



2022/2023

ANNUAL REPORT



United Way of Douglas
& Pope Counties

Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

We are changing the game by connecting people, resources & ideas to promote individual self-sufficiency by investing in health, education and financial stability.

Vision

We LIVE UNITED, inspiring people to make a lasting difference in the lives of all.

Values

Stewardship, Trustworthy, Respect, Community Collaboration, Innovation



Kids enjoy story time at the Traveling Tree House.

A letter from the Executive Director

Our campaign theme for this past year was "What If?" We set out asking the question "What if we could create change in our community to ensure that all people had access to health, education, and financial stability?" I am proud to be part of a community that answered the question with "We can." Here are some examples of how we did!

We provided **MENTAL HEALTH** services to 194 individuals by providing grants to 5 agencies.

We **EDUCATED** and equipped children and youth to go after their biggest dreams by:

- Providing 347 students with back-to-school supplies through the Stuff the Bus program.
- Launching a Students United affinity group within the school and out in the community.

- Preparing children for school by offering summer literacy programming to 150+ kids each week during the summer months through the Traveling Tree House.
- Awarding grant funds to provide scholarships to 89 students through our education partners.

We helped people achieve **FINANCIAL STABILITY** by:

- Providing 100,000 pounds of food to individuals and families through United Way Food Drops and Backpack Attack program.
- Providing housing to 96 individuals/families through Hope Haven and United Way grant recipients.
- Assisting 39 individuals in obtaining employment to achieve financial stability through United Way's Equipped to Work program.

Together we created change in

Douglas & Pope Counties! Our friends, neighbors, and fellow community members received the support and services that they needed to live their best life! We are not stopping here...we will continue to LIVE United to make a lasting difference in the lives of all!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve individuals and families in Douglas & Pope Counties!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Jabas".

Executive Director
jjabas@uwdp.org

2022-23 Team Members & Board of Directors



Jen Jabas (Executive Director) Maria Haug (Accountant & Office Manager) Kendall Brickweg (Marketing & Communications) Leah Wolkow (Impact & Engagement Coordinator)



First Row: Mark Anderson, Sanderson Bell, Andrew Cavers, Lisa De Krey, Tom Flynn, Celeste Gardner, Breanna Goracke **Second Row:** Jessie Hjelle, Stephanie Howe, Bob Iacono, Darcy Josephson, Darren Mork, Erica Overshiner, Todd Peterson **Third Row:** Mike Pfeiffer, Brandy Quam, Corey Simonson, Harley Vestrum

Accreditation



Thank you for calling United Way, How can I help you?

- “I haven't eaten anything since yesterday, I really need your help.”
- “My daughter is really struggling in school and is feeling depressed.”
- “I don't have any family here, I don't know who to call or what to do.”
- “I was just laid off and I don't know how I am going to pay rent this month.”

These are examples of common calls made to our local United Way. Every day, people struggle to find affordable childcare, access healthcare, buy healthy food, and secure a job that pays the bills and other essential needs. United Way 211 is an additional service here to help when our office isn't open, and you don't know who to call.

No matter the situation, the specialists at 211 listen, identify underlying problems, and connect people with resources in their community that can help. 211 answers calls, texts, chats and emails, helping people with life-changing support. 211 is free, accessible 24/7/365, completely confidential and available in multiple languages.

YOU Can Help! Tell others about 211.



Volunteering

Get Connected

GetConnected is our website that hosts Douglas and Pope County volunteer opportunities from United Way and other local non-profits. You can create a profile, choose your favorite organizations and receive email updates when new opportunities are available.

To get started visit uwdp.galaxydigital.com

Speed Volunteering

Speed Volunteering opportunities were created by United Way with input from local non-profits. Worksheets contain projects focused around addressing commonly expressed needs from clients served. Projects can be easily coordinated and completed with friends, families, youth groups or coworkers. Completed projects can be dropped off at United Way. United Way connects these resources with people and agencies in Douglas and Pope Counties who need them.

Visit uwdp.org and search “Speed Volunteer”



Friends of United Way volunteer to help out with our Holiday Gift Program.

Health Goals

Goal: Individuals/Families have opportunities to improve their mental health.

Focus Areas:

- Promote mental health and healing with children and youth.
- Promote mental health and healing with adults.

“A 40-year-old female veteran struggling with depression utilizes therapy services. Because of administrative barriers, she was unable to get approval for more therapy services, despite the need. United Way funding enabled this veteran to have a few more sessions to prevent a gap in services while the administrative restrictions were sorted out.”

