommendation. As we approach \$12 million on a request of \$19 million statewide, we look forward to partnering with the Senate to procure additional dollars for prevention and education. The North Dakota Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation funding (Senate Bill 2015) also included \$7 million to cover the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding gap.

We truly appreciate all you've done and continue to do to support our work, stand with our team and change the face of violence for the thousands of families each year. Thanks to your partnership, survivors, like the ones on pages 5-6 have access to services, and a soft place to land so they can begin to heal. I am truly grateful for the impact we are making together every day to give every community we serve a chance to thrive.



Gratefully,

*Coiya Tompkins Inman*

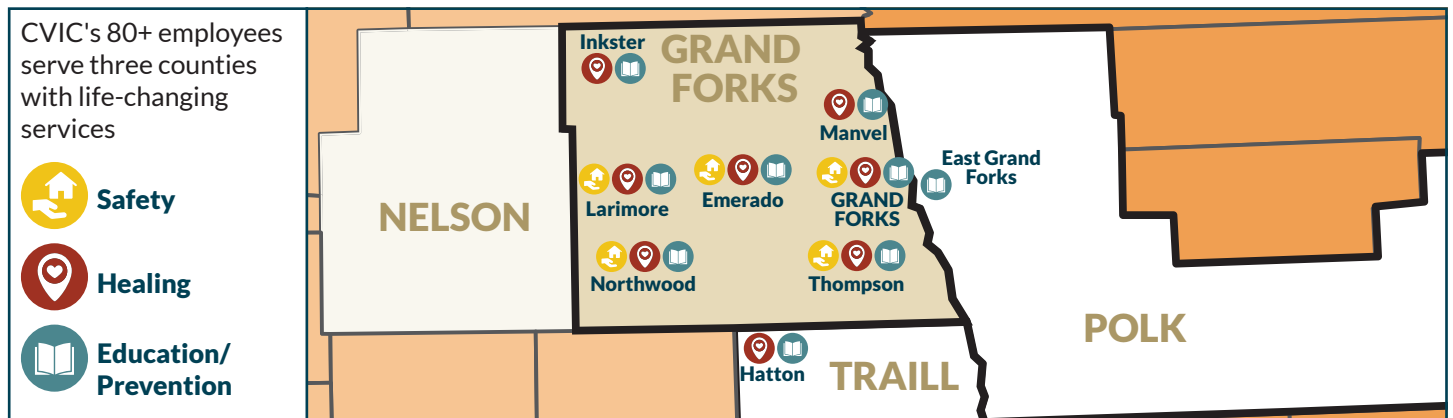
Coiya Tompkins Inman





## Breaking barriers to safety in rural communities

For many in rural communities, escaping violence isn't as simple as leaving home. Survivors may be miles from the nearest shelter or advocacy services, lack access to reliable transportation, or fear being recognized when seeking help in a small-town setting. Limited internet access can make reaching out for support even more difficult. These barriers can leave survivors feeling trapped. That's why CVIC is committed to expanding services that meet survivors where they are—through mobile advocacy, therapy, and strong partnerships with local schools, law enforcement, and health care providers.



Click the QR code here to learn more about CVIC's rural services, and the progress we're making in your area!

## Young artist hosts Cooperstown concert supporting CVIC

For young Herlof Huso, using his music to support survivors has always been an easy decision. "Music is great and when it is played for a good cause, it's even greater," Huso said, sharing his motivation for giving back.

Not letting his age, or his location deter him, 11-year-old Huso, living near Aneta, ND, has always had a heart for those CVIC serves. As a young boy, when his mother told him his baby blankets were being donated to CVIC's youngest shelter residents, he proudly walked into CVIC presenting the blankets and declaring, "Gotta keep those babies warm!"

From baby blankets to benefit concerts, Huso's support has grown over the years. On March 1, he hosted his second CVIC benefit concert, Classical Strings & Other Things with Herlof Huso, at The Front Room in Cooperstown, N.D. The event featured a mix of classical guitar performances by Huso and brought the community together for an afternoon of music and generosity, raising free-will donations to support CVIC's services for survivors.

Visit [HerlofHuso.com](http://HerlofHuso.com) to learn more about this young artist.



