MOORHEAD POLICE DEPARTMENT



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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A Message from The Chief



Chief Chris Helmick

Welcome to the Moorhead Police Department's 2025 Annual Report. Our mission remains clear and unwavering: to serve with professionalism, integrity, and compassion. Every day, our team of 63 sworn officers and 19 civilian staff works around the clock to protect our city, respond to more than 30,000 calls for service each year, and partner with local, state, and federal agencies to prevent and solve crime.

This year holds particular significance for me personally, as I began my tenure as Moorhead's Chief of Police in April. Stepping into this role has been both an honor and a humbling experience. I have been deeply inspired by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and community partners.

Chris Helmick became Chief of the Moorhead Police Department in April 2025, bringing more than 23 years of experience from the Fargo Police Department. His career began in 2001 and spanned numerous assignments and leadership roles, ultimately culminating in his position as Captain at FPD before joining Moorhead. His extensive background in leadership, community engagement, and modern policing practices now guides his work as he leads the department into its next chapter.

This department's commitment, resilience, and sense of purpose reaffirm why this work matters and why Moorhead is such a remarkable community to serve. I look forward to the opportunities ahead.

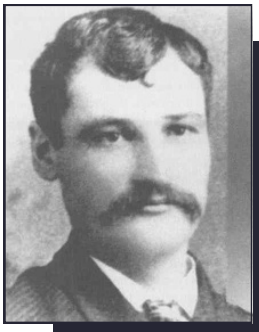
We remain committed to advancing our department through ongoing training, the use of modern technology, and a strong focus on wellness. These priorities ensure our personnel are fully prepared, well-supported, and equipped to meet the evolving needs of our community. Our partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and neighboring agencies continue to enhance our ability to deliver effective, collaborative public safety services.

This report offers a snapshot of the work we do each day; work rooted in service and shaped by the trust of the residents we proudly serve. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our department and the efforts that help keep Moorhead a safe, welcoming community.

Chris Helmick, Chief of Police

Honoring Our Fallen Heros

Since the Moorhead Police Department was established in 1881, generations of officers have served with courage and dedication. In that long history, three officers gave their lives in the line of duty and we continue to honor their memories with gratitude.



Peter Poull

End of Watch: Wednesday, October 17, 1888

Police Officer Peter Poull was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a murder suspect who was wanted in North Dakota. The man was being watched by other officers. When the suspect saw the other officers, he approached them and abducted them at gunpoint. Officer Poull was notified of the incident and went to the scene near the intersection of Front Street (modern-day Center Avenue) and 8 St. The suspect saw the other officers and opened fire, striking Officer Poull. The suspect then exchanged shots with the other officers, was wounded, and taken into custody. The man was convicted twice of murdering Officer Poull and was executed on September 20, 1889.

Officer Poull was survived by his wife, 2-week-old daughter, and mother.



Alexander McLean

End of Watch: Friday, February 17, 1899

Police Officer Alexander McLean was killed when a chimney collapsed on top of him. He was on patrol when he came upon a burning building. The chimney collapsed as he attempted to keep a crowd a safe distance from the building.

Officer McLean was survived by his wife and six children.



Roy Larson

End of Watch: Saturday, December 6, 1930

Police Officer Roy Larson was shot and killed while chasing a robbery suspect who had been involved in shootouts with two other officers during the chase. He encountered the man in some coal sheds on First Avenue North and was shot twice in the head before he had time to draw his gun. The suspect then attempted to kill himself but the bullet proved to not be fatal. The man was arrested and sentenced to life.

Officer Larson was single and had served with the MPD for one year.

Department Overview



The Moorhead Police Department is dedicated to serving and protecting our community with professionalism, integrity, and compassion. With 63 sworn officers and 19 civilian staff, MPD operates 24/7 to maintain public safety and build trust.

The Moorhead Police Department is committed to providing professional, community-focused policing to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Moorhead. Our operations include patrol, investigations, community policing, emergency response, and specialized units that work together to ensure a safe and vibrant city. Supported by 63 sworn officers and 19 civilian staff, the department prioritizes proactive engagement, data-informed strategies, and strong partnerships with regional community partners and law enforcement agencies. In addition to traditional policing, the department oversees key services such as records and evidence management, parking enforcement, animal control, and community outreach initiatives. Through continuous improvement, modern technologies, and a dedication to transparency, we strive to meet the evolving needs of the community and maintain the high level of service our residents expect.

