New people are moving to North Dakota from around the world to find jobs and a better way of life. With them comes broader diversity in religion, race, and belief systems, more complexity in human interactions, and greater need for understanding and intentional welcoming in our communities, state and region.

As our communities grow and become more diverse, a strong network of collaborators is needed.

Join us at the Building Bridges conference for timely discussions about strengthening partnerships throughout North Dakota.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28**

**Refugee to Philanthropist: How America Changed My Life**

Daniel Trust  
*Founder & CEO, The Daniel Trust Foundation*

Daniel Trust is a Rwandan genocide survivor, an internationally recognized motivational speaker, and an advocate for refugee, low-income and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) youth. Daniel is the Founder and CEO of the Daniel Trust Foundation, a US-based NPO that invests and supports students from low-income communities with their educational and career needs and honors teachers who are making a difference in the lives of their students and communities in which they teach.

**Immigration Stories from South Fargo High School**

Tea Rozman Clark, Ph.D.  
*Co-Founder & Executive Director, Green Card Voices*

Tea Rozman Clark is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Green Card Voices, a nonprofit organization that shares the narratives of first generation immigrants and refugees in order to foster a better understanding between the immigrant/refugee population and the receiving community. She has personally recorded over 300 life stories of immigrants and refugees coming from over 100 countries and residing in 6 states. She was born in the former Yugoslavia and is a recipient of the Open Society Scholarship and Bush Leadership Fellowship.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**

**Cultural Considerations When Serving Trauma Survivors**

Nouf Bazaz  
*WORDE Senior Fellow*

Nouf Bazaz is a Senior Fellow at the World Organization for Resource Development & Education (WORDE) where she develops trainings on implementing trauma-informed community mental health programs. Ms. Bazaz has a decade of experience serving diverse populations including refugees, asylum seekers, survivors of sexual trafficking, incarcerated males, ethnic minorities and immigrants, indigenous women, and women in conflict zones.

**ASAH: Empowerment and Transformation**

Deb Dawson  
*Co-Founder & President, African Soul, American Heart*

Deb Dawson is the co-founder and Board President at African Soul, American Heart (ASAH) where she leads the organization’s mission to protect, educate and empower orphaned girls from South Sudan who would otherwise face a life of forced marriage at puberty, early and dangerous childbirth, illiteracy and poverty, and ongoing civil war.
8:30 a.m.  **KEYNOTE**  *Refugee to Philanthropist: How America Changed My Life*
Daniel Trust, Founder & CEO, The Daniel Trust Foundation
Daniel Trust will share his story of surviving the Rwandan genocide, and his advocacy for refugee, low-income and LGBT youth. His philanthropic efforts have been featured in local, national, and international publications including The New Haven Register (Connecticut), The Record (New Jersey), and The Standard (Hong Kong).

10:00 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m.  **KEYNOTE**  *Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from a Fargo High School*
Tea Rozman Clark, Ph.D., Co-Founder & Executive Director, Green Card Voices
Tea Rozman Clark will detail the story of Green Card Voices’ mission to share various stories of our nation’s 40 million immigrants and put a human face to the current immigration debate and foster better understanding between the immigrant and non-immigrant populations. Students from Fargo South High School will be on hand to tell their personal stories and share their experiences with the program.

1:30 p.m.  Break

1:45 p.m.  **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **Refugee Congress: Giving Refugees & Asylum-Seekers a Voice**
  Kalisa Ndikubwimana, ND delegate to the National Refugee Congress and Former Unaccompanied Refugee Minor
  The Refugee Congress is an advocacy and advisory organization comprised of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Mr. Ndikubwimana will provide an educational discussion about the Refugee Congress and its history. He will also talk about the work he does with the congress, how he became involved, and the goals of the congress both locally and nationally.

- **Wartime Immigration Status: The Unique Relationships of Immigrants Serving the U.S. Military**
  Panel Discussion
  Special Immigrant Visas are given to cases who have helped U.S. military installations overseas. Veterans representatives and SIV recipients will discuss the importance of assisting cases who have helped during wartime.