Health Investments



ELDER NETWORK:

Helping seniors live independently by meeting emotional, social, mental health, and respite care needs.

- \$10,000 -



LSS OUT PATIENT MENTAL HEALTH:

Services that ensure safe homes & hopeful futures for families and individuals.

- \$25,000 -



LSS COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES:

Family based service, centered on prevention, intervention, and treatment for those who are in crisis and/or have a child at risk of out of home placement.



THE VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER:

Quality education & counseling encompassing an array of services in both in and out patient settings.

- \$15,000 -



WCMCA PLUS KIDS:

Douglas County safe exchange and visitation location for parents to conduct supervised visits.

- \$25,000 -



UWDP SINGLECARE:

Prescription discount cards for individuals who have no or limited insurance or medications not covered by their current insurance.

- \$0 -



Education Goals

Goal: Children enter school ready and prepared to be successful.

Goal: Youth gain the knowledge and skills to be successful in their career and future.

Focus Areas:

- Increase literacy for children and youth.
- Equip children and youth with knowledge and skills to support lifelong learning.
- Equip families with knowledge and skills to support child and youth learners.

“My children have grown confidence in trying new experiences because the Traveling Tree house provides a safe, interactive, and inclusive program. They have age appropriate activities and are incredibly kind and organized.”

Education Investments



APS COMMUNITY EDUCATION - LIFE LONG LEARNING:

Youth scholarship dollars to support students and families
- \$30,000 -



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA NORTHERN LIGHTS

Youth educational program that fosters the development of character and citizenship.
\$1,500 -



BRANDON, EVANSVILLE ECFE:

Programming that aims to have each child ready for Kindergarten.
- \$3,000 -



MINNEWASKA ECFE:

Income based preschool scholarships to ensure children are ready for Kindergarten.
- \$10,000 -



UWDP DAY OF CARING:

Day of volunteer engagement with Discovery Middle School 8th grade students to complete 34 community service projects.
- \$3,149 -



UWDP TRAVELING TREE HOUSE:

Mobile learning center, staffed with educators, provides literacy programming over the summer in community parks.
- \$13,533 -



Education Investments continued



UWDP STUFF THE BUS:

Program that provides K-12 students with new school supplies and backpacks through community collection and distribution.

- \$1,608 -

+ In-kind donations



Photos: (Top) The Traveling Tree House kicks off with the theme Western Week! (Left) Kids enjoy crafts while hearing a story at the Traveling Tree House. (Right) An 8th grade DMS student stains benches as part of a project on the Day of Caring. A volunteer group helps create bus boxes for our Stuff the Bus program that provides new backpacks and needed supplies to local students.

Financial Stability

Goal: Individuals/Families have opportunities for employment, enhanced financial literacy, and their basic needs met.

Focus Areas:

- Assist individuals in gaining and maintaining employment.
- Promote life skills and financial literacy.
- Ensure basic needs are met (Food, Housing and Personal Safety).

“Without the additional food we receive through the United Way Food Drop, my family wouldn’t make it from paycheck to paycheck. This program allows us to always have something in the cupboard, which I am extremely grateful for.”

Financial Stability Investments



LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHWEST MINNESOTA:

Legal services for low income households. Services may be related to income, domestic violence, protection, legal education of tenants, and housing rights.
- \$20,000 -



NORTH COUNTRY FOOD BANK:

Low cost, quality food and non-food products distributed to member agencies at a discounted rate.
- \$ 30,000 Douglas -
- \$ 8,000 Pope -



SOMEPLACE SAFE CRIME VICTIM ADVOCACY:

Crisis assistance and advocacy for individuals impacted by physical or sexual abuse.
- \$25,000 Douglas County -
- \$6,000 Pope County -



SOMEPLACE SAFE PARENTING TIME CENTER:

Pope County safe exchange and visitation location for parents to have supervised visits.
- \$6,000 -



WCMCA TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:

Temporary housing for families with children. Offers support, structure, and supervision while families seek permanent housing.
- \$15,000 -



WCMCA LAUNCH PAD:

Provides free, temporary housing for those experiencing homelessness while they work on establishing financial stability.
- \$15,000 -

Financial Stability Investments continued



ALEXANDRIA AREA YMCA:
Scholarships for YMCA Childcare families who are experiencing hardship.
- \$6,000 -



SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN
Surrounds families facing crisis with a caring volunteer community to provide hope and support to keep families together.
- \$10,000 -



UWDP EQUIPPED TO WORK:
Provides resources to individuals that allow them to secure employment.
- \$11,800 -



UWDP BACKPACK ATTACK:
Provides students with a child-friendly bag of food to take home over the weekend.
- \$80,733 -



UWDP HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM:
Assists local families in meeting basic needs by matching them with someone who purchases holiday gifts for their kids ages 0 - 18.
- \$8,440 -
- +In-kind donations -



UWDP FOOD DROP:
Monthly food distribution event in both Douglas & Pope Counties that is available to all residents facing food insecurity.
- \$ 31,460 Douglas -
- \$22,202 Pope -



WINTER WEAR:
Coats and cold weather wear made available to residents in need. All items are free of charge.
\$319
- +In-kind donations -



HOPE HAVEN:
Provides shelter to those experiencing homelessness in partnership with local church partners while providing supportive services/connections to local nonprofits who can help.
\$23,590
- +In-kind donations -

Leaders in Giving

DIAMOND

(\$7,500-\$9,999)

Ekstrand Family

PLATINUM

(\$5,000-\$7,499)

Kopitzke, Mike & Deloris

Vestrup, Harley & Jeannie

GOLD

(\$3,500-\$4,999)

ANONYMOUS (2)

Pfeiffer, Mike & Michelle

Wosepka, Tom & Kelly

SILVER

(\$2,000-\$3,499)

Engbretson, Paul & Linda

Engen, Patricia

Florell, Paul & Judith

Hennen, Anthony & Phyllis

Hoffman, Brian & Sandra

Kaehler, Karen

Klimek, Brian & Nicole

Kuhlmann, Judy

Larson, Mark

Meyer, Randal

Ramos, Jorge & Stephanie

Thompson, David E

Vaagenes, Carl & Kristen

TITANIUM

(\$1,000-\$1,999)

ANONYMOUS (5)

Baumgartner, Mark

Beck, Dean & Joyce

Beebout, Lance & Melani

Bell, Sandy & Michele

Berg, Kristen

Bianco, Joanne

Bush, Tim & Terri

Carns, Ryan & Jody

Cassidy, Miriah

Doering, Lee

Eggebraaten, Kimberly

Finley, Bill & Jenna

Flesner, Lynn

Flynn, Tom & Susan

Gardner, Celeste & Jim

Haug, Andrew

Haugen, Chris & Nanette

Henry, Stephen & Diane

Howell, Ken & Jeanne

Iserman, Brent & Molly

Jabas, Jamie & Jen

Jodsaas, Vicki

Kuhn, Jeff & Beth

Lenertz, Tom

Loken, Dan & Debra

Loken, John

Loosbrock, Anthony

Lundquist Pickle, Dianne

Mammel Family Foundation

Meyer, Nate & Sharlo

Miller, Glenn & Ann

Niblett, Whitney

Paulsen, Nick & Jessica

Peterson, Todd & Susan

Restad, Jeff

Rezendes, Wendy

Rohr, Kent & Cindy

Schroeder, Christine

Schultz, Roger & Ruth

Sellnow, David & Bobbi Jo

Shockman, Caleb

Simonson, Corey & Michelle

Timmerman, Eric & Lisa

Tubbs, Sandra & Robley, Dave

Van Hout, Lawrence & Lisa

Wendlandt, Miranda

Zabrosky, Geri

Zacher, Gary & Cindy

Zimny, Anthony & Leann

Zwilling, Craig & Rebecca

BRONZE

(\$750-\$999)

Carstensen, Tasha

Fuller, Roger

Hanson, Heather

Harding, Traci

Jones, Michele

Landman, Kirk & Jane

Pohlen, Jason & Gina

Seela, Glenda

Snyder, Catherine

VanderTuin, Brad & Leigha

COPPER

(\$500-\$749)

ANONYMOUS (9)

