



**Send Relief**  
South Dakota





## Contact Information

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### Meeting Needs, Changing Lives

Send Relief works with churches and volunteers to meet needs and change lives in communities within the U.S. and around the world.

By offering help and hope to the most vulnerable in collaboration with missionaries, local ministries and churches, your gifts and efforts through Send Relief have a long-term impact.

With Send Relief's help, churches and partners like you receive resources and training to be the hands and feet of Jesus to communities in crisis, refugees, human trafficking survivors, those affected by natural disasters and vulnerable children and families.



### Ministry Centers

Send Relief ministry centers deliver compassion ministry within local communities while providing mission trips and training opportunities for churches all over the country. The goal of ministry centers is twofold: serve communities well and encourage others to do the same.

All over North America, Send Relief ministry centers actively assess community needs, develop ministry strategies, deliver ministry and provide opportunities for others to go on mission.

# Community Snapshot

Home to Mount Rushmore and the Badlands, South Dakota is known for its unspoiled natural beauty. A paradise for anyone who loves the outdoors, it has an abundance of state parks, lakes and trails and boasts the nation's best hunting and fishing.

Touring the region, the vast open spaces and breathtaking vistas diminish the evidence of destitution that dots the landscape.

Recently ranked among the highest percentage of people abusing illicit drugs or alcohol, meth is the drug most abused in the state. The use of the synthetic opioid fentanyl also continues to increase.

Violence, including intentional injuries, homicide and suicide, account for **75%** of deaths for American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) youth aged 12-20.

**514%** higher alcoholism mortality rates in Native Americans than in the general population.

Suicide rates are **more than double** the national average, and Native teens experience the highest rate of suicide of any population group in the United States.

**13%** of Native Americans have undergraduate degrees versus 24% of the general population.

About **2%** of U.S. children are American Indian/Alaska Native

But AI/ANs represent **8%** of the children in foster care.

High school dropout rates for AI/AN youth are **double** the national average.

# South Dakota Ministry Center Snapshot

## Ministries

### Strengthen Communities

Dental Clinic

Poverty/Human Needs Ministries

### Protect Children & Families

Summer Day Camps



Dental care is a crucial need in the Oglala Lakota community. Send Relief provides this medical necessity as a way to serve neighbors and open doors to the gospel.

## South Dakota Ministry Center Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch

Amid poverty and its related social challenges—such as alcohol and addiction, joblessness, lack of education, mental health crises and more—Send Relief’s South Dakota Ministry Center exists to minister to people in need.

Just outside of the Badlands National Park on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation, Send Relief has partnered with the Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch to provide care for the community.

With Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch’s ongoing ministry, the South Dakota Ministry Center serves the Oglala Lakota community. The Oglala Lakota speak their own language and live a different culture with ceremonies and customs unique to the people. The South Dakota Ministry Center meets needs, builds relationships and shares the gospel through compassionate, hands-on engagement on the reservation.

One of the South Dakota Ministry Center’s current projects is a health and wellness clinic. This ministry aids in the physical, emotional and mental health of the people in the community. It also helps bridge the gap in reaching the family unit of the children who attended summer camp.

The permanent vision and dental clinic primarily serve the Oglala Lakota people group to improve the overall well-being of the community.

By providing dental care, vision care and construction assistance, Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch assists in revitalizing the health of their community and often leading those in their circle of influence to Jesus. These opportunities would never be possible without the generosity of churches and people like you. Across the country, volunteers and generous givers have come alongside the ministry center to join God in what He’s doing on Pine Ridge Reservation.



*“I have heard it said once that ‘we lead the country in everything you don’t want to lead in.’ We have a lot of addiction that surrounds us in great percentages and also have a staggering number of suicides yearly. These percentages concern me greatly because I know and recognize they are not just a number but rather people.”*

*—Matt Hadden*

# History of the South Dakota Ministry Center

Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch began as a free summer camp and became a strategic extension of a local church. God has grown that platform to reach young people and adults alike year-round, and it is a place that lays a foundation of truths, shares the fellowship of a meal and displays the beauty of God's family made up of every tribe, tongue and nation.

Send Relief has come alongside them in a strategic, ministry-multiplying partnership.

Part of the ministry center, the Čhaŋkú Wašté Wellness Center provides dental, vision and construction assistance to the Oglala Lakota Indigenous people

group. These essential services are often considered luxuries in this region because of a lack of staffing and resources.

Although there is free health care on Indian reservations, most dental and vision needs go unmet because of the lack of resources and staff.

Currently, two dentists serve more than 40,000 people spread out over 11,000 square miles. And rather than saving a damaged tooth, they often resort to pulling the tooth because it's more efficient. The loss of teeth has physical and emotional effects that last a lifetime.

Many children will struggle for years with a vision impairment because their only option for vision care is an hour or more away. But every day, they fall further behind in school.

The housing availability is also severely limited, and many residents need home repairs.

These kinds of obstacles directly impact both the physical and spiritual health of the Oglala Lakota people. But these are solvable problems. Donors, volunteers and churches can come alongside existing programs to expand coverage.



*“We are praying and speaking the truth of God’s love into their lives. “Ultimately, it gives our local church a greater platform and opportunity for evangelism and discipleship.”*

*—Matt Hadden*





## Vision

The South Dakota Ministry Center's vision for the future is to continue doing the work God has already started and pursue fresh, new ways to point the community back to Jesus.

Matt explains, "I would love to see a ministry center continue to pull together volunteers, materials and finances to help build relationships and long-lasting projects. I would love to see the local perception of the ministry center be a cohesive thought when mentioning the name of the community. I truly want to come alongside the people to achieve unique goals with them and show them that God loves them and cares for every single part of their lives."

## South Dakota Ministry Center

### Future Ministry Plans

- Strengthen Communities
- Expand Dental Ministry



# Get Involved

One of the most powerful ways to show the most vulnerable the love of Christ is by taking steps toward them. By helping churches be the hands and feet of Jesus, Send Relief supports and provides opportunities for those who desire to respond directly to these needs in lasting, meaningful ways while sharing the hope of the gospel.

## Give

Your gift provides critical, immediate help to families and communities that need it most. Give today to provide practical care and share the love of Jesus.

[Click here or scan the QR code to give](#)



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## Serve

Participate in various compassion opportunities by taking a mission trip and vision tour to a ministry center around North America. Mission trips can include apartment outreach, food pantry ministry, after-school programs, sports ministry, canvassing, prayer walking, homeless ministry, physical labor, serving at-risk families and university campus ministry. The trip also includes aspects of training and equipping so you can learn how to connect and serve the international and refugee communities in your cities.

[Click here to sign up](#)





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