Vision:
We, the members of the Moorhead Police Department, are committed to working together in a problem-solving partnership with the community to prevent crime and improve the quality of life for all.

Mission:
Our department's mission is to maintain peace and order through the provision of police services that are of the highest quality and responsive to the needs of the community. We will contribute to the safety and security of the community by apprehending those who commit criminal acts, by developing partnerships to prevent, reduce or eliminate neighborhood problems, and by providing police services that are fair, unbiased, judicious, and respectful of the dignity of all individuals.

Values:
The Moorhead Police Department's core values are cooperation, fairness, crime prevention, safety, professionalism, and diversity.



Community Services Division

The Community Services Division is the most visible part of the Moorhead Police Department and often the first point of contact for many residents.

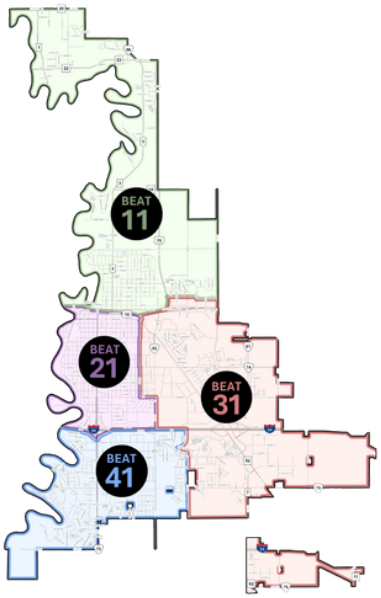
The Community Services Division works to maintain public safety and community trust by enforcing laws, responding promptly to service calls, investigating crimes, apprehending offenders, and reducing crime through visible patrol and community collaboration. For many residents, this division is their primary interaction with the department.

Officers in the Community Services Division provide 24/7 response to calls for service citywide and conduct routine patrol to deter and identify traffic and criminal violations. They also carry out criminal investigations, apply community-oriented policing strategies, and serve in assigned specialty roles to support the department's broader mission.

Patrol officers are committed to building strong partnerships within the community through the department's philosophy of community-oriented policing. To support this approach, officers are assigned to areas of the city called beats.

The city is divided into four beats, allowing officers to become familiar with the unique issues and concerns in their assigned areas. This personalized approach helps officers address problems more effectively.

Due to the city's rapid growth, these beats have expanded significantly in size, creating new challenges and opportunities for proactive policing.



Specialized Units

Several specialty units support broader community and operational needs. Specialized units bring focused expertise to every aspect of public safety, working together to protect the community, build trust, and ensure the department is prepared for any challenge that might arise.

The Youth and Family Services Unit continues to partner closely with Moorhead Public Schools and numerous regional agencies to provide mentorship, early-intervention support, and programs such as the Summer Youth Program and Change Starts with YOUth. YFS includes three School Resource Officers, a Youth Services Coordinator, and supervisory staff; the team engages hundreds of students annually through prevention programs and maintains daily contact within the district. Their partnerships with county, school, and nonprofit organizations expand resources that help stabilize families and strengthen long-term outcomes.

The Honor Guard represents MPD at public ceremonies and events, completing semiannual training and participating in multiple memorial observances, parades, and officer-honor services each year.

The department also maintains certified Drug Recognition Experts who conduct dozens of impaired-driving evaluations annually, providing expert analysis using a detailed 12-step protocol to identify drug-related impairment.

The Bike Patrol Unit offers flexible coverage during patrol shifts and community events. Certified bike officers increase visibility in parks, neighborhoods, and areas difficult to access by vehicle, frequently interacting with residents and supporting crime-prevention efforts.



In 2025, the K9 Unit reinstated its second team, made possible by increased staffing at the department. Both teams maintained monthly training requirements and are certified in patrol functions and narcotics detection. Throughout the year, the K9 teams supported multiple high-risk incidents, including locating hidden suspects, assisting with felony warrant arrests, and contributing to searches that resulted in firearm recovery. Together, Dex and Gimli conducted numerous tracks, building searches, and narcotics sniffs. They also attended many community events, engaging with our residents.





Community Service Officers handled 1,064 calls for service in 2025, including 127 vehicle unlocks and 410 animal complaints. They assisted with 146 impounded-property releases and helped manage 422 impounded animals.

Their work supports day-to-day logistics, transports, parking enforcement, and equipment movement, all key functions that keep department operations running efficiently.





