



2024/2025 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Serving Douglas, Otter Tail, Pope, Todd, and Wadena Counties



UNITED WAY
Lakes and Prairie

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we close this remarkable year, I pause with deep gratitude to celebrate our 50th anniversary; five decades of caring, connecting, and creating opportunities for our community. Reaching this milestone has given me time to reflect on all those who have made our work possible: the volunteers, donors, partners, and community members who have walked alongside us every step of the way.

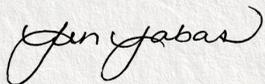
This year also marked an exciting new beginning with the merger of United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties and United Way of Otter Tail & Wadena Counties, to form United Way Lakes and Prairie. We've joined forces to expand our reach and deepen our impact. Together, we are better equipped to serve more families and respond more effectively to the changing needs of our community.

I believe that every person has the ability to make an impact and when many people come together united in hope and determination, we can shape a brighter tomorrow for us all. A helping hand can make a difference in someone's life but in times of great need, it takes many hearts and hands united as one to create change in our community.

As we look ahead, we do so with the same spirit that has carried us through the past 50 years, one of hope, collaboration, and compassion. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey and for believing in what's possible as we shape the next 50 years of impact together.

United is the Way we will build a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

With appreciation,



Jen Jabas | Executive Director
Lakes and Prairie United Way

OUR NEW NAME - LAKES AND PRAIRIE UNITED WAY

Lakes and Prairie United Way is the new name for our merged organization as of July 1st, 2025, serving Douglas, Otter Tail, Pope, Todd, and Wadena counties.

We invited people across the region to share what United Way means to them and to submit name ideas. Many comments highlighted a strong connection to where we live. Lakes and prairie repeatedly appeared as the shared identity of our communities, guiding our choice: United Way Lakes and Prairie

The name honors the landscapes that connect our towns and neighborhoods. It reflects unity across county lines and the way we show up for one another. It is a welcoming, place-based, and easy to recognize across the region. Our teams, programs, and partners are now aligned under one regional identity. Shared resources and coordinated efforts help us serve more people with consistency. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and offered ideas. Your voices shaped this decision and helped us choose a name that feels like home.



WHO WE ARE

UNITED WAY STAFF



Jen Jabas
Executive Director



Maria Haug
Accountant & Office Mngr.



Becca Wood
Marketing & Dev. Mngr.



Leah Wolkow
Impact & Engagement Mngr.



Cassie Evjen
Admin. Support Assistant



Coni Hagen
Office Mngr. Impact & Dev.



Meghana Anderson
Executive Assistant & Program Coordinator

PROGRAMMING STAFF



Jillian Burns
2025 TTH Teacher



Emily Malone
2025 TTH Teacher



Rylen Schmitz
2025 TTH Assistant



Darla Harstad
CREW Coordinator

OUR MISSION, VISION, and VALUES

United Way mobilizes communities to action so all can thrive.



OUR MISSION

United Way seeks to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities to take action so all can thrive.



VISION

We envision a world where every person in our community is thriving.



VALUES

We value diversity and strive to advance equity, inclusion, and access for all.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY



United Way
2024 Membership Requirements
Completed

United Way Lakes and Prairie is dedicated to transparency, integrity, and strong governance. We meet the Charities Review Council's Accountability Standards and have completed United Way's 2024 Membership Requirements, reflecting our commitment to responsible management and community trust.

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2024-2025 boards of United Way of Douglas and Pope Counties and United Way of Otter Tail and Wadena Counties provided critical leadership leading up to the July 1, 2025, merger that formed United Way Lakes and Prairie.

