

**Violet Tschetter Memorial Home to Close by May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
*60 day transition period to allow for residents to be relocated*

Huron, SD – March 7<sup>th</sup> – The Board of Directors for Violet Tschetter Memorial Home has notified the South Dakota Department of Health that the long-term care facility, which has served the community for 59 years, will close its doors permanently by May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. In its letter to the State Department of Health, the board said that the facility was no longer able to sustain operations due to underfunding. The cost of resident care greatly exceeded the State reimbursement under the State’s Medicaid program that many of its residents relied on.

There are currently 36 individuals residing in the facility which has a staff of about 45 caregivers, support and operations personnel.

The Board issued the following statement on behalf of the organization:

*“For six decades it has been our privilege to serve our neighbors and their families. We have been blessed with the support of our town and region, with staff members, many of whom have been with us for decades, who have cared for our residents with skill and compassion, with board members who have freely given their time and talents and with residents and families who created a true community within our campus. It is heartbreaking to acknowledge that all of this must now be brought to an end. After years of effort, however, the Board and our management company do not see a way forward.*

*“Our focus will immediately shift to giving all possible assistance to our residents and their families in relocating to other facilities. We will work with the State Department of Health and other providers in this process. We will also work with our staff to help them find new employment opportunities.*

*“This news does not exist in isolation. Many facilities like ours are struggling in South Dakota and elsewhere. Our seniors need – and deserve – quality care that provides dignity and comfort, but the programs many older people rely on do not cover the cost of that care. Our hope is that our elected officials will find in this announcement common cause to address this problem for the benefit of our State and its residents.”*