# Safety

## CVIC strengthens survivor support to meet growing need



There continues to be a significant need for our crisis services, with more clients seeking assistance filing emergency protective orders, and an increase in cases of higher lethality. More secondary victims are also reaching out to our crisis line and the CVIC at UND office for guidance on helping their loved ones experiencing interpersonal violence.

Recognizing the barriers rural survivors face, CVIC has expanded advocacy services with our new mobile advocacy in Grand Forks and Nelson counties, increasing access to safety and resources. Thanks to a Rydell car donation at December's Angels on Wheels event, our mobile advocate meets clients where they are, removing transportation barriers and providing critical support. "The establishment of safe locations in rural areas has been overwhelmingly positive," said Director of Victim Advocacy and Housing, Aubrey Malnourie. "Local businesses and community members are eager to help, offering us spaces to meet with clients throughout their communities."

We continue working hard providing coordinated services across our programs, ensuring clients get the comprehensive support they need to be safe and begin stabilizing their lives.

### IN 2024

**99%**

of clients reported feeling safer and more aware of ways to plan for safety as a result of CVIC services

**2,112**

clients served in advocacy/crisis intervention, 216 were new rural clients

**94%**

increase in nights spent in shelter

### Moving toward a new future

Amanda\* called CVIC seeking assistance on obtaining a protection order. Since she lived in a rural area, CVIC's specialized rural advocate established a meeting point to minimize transportation barriers. She met with the advocate and received emotional support, safety planning, crisis intervention, and housing assistance. The advocate assisted her with filing a petition for an emergency ex parte temporary domestic violence protection order. Amanda was then connected with CVIC's legal services to ensure she had legal representation at the upcoming protection order hearing. The rural advocate provided the client transportation to the necessary appointments to increase her safety. CVIC's client attorney and rural advocate provided ongoing emotional support and advocacy services through the stressful process of going to court and hoping for an extended protection order. The hearing was successful, and the court granted an extended order which provides long-term protection. Amanda continues to benefit from CVIC's holistic services and has begun receiving ongoing therapeutic services to continue her healing journey.



\*Name, some details changed

# Healing

## CVIC strengthens therapy services with new business model, full therapy team



As we have shared over the last few months, CVIC has been working to reduce its reliance on federal grant funding for therapy services and has now completed a business plan for a self-sustaining therapy center. We are in the final stages of receiving approval from federal funders to begin billing insurance for services, though we remain committed that survivors will never pay out of pocket for CVIC's services and are discussing ways to cover co-pays and deductibles when needed.

While the process has taken longer than anticipated due to delayed federal approvals, we're hopeful for how an implemented plan could benefit clients. The plan represents a groundbreaking approach to create sustainability within our programs as well as serve significant mental health needs community wide.

At the same time, all full-time therapist positions have been filled, and the demand for services has been strong, particularly in rural communities. This increased need underscores the importance of expanding access to trauma-informed care, ensuring more children and families receive the support they need to heal, regardless of their location.

### IN 2024

**86%**

increase in number of youth provided therapy

**216%**

increase in number of sessions for youth clients

**767%**

increase in youth participating in group therapy, and

**1,339%**

increase in group sessions due to the group therapist position partially funded by Grand Forks Public Schools

## Rural youth therapist brings healing closer to home

CVIC's rural youth therapist, a position added last spring, has quickly become a lifeline for students in rural communities. Requests for services in eight rural schools across three counties have risen sharply, underscoring the critical need for accessible mental health support. Whether provided in person or remotely—often dictated by unpredictable weather—these services are breaking down barriers of distance, stigma and isolation that many rural students face.

"Your services and help for the school are irreplaceable," one school counselor said.

Teachers are also seeing the impact firsthand, noting that students are applying coping and communication skills in the classroom soon after learning them in therapy—improving not just their well-being but the overall learning environment. On surveys, students say they feel safe, supported and grateful for a space where they can be their true selves without fear of judgment.

Many of the youth served, as well as those on the waiting list, are experiencing severe symptoms and our rural youth therapist now carries a full caseload, reflecting the urgent demand for support and the profound impact. The need is great, and CVIC remains committed to doing everything it can to meet it.