While continuing to serve their respective regions, both boards worked together to navigate the legal and administrative steps required for the transition. Their guidance helped move the process forward while keeping focus on our mission. Effective July 1, 2025 a unified board now represents our five-county region. Current board members can be viewed on our website.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" – Helen Keller

United Way of Douglas and Pope Counties Board 2024-2025



Mark Anderson



Sanderson Bell



Andrew Cavers



Dave Currens



Kayla Fearing



Celeste Gardner



Breanna Goracke



Sara Hoidahl



Jessie Hjelle



Darcy Josephson



Kendall Koep



Darren Mork



Mike Pfeiffer



Brandy Quam



Paul Quam



Harley Vestrum



Dave Wolf

United Way of Otter Tail and Wadena Counties Board 2024-2025



Shelly Becker



**Sadie
Christiansen**



Ryan Jacobson



Mike Olson



Medley Shamp



Andrew Sorum



Cory Thompson



Stephanie Trout



OUR **5** COUNTY REGION

Moving Forward Together

With more than 50 years of service in our local communities, United Way of Douglas and Pope Counties and United Way of Otter Tail and Wadena Counties have officially come together as one: Lakes and Prairie United Way.

This new identity reflects our commitment to serve Douglas, Otter Tail, Pope, Todd, and Wadena Counties with a united focus. Our combined experience and the dedication of our team, board, and supporters give us the strength to meet local needs and grow our impact.

Together, we will continue to create solutions that support a healthy community, youth opportunity, financial security, and community resiliency. We are excited for what lies ahead and grateful to build a stronger region with you.

OUR FOCUS ON ALICE

In 2024 we introduced ALICE—households that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed to better serve the working families in our communities who earn more than the poverty line but still struggle to afford essentials. These are neighbors, friends, and workers whose wages often can't keep up with costs like housing, childcare, transportation, or healthcare.



The latest report highlights that despite Minnesota's continued economic growth, more than one-third of residents are still being left behind financially. It emphasizes the need for leaders at every level of government and policymaking to recognize how widespread ALICE households are across the state and to strengthen public systems that create opportunities for families to thrive.

EDUCATING ABOUT ALICE

United Way Lakes and Prairie offers ALICE presentations and workshops designed to fit your organization's schedule and goals. Sessions can range from a 15-minute overview to a 3-hour poverty simulation workshop. Each experience helps participants understand the realities faced by ALICE households, highlights local data, and explores how community programs are working to remove barriers and create pathways to stability.

We host Poverty Simulations that are three-hour interactive workshops that puts participants in the shoes of poverty households, navigating real-life challenges like paying bills, accessing resources, and managing unexpected setbacks. Held in a large group setting, it's an engaging way to strengthen financial understanding, build empathy, and foster teamwork and culture within your organization.



Local students shared 211 with teachers, students, chamber meeting attendees, and the police department this year!

ADVOCACY FOR ALICE

This summer, nearly 450 United Way leaders from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. for United Way Worldwide's annual Advocacy Forum, Capitol Hill Day. Representing Minnesota were Jen Jabas, Executive Director of Lakes and Prairie United Way, and Stephannie L. Lewis, Associate Vice President of Advocacy and Community Impact at Greater Twin Cities United Way.

400+ UNITED WAY ADVOCATES ATTENDED



Jen brought a vital rural perspective, highlighting the challenges ALICE families face in Rural Minnesota, from limited access to affordable childcare and transportation to gaps in digital infrastructure and housing.

Conversations with members of Congress focused on strengthening the 211 helpline and advancing the ALICE framework to ensure national policies reflect the realities of working families.

You can advocate right here at home by sharing United Way updates on social media, forwarding our newsletter to co-workers so they can stay up to date on work happening in our community, or telling a neighbor about United Way's 211 resource directory.

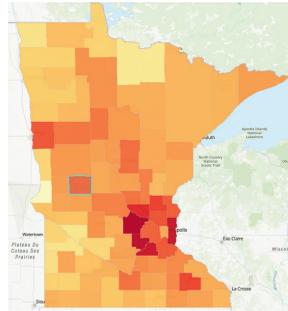
'When we underestimate how many households are struggling, we underestimate what it takes to build thriving communities. When families and essential workers are overlooked, they lose access to the resources needed to stay healthy and stable—and that's a loss for all of us' - Doris Pagelkopf, retired United Way MN State Director

ALICE ACROSS OUR REGION

ALICE data varies across communities, and one of the strengths of this research is that it can be broken down by county. This gives us a clearer picture of how financial hardship impacts each part of our region.