Albright, Rebecca

Allguire, Christopher

Anderson, Jack & Edith

Anderson, Linda & Kelly

Anderson, Mark & Sally

Ardito, Michael

Bantau, Ronald

Bethke-Kaliher, Michelle

Currens, Dave & Sue

Fernholz, Paul & Heather

Flaig, Barbara

Fruhman, Jennifer

Gaulke, Mary

Gray, Jodi

Greenwaldt, Bill

Grundman, Ruth

Gugisberg, Marnie

Hargreaves, Rod

Harvey, Jonathan

Haug, Stephen & Kathleen

Henrickson, Evelyn

Hjelle, Nate & Jessie

Hunt, Kai & Myrna

Huseth, John & Joan

Issendorf, Troy & Rhonda

Johnson, Arlan & Jeanette

Johnson, Donald & Judy

Leaders in Giving Continued

COPPER

(\$500-\$749)

Kellerhuis, Sam
Kinney, Randy & Cathy
Kleinschmidt, Abby
Kompelner, Ryan
Lamb, Dave & Melonee
Langseth, Daniel & Pamela
Lee, Randi
Lembcke, Keli
Lindoo, Jeff & Janna
Ludwig, Brittany
Lundeen, Marc & Susan
Lutterman, Janet & Wayne
Magaard, Teryl
Malingen, Mark
Martin, Dan
Martinson, Paul & Anna
McCarten, Paul
Meissner, Carol & Harold
Mess, Brooke Ann
Miller, Dennis & Bonnie

Molitor, Ronald
Moundson, Matthew
Navratil, Isabelle & Derek
Neils, Craig
Nelson, Peter & Kari
Nielsen, Mitchell
Pappenfus, Larry & Beth
Paulsen, Rick & Sandy
Pearson, Kyle & Diane
Petersen, Mark
Petersen, Stephanie
Quam, Brandy & Joel
Raflores, Marion
Reeves, Dawn
Rushing, Alex
Sand, Lindsey
Schulzetenberg, Donna
Stensrud, Kirk
Strong, Scott
Stubbs, Aaron
Suchy, Patrick
Sudmeier, Richard & Suzanne

Susag, Richard & Sandy
Swenson, Bryce
Taillefer, Duane
Threinen, Scott
Tschida, June & Les
Urke, Brent
Urke, Jill
Wallgren, Cory
West, Mark
Woessner, Thomas & Joan

This list may not reflect all donors who gave \$500+. Not all business campaigns are able to provide employee names and their donation amount. If you believe that you may be one of these donors or corrections need to be made, please contact us to update our records.



Photos: (Left) Friends of United Way pack bags of food for Backpack Attack at the 2022 Live United Luncheon at Lakeside Ballroom. (Right) Knights of Columbus donate new coats to our Winter Wear Collection.

Partnership Package

LIVE UNITED PARTNERS (\$10,000+)



Our Partnership Package (\$1,500+) and Community Partners (\$500 - \$1,499) recognizes gifts given from a business or organization in support of United Way or a United Way program. These categories do not include employee giving or grants.

**PARTNERSHIP PACKAGE
GOLD/
COMMUNITY IMPACT
(\$5,000)**

- Alomere
- Consolidated Equipment Group, LLC
- Covenant Church
- Geneva Capital LLC
- New Life Christian Church
- Osakis Lutheran Church
- Sanford Health

**SILVER
(\$3,000)**

- Brenton Engineering
- ITW Heartland
- Knute Nelson
- Nodland Construction

**BRONZE
(\$1,500)**

- American National Bank
- Bell Bank
- FAST Global Solutions
- Rotary
- Sauk Valley Lutheran Church
- SunOpta

**COMMUNITY PARTNER
(\$500 - \$1,499)**

- Alex Brick & Stone
- Alexandria Veterinary Clinic
- Bethany on the Lake
- Castlelake, L.P.
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Cub Foods
- Cummins Foundation
- Dreamweaver Foundation
- Glenwood Rotary Club

- Great River Energy
- Greenleaf Learning Studio
- Integrity Title Inc
- Joseph M. Haack, DDS
- Lions Club of Carlos Minnesota
- LPL Financial
- Mid-State Hydraulic & Machine
- Nibbe Family Charitable Foundation
- Ollie`s Service, Inc.
- Snyder Thornburg Wealth Management
- Stearns Electric Association Trust
- Studio E Architects LLC
- Township of Gordon
- Township of Osakis
- Veterans of Foreign Wars-George H Elliot Post 7902
- VFW Auxiliary Post 7902
- Wal Mart
- Zimny Insurance

Join hands. Open your heart. Lend your muscle. Find your voice. Reach out a hand to one and influence the condition of all.