The Police Cadet Program also remained a vital staffing pipeline. Cadets support the patrol and investigations divisions during evenings and weekends, respond to community service oriented calls, and complete required field training with CSOs. In 2025, five cadets were hired as full-time police officers, demonstrating the program's effectiveness as a recruitment tool.

The Field Training Unit oversaw training for 21 probationary officers in 2025, delivering in-house academies and fourteen-week field training cycles. Field Training Officers provide daily evaluations and skill development, helping new hires meet department standards before solo patrol.



Regional support is strengthened through MPD's role in the Red River Valley SWAT team. Other members include representatives from Fargo and West Fargo Police Departments, Cass and Clay County Sheriff's Offices, NDSU Police, and Sanford Ambulance and AirMed. The Tactical Unit completed training twice monthly, added specialized instruction at Camp Ripley, and responded to 31 high-risk incidents. The Negotiations Unit deployed 24 times and contributed to regional training initiatives, including conference presentations and community education. The Bomb Squad saw increased call volume, responding to 46 incidents, assisting SWAT 12 times, and using advanced robotics and containment devices to manage hazardous materials. New equipment, including a Total Containment Vessel and Boston Dynamics SPOT robot, further expanded regional response capabilities.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division includes the Office Manager, Support Services Supervisor, Records Specialists, and Police Transcriptionists. Collectively, this team ensured accurate records management, reliable public service, and essential administrative support for the department's daily operations. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate the division's extensive impact on public safety, organizational effectiveness, and community engagement.

In 2025, the division adapted to evolving organizational needs by reassigning one Records Specialist to take on Quartermaster responsibilities, while a Support Services Supervisor position was reclassified to the role of Investigative Services Coordinator.

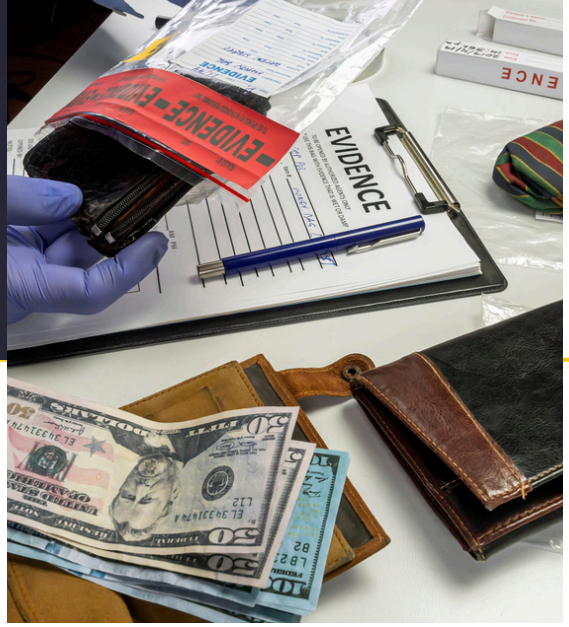
Support Services played a vital role in maintaining operational efficiency, managing 16,212 phone calls, 5,921 incident reports, and 4,668 evidence-related requests from attorneys for squad videos, photos, audio recordings, and other materials. More than 1,100 cases were forwarded for prosecution. Staff also completed 5,302 transcriptions, representing roughly 5,000 hours of detailed work essential to investigations and case preparation.

The division further supported community safety and administrative processes by processing and releasing 265 impounded vehicles and completing 365 handgun permits with required background checks. Staff responded to 2,348 public and agency information requests, ensuring transparency and timely access to records. Police Volunteers and CSOs issued 6,652 tickets, while Support Services staff managed payments, overdue and collection notices, and appeals, helping uphold accountability and streamline department workflows. Additionally, staff processed 201 dog licenses and 50 cat licenses.



More than
16,000
calls from our community.

Approximately
6,000
incident reports processed.



Investigations Division

The Investigations Division handles a wide range of complex cases, including assaults, crimes against children, organized narcotics distribution, gang activity, property crimes, digital evidence, and fugitive apprehension.

The Division includes a Lieutenant, Investigative Sergeant, Investigative Services Coordinator, Evidence Manager, and eight investigators assigned to general and juvenile cases, narcotics investigations, and the Metro Street Crimes Unit. The team handles sensitive and complex work ranging from crimes against children and major assaults to narcotics trafficking, gang activity, and fugitive apprehension.