Some groups face financial hardship at disproportionate rates, with 60% of the youngest and 49% of the oldest households in Minnesota falling below the ALICE Threshold, compared with 27% of households headed by someone age 25-44.

Housing continues to be a major challenge for struggling families, with an average of 71% of renters and 56% of homeowners below the ALICE Threshold spending over 30% of their income on housing.



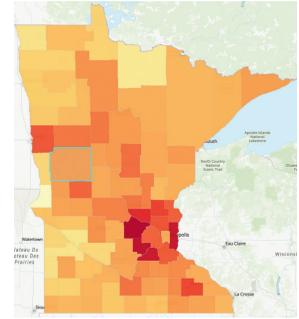
DOUGLAS COUNTY

39,511

POPULATION

\$75,940 Avg Household Income

- 21% Are ALICE Households
- 9% Are In Poverty



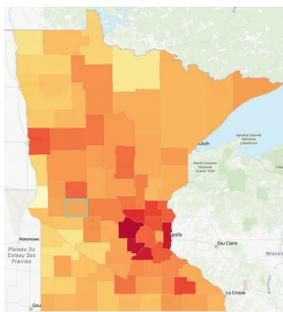
OTTER TAIL COUNTY

60,304

POPULATION

\$69,692 Avg Household Income

- 25% Are ALICE Households
- 11% Are In Poverty



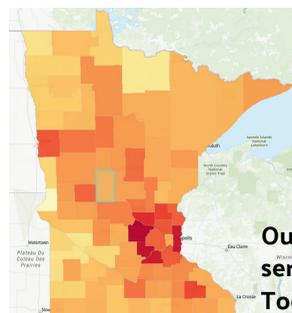
POPE COUNTY

11,288

POPULATION

\$68,426 Avg Household Income

- 24% Are ALICE Households
- 11% Are In Poverty



Our United Way services parts of Todd County

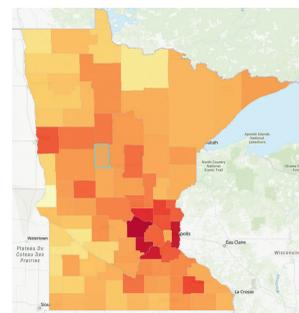
TODD COUNTY

25,176

POPULATION

\$58,767 Avg Household Income

- 32% Are ALICE Households
- 12% Are In Poverty



WADENA COUNTY

14,061

POPULATION

\$51,909 Avg Household Income

- 30% Are ALICE Households
- 13% Are In Poverty

OUR IMPACT WORK

We measure success in our impact areas by focusing on solutions that deliver measurable results. These areas include **Healthy Community**, **Youth Opportunity**, **Financial Security**, and **Community Resiliency**. Through community support and partnerships, we are helping to build a thriving community.

Below is a list of our internal programs and resources that our organization focuses on to create impact in our community. From bringing our community together through events and affinity groups to the work we do in our impact areas and community investments, we are a passionate team and board who believe **United Is The Way** we are going to continue to make a lasting impact. These impact statements reflect our fiscal calendar year of July 1st, 2024 - June 30th, 2025.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

MONTHLY FOOD DROPS

Our United Way Food Drop is a free supplemental grocery distribution that occurs on a rotating monthly schedule between Douglas and Pope Counties in Minnesota.

SINGLE CARE

SingleCare is a prescription savings card and mobile app made available to everyone.

WEEKEND BACKPACK MEALS - Backpack Attack/Feeding Backpack

This program provides bags of supplemental food for students over the weekend throughout the school year. Available in participating schools across our region.

FOOD DROPS

120

FAMILIES SERVED IN POPE MONTHLY

240

FAMILIES SERVED IN DOUGLAS MONTHLY



GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

1 IN 4

In 2024, 26% of Minnesota households with children experienced food insecurity. - minnesota.gov

WEEKEND BACKPACK MEALS



BACKPACK ATTACK

600+

KIDS SERVED WEEKLY

FEEDING BACKPACKS

150+

KIDS SERVED WEEKLY



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

CREW - Community, Resources, Engagement, and Wrap-around Services

CREW is facilitated by a United Way team member who walks alongside families, helping them navigate non-academic challenges and connecting families with essential resources, from food and housing to transportation.