- **Improving Health Opportunities for Women Worldwide**
  Maurine Murenga, Advocacy and Communications Officer for the Global Fund Programme at the International Community of Women Living with HIV
  Maurine Murenga is an advocate for the health and human rights of women and girls living with HIV. After personally experiencing the inequality and vulnerability that young women living with HIV face in Kenya, Maurine founded the Lean on Me Foundation to support girls and young women living with HIV and TB. Maurine will share her journey to become an international advocate for women and the role we can play in the US to improve health opportunities for women worldwide.

- **Mental Health First Aid Training - Part 1 of 4**
  Parangkush Subedi, Health Program Analyst, Office of Refugee Resettlement and Ashley Ladbury Hrichena, Training and Education Coordinator, FirstLink
  Part 1 of an 8-hour Adult Mental Health First-Aid training course. Introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs building an understanding of their impact and reviewing standard treatments. More specifically, participants learn about depression, anxiety, trauma, PTSD, psychosis, eating disorders, substance use disorders, self-injury, and suicidal behaviors. Participants learn the signs and symptoms of these disorders including skills to provide necessary first-hand supports before professional help is available. Attendees must complete Parts 1-4 in their entirety to be eligible for CEU credits. There is a limit of 25 participants for this training. Register early and email Cari Logan at clogan@lssnd.org to confirm your seat.

3:00 p.m.  Break

3:15 p.m.  **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **The Daniel Trust Foundation and New American Youth**
  Daniel Trust, Founder & CEO, The Daniel Trust Foundation
  Daniel Trust will provide more detailed information about his foundation’s work with refugee, immigrant or first generation American youth. Mr. Trust will also provide tips and resources conference attendees can use and/or share with their clients. As time allows, additional questions about his life and history as presented during his keynote will also be taken.

- **Fargo-Moorhead Refugee Leader Panel**
  Panel Discussion
  The Refugee Advisory Council involves leaders of the various ethnic communities in addressing service gaps, needs and ways to be working as effectively as possible to achieve successful integration. Leaders will discuss challenges, as well as creative ways they have addressed those challenges.

- **Mental Health First Aid Training - Part 2 of 4**
  Parangkush Subedi, Health Program Analyst, Office of Refugee Resettlement and Ashley Ladbury Hrichena, Training and Education Coordinator, FirstLink
  Part 2 of an 8-hour Adult Mental Health First-Aid training course. Participants need to complete all 4 parts to receive CEUs. See above for complete description.

5:00 p.m.  **Networking Session featuring Ethnic Foods**
Food, music, and art from Green Card Voices – all with a North Dakota twist. Come and share a taste of the richness that is part of the fabric of our communities. Network with friends and colleagues.
Tuesday, March 28

Conference agenda

7:00 p.m.  
Book Launch and Celebration: “Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from a Fargo High School”
Tea Rozman Clark, Ph.D., Co-Founder & Executive Director, Green Card Voices

Attendees of the Building Bridges conference are invited to celebrate with city and state officials and the students, parents, and educators of Fargo South High School during the official book launch of *Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories from a Fargo High School*. Copies of the new book will be available for sale. *Green Card Youth Voices* was written by 30, first-generation immigrant students from Fargo South High School. Included in the book are beautiful portraits and links to online video narratives where each student tells their life story. During the celebration, there will be a dramatic reading of portions of the book performed by all 30 students. Music and a dance performance by one of the student authors will complete the celebration. This will be a wonderful time to welcome new Americans to Fargo, to learn about their lives, and to celebrate their courage and contributions!

8:30 a.m.

**KEYNOTE Cultural Considerations When Serving Trauma Survivors**
Nouf Bazaz, Senior Fellow, World Organization for Resource Development & Education

Nouf Bazaz will outline the core components of a trauma-informed care model with particular attention to cultural considerations for refugees during the resettlement process. This presentation will explore the impact of trauma, grief/loss, acculturation stress and bullying/discrimination for diverse refugee populations. This presentation will also provide direct recommendations and case studies for service providers and programmatic staff in meeting the comprehensive needs of refugees and drawing upon cultural and community resilience.