Predatory Offender Management remained a key responsibility in 2025. With about 166 offenders in Moorhead, investigators completed 1,415 compliance contacts, including registrations, updates, homeless check-ins, quarterly reviews, and failure-to-register follow-ups. Public notifications continued for Level III offenders.

Technology-related investigations were supported through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Investigators handled 11 cyber tips involving child exploitation. The division also managed licensing and permit backgrounds, processing 342 applications for liquor, pawn, tobacco, massage, secondhand dealers, used-car dealers, and firearm-related permits. The Property and Evidence Unit processed 1,570 items in 2025. Electronic auctions generated $7,255.86 in revenue, and case-related financial activity totaled more than $90,000 in deposits and withdrawals.

In 2025, investigators handled several major cases, including a multi-state luxury vehicle theft ring, stabbing investigations, a drive-by shooting homicide, kidnappings, armed robberies, sexual-assault cases involving juveniles, and an officer-involved shooting later reviewed and cleared by the BCA. Narcotics enforcement continued to be a focus, with multiple large-scale methamphetamine, cocaine, and pill cases investigated, some resulting in Federal adoption.

The Crime Analysis Unit supported daily casework with data-driven intelligence, trend and suspect identification, and statistical reporting. In 2025, the unit enhanced its capabilities through ArcGIS Pro integration and completed a review of patrol beat boundaries to improve workload distribution. The Community Resource Navigator finished her first full year, assisting 39 individuals and significantly reducing mental-health-related calls. Crisis-response coordination strengthened, connecting 121 individuals to providers, and MPD officers completed 50 transport holds. A grant-funded therapy dog program featuring Remi provided over 600 supportive interactions to first responders and community members, further advancing wellness and community engagement.

NIBRS Crime Statistics

In 2021, Minnesota law enforcement agencies, including the Moorhead Police Department, transitioned to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to improve the detail and accuracy of crime data. NIBRS records each incident and offense more precisely than traditional reporting, offering a clearer picture of trends affecting the community. These statistics help guide resource deployment, support investigative work, and strengthen data-informed decision-making.

NIBRS GROUP A OFFENSES			
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS - UCR OFFENSE	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter	2	4	**2**
Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	**0**
Kidnapping/Abduction	7	7	**6**
Rape	19	25	**29**
Sodomy	2	1	**7**
Sexual Assault with an Object	0	1	**0**
Fondling	18	21	**17**
Aggravated Assault	201	123	**89**
Simple Assault	240	231	**203**
Intimidation	38	37	**43**
Incest	0	0	**0**
Statutory Rape	0	0	**0**
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	**0**
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	**0**
Subtotal - Crimes Against Persons	***528***	***450***	***396***
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY - UCR OFFENSE	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Robbery	8	12	**13**
Arson	10	7	**2**
Extortion/Blackmail	1	1	**1**
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	129	127	**110**
Pocket-picking	0	2	**1**
Purse-snatching	0	0	**1**
Shoplifting	218	159	**134**
Theft From Building	2	4	**26**
Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	0	0	**1**
Theft From Motor Vehicle	88	98	**78**
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	18	9	**16**
All Other Larceny	248	264	**243**
Motor Vehicle Theft	123	104	**90**
Counterfeiting/Forgery	35	26	**21**
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	60	26	**38**
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	44	30	**30**
Impersonation	62	56	**24**
Welfare Fraud	0	0	**0**
Wire Fraud	0	1	**1**
Identity Theft	7	8	**5**
Hacking/Computer Invasion	0	0	**1**
Embezzlement	1	1	**0**
Stolen Property Offenses	60	67	**34**
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	261	276	**176**
Bribery	0	0	**0**
Subtotal - Crimes Against Property	***1,375***	***1,278***	***1,046***
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY - UCR OFFENSE	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Drug/Narcotic Violations	82	93	**74**
Drug Equipment Violations	11	0	**0**
Pornography/Obscene Material	16	15	**10**
Betting/Wagering	0	0	**0**
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0	0	**0**
Gambling Equipment Violation	0	0	**0**
Sports Tampering	0	0	**0**
Prostitution	0	0	**0**
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	**0**
Purchasing Prostitution	0	0	**0**
Weapon Law Violations	27	25	**33**
Animal Cruelty	1	4	**1**
Subtotal - Crimes Against Society	***137***	***137***	***118***
TOTAL GROUP A OFFENSES	**2,040**	**1,865**	**1,566**