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a free book gifting program that mails high-quality, age appropriate books each month to children from birth to age five. Serving Otter Tail and Wadena Counties.

STUFF THE BUS

Every year, the United Way team organizes the registration and distribution of new backpacks stuffed full of necessary school supplies for students to start their school year with confidence. Backpacks are made available for pick up to registered families before the start of the school year.

TRAVELING TREE HOUSE

The Traveling Tree House is a mobile learning center staffed by United Way team members who are licensed educators that provides free literacy based programming over the summer months.

STUFF THE BUS

1,093

CHILDREN RECEIVED
BACKPACKS

71

COLLECTION
HOST PARTNERS



DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

858 OTTERTAIL & WADENA
CHILDREN ENROLLED

7,801 TOTAL NUMBER OF BOOKS
DELIVERED

TRAVELING TREE HOUSE



"I just wanted to say how FABULOUS this week's treehouse was! My kids attended in Osakis and had such an amazing time. When we got home, my daughter immediately wanted to make a Gerald to go with Piggie. Now today, day 2, she asked to make a Pigeon! The creativity is flowing and I wanted to drop a note to say thanks!" - TTH Participant Parent



Card colored by a child at the Traveling Tree House Program for Kindness Week.

170

AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

13

LOCATIONS

10

WEEKS

In the summer of 2025 our Traveling Tree House Program expanded our service area and is now serving 13 local parks across our region!

FINANCIAL SECURITY

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

This program provides gifts to children 0-18 years old during the Holiday Season. Those wishing to receive or purchase gifts can register with our United Way office after Thanksgiving. Serving Douglas & Pope Counties.

WARM WINTER WEAR

Our Warm Winter Wear Program is a regional collection drive held each October, followed by distribution events that provide warm winter essentials to local community members of all ages.

WORK UNITED

A United Way funded program, offered in partnership with Rural MN CEP, this initiative provides vital resources to help community members gain and maintain employment that serves Douglas and Pope Counties.

HOLIDAY GIFTS

941

SPONSORED LOCAL CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED GIFTS



Photos of local youth shopping and delivering gifts for sponsored children.

WARM WINTER WEAR

1000+

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED WARM WINTER WEAR



WORK UNITED

47

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



42

RECEIVED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

\$206

AVG FUNDED SUPPORT

38

RECEIVED GAS/TRANSPORTATION

15

15 RECEIVED BOOTS/CLOTHING

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

COMMUNITY IMPACT COALITION (CIC)

The coalition works to create lasting community impact by identifying and addressing local needs while serving as a resource to one another. United Way coordinates these meetings in Douglas and Pope Counties.

211

United Way's 211 service is a free, confidential resource that connects people to local help for housing, food, mental health, and other essential needs. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 211 provides real-time support and referrals to trusted community programs, helping individuals and families find the assistance they need when they need it most.

DAY OF CARING

The Day of Caring is a United Way program coordinated in partnership with participating schools held each May, giving students the opportunity to volunteer in the community and complete projects that make a meaningful local impact.

POVERTY SIMULATION

A Poverty Simulation is an interactive experience where participants take on different roles that place them into typical scenarios that **ALICE** families face. The goal of those participating is to help participants understand what it is like to meet the needs of their family for one month on a low income.

Our CIC Coalition brings together more than 50 nonprofits to share resources, identify local needs, and pursue collaborative solutions.



Get Connected. Get Help.™

**211 UNITED WAY
HELP LINE**

1000+
**INQUIRIES FROM ACROSS
OUR REGION LAST YEAR**

TOP 5 CONCERNS

- Housing
- Utilities
- Mental Health
- Legal / Public Safety
- Food / Meals

DAY OF CARING AT ALEXANDRIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

300 8th GRADE
STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED

23 SERVICE
PROJECTS
COMPLETED



POVERTY SIMULATION

3
HOURS

30
VOLUNTEERS

80
PARTICIPANTS



ANNUAL EVENTS

BIG OLE PADDLE FEST - JULY 2024

Paddle Fest, July 2024 - welcomed over 60 paddlers from across the state to race through the Alexandria Chain of Lakes and down the Long Prairie River. It has turned into one of the area's signature outdoor events.