*"When I see you,  
I know it is  
going to be a  
good day."*

— RURAL YOUTH  
THERAPY CLIENT

# Education / Prevention

## Requests for CVIC presentations continue to increase



Our education and prevention services continue to grow and give us incredible hope for the future. In late 2024, we met with the YORS (Youth Gaining Opportunities, Recognition and Skills) Commission to give them an update on the PACT (Pass It Off, Approach, Check In, Turn Attention) program they helped CVIC create. They are excited about the opportunity to continue collaborating –including giving feedback on presentations, sharing ideas for activities, and identifying trends in schools. We’re thrilled to continue incorporating youth voices as it makes our work more effective, relatable, and engaging.

While youth voices are shaping our prevention work, we know that rural youth often face additional barriers to accessing support. Limited transportation, fewer school and community resources, and social isolation can make it harder for them to reach the help they need. That’s why we’re committed to bringing prevention education and support services to rural communities—ensuring young people, no matter where they live, have the knowledge and resources to build healthy relationships and seek help when they need it.

IN 2024

**23%**

increase in presentations

**22,093**

individuals reached through presentations and outreach



## CVIC delivers internet safety education to rural schools

CVIC’s prevention team is making strides in reaching more rural students, expanding beyond Grand Forks schools to provide critical safety education in surrounding counties. During a recent Shrek’s Internet Safety Quest presentation to rural fourth graders, many shared personal experiences of being stalked, hacked or catfished online. The interactive session helped students recognize risks, learn safety strategies and support each other in staying safe.

“It’s always hard to hear that many students had already been harmed online but I was encouraged to hear they were taking steps to get help,” said Naudia Lewis, CVIC’s consolidated youth project coordinator. “When students shared their stories or asked what to do in certain situations, the other students were engaged and helped me come up with great solutions or steps that could be taken to help their peers.”

As CVIC continues expanding into more rural schools, early prevention remains key to equipping students with the tools they need to stay safe now and in the future.

Art by students gifted to CVIC presenters



**Giving Hearts Day**

*Heals Homes*

One of our favorite days of the year, and our second-largest fundraiser, Giving Hearts Day is an extraordinary day of giving in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

This year more than \$31 million was raised for non-profits throughout our region. We are so grateful to the 420+ Giving Hearts who chose CVIC this year, allowing us to raise \$96,000+ to heal homes and champion change through our holistic services. We rely on these private donations, now more than ever, to continue delivering vital services to those facing some of life's worst moments.



## Challenge Partners

Thank you to our generous Challenge Partners this year who collectively gave nearly \$50,000, leading the way as Champions for Change!



**Tom & Brenda  
Rosendahl**

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Sublime Aesthetic Professionals | Clark & Kathy Piepkorn  
Advanced Business Methods | Development Homes, Inc.  
Toasted Frog



# Gracious

## Giving Hearts Day Supporters



*These smiling faces represent our CVIC team in thanking you for your generosity!*

### **\$5,000+**

Karen Fore  
Anonymous\*

### **\$1,000+**

Jeff & Dawn Eickman  
Mark & Elizabeth Jackson  
Robert & Debra Kleven  
David & Jan McNair  
John & JoAnn Muus  
Anonymous\*

### **\$500+**

Brad & Gayle Aafedt\*  
Kevin Buettner\*  
Emerado Arvilla Lions Club  
Larry & Marlys Hoverson  
Nathan & Heidi Jess  
Diane Knaufer\*  
Tracy & Corey McGillis  
Mac & Karen McLennan\*  
Marlene Miller\*  
Becky & Jay Mindeman\*  
Donna & Ross Pettit\*  
Alice Jean & Tom Rand  
Randall Slominski  
Bruce & Jodie Storhaug\*  
Teresa & Steve Wasvick  
Jodi & Dan Zavoral

### **\$100+**

Acme Tools  
Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc.  
American Lutheran Church  
Josh & Sarah Anderson  
Mark Anderson  
Paula Anderson  
Area Community Credit Union  
Kathy & Andy Armacost\*  
Marvin & Virginia Asp  
Karin Becker & David Smith  
Ginny Bollman\*  
Vincent & Marie Brekken  
Elaine Brinkman  
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Jan Haas  
Ruth Ann Halvorson  
Mary Haslerud Opp & Dean Opp  
Donna Helgersen  
Ronald & Cheryl Hoime  
Pete & Mel Hoistad\*  
Wade & Tammy Horner  
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Dora Kung  
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Michele Liams  
Diane Lindseth  
Betty Longoria  
Kent & Karen Lovelace  
Daniel & Dawn Lyste  
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Julie Manuel  
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Susan Zelewski  
Robertta Zick  
Wayne Zink & DeAnna Carlson Zink\*  
Ronda & Clair Zirnheld\*  
Anonymous (14)