NIBRS GROUP B ARRESTS			
UCR OFFENSE	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	0	0	**0**
Disorderly Conduct	62	63	**27**
Driving Under the Influence	83	77	**61**
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	3	0	**0**
Liquor Law Violations	20	18	**10**
Runaway	0	0	**0**
Trespass of Real Property	38	69	**30**
All Other Offenses	129	137	**93**
TOTAL GROUP B ARRESTS	**335**	**364**	**221**

OTHER METRICS	2023	2024	2025
Population	45,026	45,424	**46,207**
MPD Calls for Service	32,566	30,866	**31,579**

MHD PD

Group A and Group B Offenses

NIBRS divides reported crimes into two categories based on the amount of detail agencies must submit.

Group A includes offenses ranging from violent crimes like homicide and robbery to offenses such as wire fraud, embezzlement, and human trafficking. Agencies submit a full incident report for every Group A offense, whether or not an arrest occurs.

Group B includes offenses such as disorderly conduct, trespassing, and driving under the influence. These offenses are reported only when an arrest is made.

Understanding NIBRS Data

NIBRS data can change as reports are added or updated, which is normal for this system. Figures in this report reflect data available as of September 24, 2026.

Residents can view MPD crime data on the Minnesota BCA's Crime Data Explorer at https://cde.state.mn.us/.

Police Volunteers

Established in 1999, the Moorhead Police Volunteers Program engages community members who lend their time and skills to support public safety and strengthen the department's connection with residents.



The Moorhead Police Volunteers Program continues to be a vital part of the department's community-focused work. Volunteers played a key role in numerous special projects throughout the year. They staffed four Saturdays of the annual pet-license campaign, selling 30 licenses, and provided traffic control for parades, marathons, a bike race, and KidsFest. Volunteers also supported programs, assisted city auctions, helped at Night to Unite and Polar Plunge, and participated in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. They also conducted child fingerprinting at multiple community events, served as role players for Police Explorer training, and assisted with SFST and DRE instruction for new officers. In 2025, volunteers contributed 1,989 hours of service (valued at $72,220) and supported public safety through a wide range of assignments. Their efforts also resulted in 5,005 parking-related tickets issued, valued at $130,580. They also managed 55 vacation residence checks and 17 ongoing checks at registered vacant properties in Moorhead.

Several volunteers reached important service milestones in 2025. Braden Ashworth and Georgia Dufault each surpassed 100 hours of service, while Deb Ludwig reached 500 hours. Dave Roe achieved an impressive 1,500 hours, and Eileen Hastad marked an extraordinary 6,500 hours, highlighting her long-standing commitment and impact.

Linda Laske was named the 2025 Volunteer of the Year. Linda has been a devoted Police Volunteer since 2005, and her steadfast service continues to embody the values and spirit of our volunteer program.

The department extends its sincere appreciation to all volunteers who served in 2025: Ruthie Johnson, Dennis Nelson, Greta Myers, Eileen Hastad, Myron Bowar, Braden Ashworth, Kim Schlotfeldt, Linda Laske, Judy Hoganson, Deb Ludwig, Brett Oertli, Annette Fischer, Luis Coca Jr., Kylie Ashworth, Bev Henning, Susan Spooner, Janice Coca, Georgia Dufault, Tammy Ehresman, Dave Roe, and Amber Solum.