10:00 a.m.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Cultivating Gardens to Build Community Resilience**
Panel Discussion

In recent years, joint community gardening projects have been successful in building community resilience. Panelists from LSS, Growing Together Gardens, and Farms will discuss how community gardens strengthen cross-cultural interaction, create stronger social connections, improve food and financial security, foster partnerships, and increase health by encouraging more nutritious eating.

**Serving the Needs of Muslim Refugee Youth**
Nouf Bazaz, Senior Fellow, World Organization for Resource Development & Education

Muslim refugee youth face unique challenges during the resettlement process amid growing xenophobic and anti-Muslim sentiment. In this breakout session, Nouf Bazaz will provide good practices and recommendations for service providers, educators, community leaders, volunteers and others in drawing upon the strengths and resilience of this population to address these challenges. The workshop will share statistics and stories on bullying and discrimination among diverse Muslim youth. These stories will be contextualized within a wider discussion on cultural competency when working with Muslim families and psychosocial concerns that this population may experience.

**Mental Health First Aid Training - Part 3 of 4**
Parangkush Subedi, Health Program Analyst, Office of Refugee Resettlement and Ashley Lodbury Hrichena, Training and Education Coordinator, FirstLink

Part 3 of an 8-hour Adult Mental Health First-Aid training course. Participants need to complete all 4 parts to receive CEUs. See above for complete description.
2:30 p.m.  Behavioral Health Webinar  
Bridging Refugee Youth and Children’s Services (BRYCS)  
This webinar from BRYCS will engage service providers working with and engaging parents on cultural awareness/competency in parenting. The exact title and content material for the webinar is forthcoming.

Changing the Community Conversation: Building Inclusive Communities  
Panel Discussion  
How do we create a compassionate community where all people, regardless of race, religion, abilities, sexual-orientation, or socioeconomic background are treated equally? What hard conversations do we need to have about cultural tensions, misconceptions, and identity? Panelists from St. Cloud, MN and North Dakota will share insights into how they’ve worked to challenge misconceptions and welcome their neighbor, discuss how to handle crisis and tensions, and provide ideas about engaging the whole community in compassionate conversation.

Mental Health First Aid Training - Part 4 of 4  
Part 4 of an 8-hour Adult Mental Health First Aid training course. Participants need to complete all 4 parts to receive CEUs. See above for complete description.

Noon  KEYNOTE  African Soul, American Heart: Empowerment and Transformation  Lunch session  
Deb Dawson, Co-Founder and President African Soul, American Heart  
Deb Dawson will showcase the organization’s success in locating their students in refugee camps in three countries when the civil war in South Sudan reached Duk County, Jonglei State in February 2014 forcing the ASAH students and their extended families to flee and resulting in the destruction of the ASAH boarding school in Duk Payuel. ASAH located the students in refugee camps in three countries and moved them to Moyo, Uganda a town near the southern border of South Sudan to continue their mission to protect, educate and empower these vulnerable orphans through primary school, secondary school, and beyond. ASAH protects students from forced and early marriage, from disease through vaccinations and medical care, and now, from the ongoing civil war. Deb will report on new successes and opportunities for the ASAH students from her recent trip to Uganda. Over the course of the life of ASAH, the program has faced the inevitable, yet still unexpected challenges of operating in a developing country, and taken each shift as an opportunity to grow and provide the ASAH girls an ever increasing level of education, while continuing to keep ties with their cultural roots and connection to where they have come from. Take a moment to reflect on where we began, and let us introduce you to where we are excited to have landed. This presentation will feature a documentary film screening.

2:00 p.m.  Break

4:00 p.m.  Break

4:15 p.m.  Conference Wrap  
Jessica Thomasson, CEO LSSND  
Join Jessica Thomasson as she closes the 2017 conference. In a world where complexity, change and turmoil seem to be all around us, we choose to look together toward a positive future, toward bridges built, and strengthening partnerships and foundations.

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
www.LSSND.org/BuildingBridges17  
Early bird registration available through February 28, 2017