## CVIC leader gains invaluable experience through international exchange



In our last newsletter you met an artist from Timor-Leste who completed a fellowship with CVIC’s advocacy team through the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). Zezinha Piedade, affectionately known as “Z”, spent several weeks in Grand Forks last spring and painted a beautiful mural in our shelter as part of her fellowship. Through the YSEALI program, Z recently hosted her mentor, CVIC’s Vice President of Advocacy Services, Sheila Morris, in Timor-Leste to share about the work being done for survivors in her country.

While at times exhausting, the international trip was both culturally and professionally eye-opening for Morris. “This trip reminded me that the mission at CVIC is the same mission that’s happening all over the world. I met many wonderful people who work in the same field as us to support domestic violence and sexual assault survivors—advocating for them, supporting them and empowering them,” said Morris.

During a visit to the US Embassy, Morris met the US Ambassador to Timor and the US Director of Public Relations, as well as many local professionals in the advocacy field who shared information about their culture and professions, exchanging contact information so they could continue to collaborate and explore services moving forward.

“The fact that all the way across the world, in a totally different country, the advocacy experience—the experience of CVIC—is still the same, is a bit overwhelming to absorb,” Morris shared.

The experience brought a renewed sense of urgency to Morris’ work: “I wonder, ‘why does this happen to survivors everywhere?’ I want to change it for the better, not just in Grand Forks, but all over the world.”

## A safe place to call home

This winter, a second CVIC transitional housing client arrived to a beautifully furnished apartment, and a one-year rent-free lease donated by the business partnership between Hugo’s, Dakota Commercial, and Community Contractors. The use of this apartment has been life-changing for clients. Transitional housing helps clients navigate housing applications, secure furnishings, and occasionally covers associated costs and fees—allowing families to focus on their goals and next steps in their journeys.

True to the collaborative nature of the entire project, the process to prepare the apartment for a new family was a community effort. “Athletes from UND’s football team volunteered their time to move the furniture, ensuring the unit was ready for professional cleaning, and donors helped replenish essential linens and household items, making the space feel like a home,” said Aubrey Malnourie, director of victim advocacy and housing. “This collective support has played a vital role in providing the family with a fresh start.”

## EXPERIENCE OUR MISSION



CVIC TOURS  
BEGIN IN JUNE

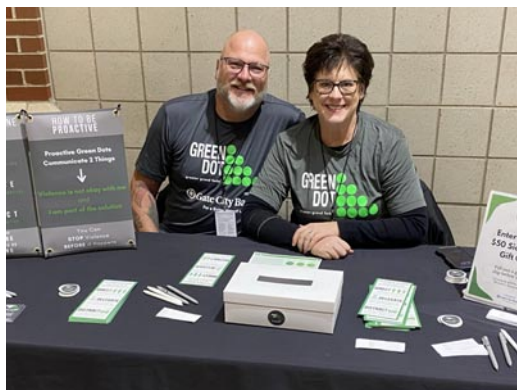
Have you ever wondered what it truly means to create a safer tomorrow? This June, CVIC is bringing back our Mission Immersion Tours—powerful, one-hour experiences designed to connect you with the heart of our work.

This isn’t a tour of our locations—it’s a journey into the impact you help make possible. You’ll meet our team, and hear firsthand how safety, healing, and education/prevention come together to end interpersonal violence in two generations.

**Whether you’re a longtime supporter or new to our mission, we invite you to join us and be inspired.**

Reach out to [development@cviconline.org](mailto:development@cviconline.org) to let us know you’re interested in scheduling a tour!

## Green Dot @ the Ralph: UND hockey player promotes bystander intervention



Right to left: Vice President of Prevention, Education, and Violence Intervention, Kari Kerr and CVIC Volunteer, Sgt. Kelly McLean tabling at the Green Dot @ the Ralph event.

In December, the “Green Dot @ the Ralph” event—a collaboration hosted at the Ralph Engelstad Arena—allowed us to share bystander intervention strategies with attendees of a UND hockey game. Green Dot Greater Grand Forks is a CVIC facilitated community program sponsored by Gate City Bank and designed to reduce power-based violence in Grand Forks.