Employee Giving Campaigns

Businesses or organizations who held Employee Giving Campaigns.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 3M | Federal Express | PrimeWest Health Systems |
| Aagard Group, LLC | First Western Bank & Trust | Runestone Area Education District |
| Alexandria Public Schools | Glacial Ridge Hospital | Runestone Electric Association |
| Alomere | Glenwood State Bank | Sanford Health |
| American Solutions For Business | Henry`s Foods | Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Professionals |
| Bell Bank | Horizon Public Health | Target |
| Brandon-Evansville School District | ITW Heartland | Tastefully Simple |
| Bremer Bank | Knute Nelson | US Bank |
| CliftonLarsonAllen | Legal Services of Northwest | Widseth Smith Nolting & Associates |
| Coborn`s Inc. | Minnesota | Zimny Insurance |
| Consolidated Equipment Group, LLC | LGC | |
| Douglas Machine | Lutheran Social Services | |
| Echo Press | Massman | |
| Ellingson Plumbing & Heating & Air Conditioning | Minnesota State Employees | |
| | Minnewaska School | |
| | Osakis Elementary School | |

In-Kind Giving & Grants

In-Kind Giving: Goods or services donated or given at a reduced rate that were valued at \$500+.
Grants: Granters who provide \$5,000+ to United Way or a United Way Program.

IN KIND GIVING

- 3M
- Ace Hardware
- Alex Rubbish and Recycling
- American Solutions for Business
- Broadway Ballroom
- CliftonLarsonAllen
- First Western Bank
- Geneva Golf Club
- Henry's Foods
- JS Rental
- Knute Nelson
- LiveWire Entertainment
- Smokin' Brews and Que's
- West Central Sanitation

GRANTS

- Douglas Machine Foundation
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program
- Alexandria Community Foundation
- Community Giving
- West Central Initiative



Henry's Foods supports Food Drops and Backpack Attack by providing products, storage and transportation of food items.

Affinity Groups

Women United

Women United's mission locally is to help children become educated, empowered, and elevated by focusing on childhood literacy.

The annual Women United fundraiser supports The Traveling Tree House and childhood literacy locally. In 2022 Women United were able to raise \$17,284 to support their cause.

Consider becoming a member of this powerful, dedicated group of women! Membership is a \$100 donation that goes straight to supporting the Traveling Tree House and childhood literacy.

Interested? Join our email list at uwdp.org under "Get Involved"



Students United

Student United Way is a campus-based community change organization, led by students, that addresses critical health, education, and financial stability issues in our community. Students in this group are part of an intentional network of young people who are working to advance the common good in our community. It offers students a meaningful way to engage in United Way's mission.

Students have selected projects that focus on health, education, and financial stability. So far they have: Held a food drive for the AAHS Food Shelf, shopped for Christmas gifts for the United Way Holiday Gift Program, visited local elementary schools to read to students, hosted a Poverty Simulation with United Way and handed out Mental Health Awareness bracelets.

Retire United

Retire United is an affinity group looking to bring together retired individuals who share an interest in creating a better community by volunteering, advocating, and giving.

If you are looking for an opportunity that is low commitment but high impact consider looking into Retire United! We are seeking individuals who want to continue making a difference in their retirement!

Interested in learning more?

Visit our website and search "Retire United"



Photos: (Top) Women of all ages join us for a fun and charitable night at the Women United Fundraiser. (Middle) A student from Students United reads to a Alex Public Schools elementary classroom. (Bottom) A retired friend of United Way helps to sort food at the monthly Food Drop.

United Way Special Events



Photos: (Top) Douglas Machine joins us at our 2022 Trap Tournament at Alexandria Shooting Park. Friends join us in November at the Broadway Ballroom for the Live United Luncheon where we packed 2,500 bags for Backpack Attack. (Middle) Aagard wins the "People's Choice" Award at our Annual Chili Cook-off. Friends of United Way join us for a fun and charitable night at Sip & Savor (formerly Beer, Wine & Food Tasting). (Bottom) Women United come together at Gathered Oaks for their spring fundraiser to support the Traveling Tree House. Team Bell Bank wins our Annual Golf Classic at Geneva Golf Club. Presenting Sponsor, SunOpta sends paddlers to join us on the chain-of-lakes for our Paddlefest Fundraiser.

VOLUNTEER
uwdp.galaxydigital.com

  
STAY CONNECTED
[@unitedwaydouglaspope](https://twitter.com/unitedwaydouglaspope)

LEARN MORE
www.uwdp.org



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