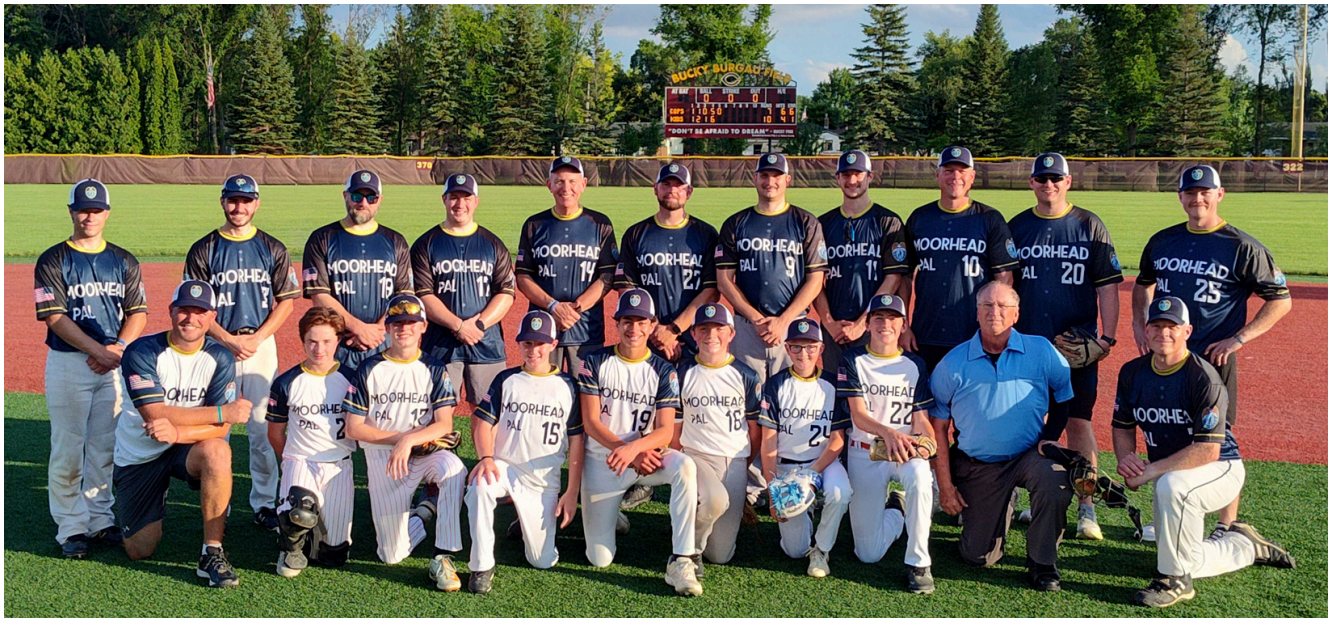






Police Athletics and Activities League (PAL)

The Moorhead Police Athletics and Activities League, founded in 2017 with programming beginning in 2018, completed its eighth year of service in 2025. PAL's mission remains focused on reducing juvenile crime by building positive, lasting relationships between law enforcement and area youth.



Events such as Cops and Kids Games, Bikes for Kids, Shop-with-a-Cop, Safe City Nights, and Books for Kids provided meaningful outreach, while the Explorer Post and CrossFit Mentoring offered ongoing development opportunities. PAL also sponsored two youth softball teams coached by officers, further strengthening mentorship and community engagement.

PAL operates as a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit governed by a board of directors representing local schools, Moorhead Parks and Recreation, and community members. This leadership structure ensures programs reflect youth needs and align with the organization's mission. With each year of growth, PAL continues to foster trust, provide opportunities, and create safer, stronger connections between Moorhead's youth and its police officers.

In 2025, programs reached
1,209
youth participants.

Sworn officers volunteered
790
hours with PAL in 2025.

Designed for at-risk and disadvantaged young people, the program connects officers and youth through structured activities, mentorship, and community involvement. In 2025, more than 110 officers from across the region volunteered their time to support Moorhead PAL.

Resident Programs



MPD Wellness Program

The Wellness Program enhanced its support in 2025 by adding trained Peer Assistance Response Team members and maintaining access to mental-health services. The program also continued strengthening wellness training and regional collaboration to support employee well-being.

R-Home Program

The R-Home Program supports safe rental housing through education and ordinance compliance, issuing notifications primarily for noise violations in 2025. One training session was held with 20 attendees, providing guidance on rental regulations, safety, and crime-prevention practices.

Prescription Drug Disposal Program

The Prescription Drug Disposal Program provides a safe, anonymous way for residents to drop off unused medications 24/7 at the Law Enforcement Center, helping prevent misuse and protecting the environment. Pills and liquids are accepted for secure incineration, though needles are not. This program safely collecting 543 pounds of medications in 2025.

Vacation House Checks

The Vacation House Check program offers free, volunteer-led home security checks for residents who are out of town, providing added peace of mind while they're away. In 2025, Police Volunteers managed 55 vacation residence checks and 17 ongoing checks at registered vacant properties in Moorhead.



Contact Us

Emergency: **911**

Non-Emergency: **218.299.5120**

General Information: **218.299.5120**

Website: **MoorheadPolice.com**

Address: **911 11 St N, Moorhead MN 56560**

Tip 411

Community members may submit anonymous tips to the Moorhead Police Department by texting the keyword **TIPMOORHEAD**, along with their message, to **847411**.

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MHD PD

911 11 Street North
Moorhead, MN 56560

MoorheadPD Moorhead_Police_Department