Thanks to a private donation to the 1883 Collective benefitting CVIC, the highlight of our event was a 30-second video featuring UND hockey player Bennett Zmolek sharing information about our Green Dot program on the center-hung video board. Staff also handed out Green Dot information cards, stickers, and pens to anyone that stopped by their tables.

In the coming months Zmolek will continue to support CVIC by helping with presentations of the “Coaching Boys Into Men” prevention & education curriculum to area high school men’s sports teams.



Click the QR code here to watch Bennett's video

## Amy & Kevin Muiderman

*Longtime supporters Amy and Kevin Muiderman have dedicated their time, talents and resources to making a difference at CVIC, and their generosity and passion for giving back inspire us all.*

Not only does Amy donate four hours each week to assisting with administrative support at CVIC, but Amy and Kevin have also shared their creative gifts in countless meaningful ways. Amy often bakes treats, prepares decor and hosts dinners for CVIC events, while Kevin brings the gift of music, most recently volunteering to play guitar at CVIC’s Gratitude Gathering in December.

Their dedication to creating spaces of comfort and healing is also evident in their work at CVIC’s shelter, where in 2017 they designed and funded a meditation room. This space offers survivors a peaceful retreat to rest and recharge on their journey to healing.

“Amy truly brings her heart and soul to her volunteer work at CVIC,” said CVIC President/CEO Coiya Tompkins Inman. “She’s incredibly creatively talented, and she always wants to find a reason to give back.”

Amy shared why CVIC’s mission resonates with her family: “They do important work for our community. The organization has been

a model nationally for how they have approached the work and how they have approached the deeper understanding of violence in our societies. The idea of not just addressing victims of interpersonal violence but also aiming to prevent future victims is a powerful message.”

We are so grateful to Amy and Kevin for walking this path with us to help end violence in our community. Their generosity, creativity and kindness are truly inspiring.





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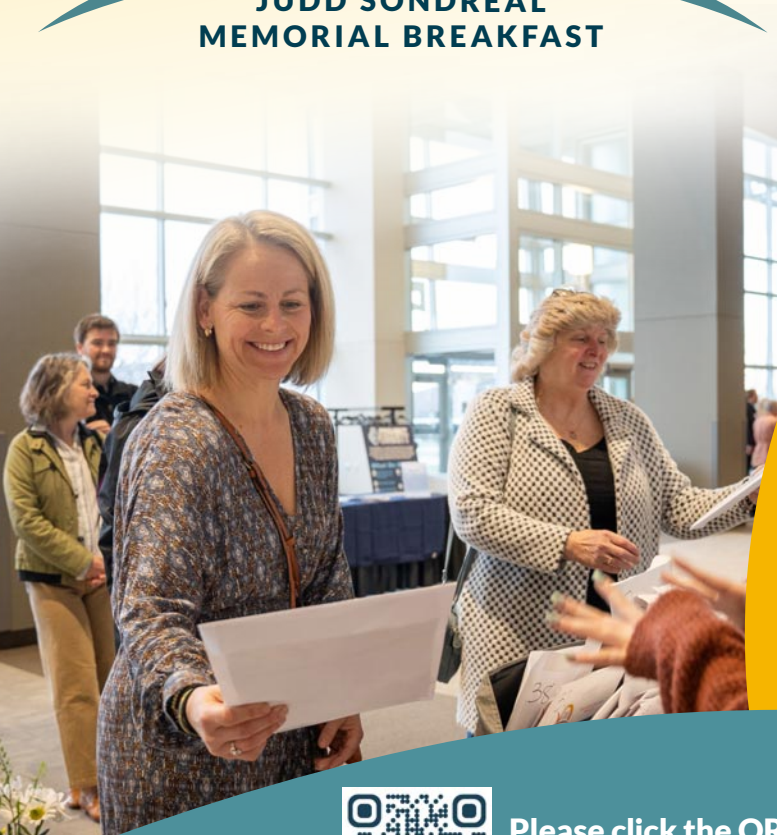
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# CHAMPIONS *for* CHANGE



## SAVETHEDATE

Signature Fundraising Event

Wednesday, May 7  
7:30-8:30 a.m.

Alerus Center



**Please click the QR code to register by April 18.**  
For registration questions please reach out to our development team at 701-746-0405 or [development@cviconline.org](mailto:development@cviconline.org).