EVENT SPONSORS: Alomere Health, Arrowwood Resort, Explore Alexandria, Faction, Geneva Capital, Knute Nelson, Massman, and Sanford Health.



TRAP TOURNAMENT - SEPTEMBER 2024

The 9th Annual Regional Trap Tournament was held at Alexandria Shooting Park in September 2024, with 21 teams competing. The Depot was there to serve beverages, Brenton provided grill masters for dinner, and the event included a raffle with items donated by generous businesses.

EVENT SPONSORS: Alomere Health, American Solutions for Business, Bell Bank, Douglas Machine, Geneva Capital, Hilltop Lumber, Knute Nelson, Mark Lee Excavating, Massman Companies, Sanford Health, and Skid Pro.



CHILI COOK-OFF - OCTOBER 2024

The 25th annual United Way Chili Cook-Off in Alexandria brought together 24 teams from local businesses, organizations, and community groups. Each year features a themed competition; this year's theme was 1970's. First Western Bank won Best Booth for their Star Wars display. Teams competed for five awards, with Gardonville earning the top honor: the People's Choice Traveling Trophy.

EVENT SPONSORS: Aagard, Alomere Health, Broadway Ballroom, Cub Foods, Geneva Capital, Knute Nelson, and Massman Companies.



LIVE UNITED LUNCHEONS - NOVEMBER 2024

In November 2024, United Way hosted Live United Luncheons in Douglas and Pope Counties, bringing the community together to celebrate local impact and service. During the events, United Way introduced ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) and laid the foundation for a focused approach to supporting ALICE households across our impact areas. Attendees also helped pack 1,000 weekend meal bags for students in Pope County and 2,000 for students in Douglas County. **EVENT SPONSORS:** Sanford Health and Massman.



SIP AND SAVOR - FEBRUARY 2025

Sip and Savor, held at Arrowwood Resort in February 2025, featured samplings from 33 local businesses in the food and beverage industry. Guests enjoyed tasting a variety of offerings, networking, and live entertainment from Blonde & the Bohunk.

EVENT SPONSORS: Arrowwood, Cashwise, Echo Press, Elden's, Geneva Capital, Hilltop Lumber, JS Event Rental, Knute Nelson, Lennes Brothers, Livewire, Smokin' Brews & Ques, Vantage Bank, and Viking Bank.

WOMEN UNITED WOMEN & WINE - APRIL 2025

The April 2025, Women United's Women and Wine fundraiser brought together over 100 women at Crooked Willow in Alexandria, MN, with more than 50 pledging Women United membership to support children's literacy initiatives through United Way.

EVENT SPONSORS: 320 Dental Studio, Douglas Machine, Greenleaf Learning Studio, Integrity Title, Massman Companies, Sanford Health, Snyder Thornburg Wealth Management, Swedberg, and Thrivent Action Teams.



WOMEN UNITED CHEF'S TABLE - APRIL 2025

In April 2025, the Women United Chef's Table welcomed 100 guests to Ten Mile Lake Resort in Dalton, MN. The dinner and networking evening brought together individuals passionate about children's literacy, supporting the Otter Tail County Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



EVENT SPONSORS: KLN Family Brands, Lake Area Docks & Lifts, Never Better, Peney Cakes, Ten Mile Lake Resort, Thrivent Action Teams, and The Blackboard.



DAY OF CARING - MAY 2025

Held in partnership with Alexandria Public Schools, the 2025 May event was made possible through the generous support of our **EVENT SPONSORS:** Bethany on the Lake, CEG, Gardonville, First Lutheran Church, and Sanford Health.

GOLF CLASSIC - JUNE 2025

In June 2025, the Golf Classic at Geneva Golf Club in Alexandria welcomed 35 teams. This annual scramble featured a raffle, dinner, prizes, and valuable networking opportunities for golfers and hole sponsors throughout the day.

EVENT SPONSORS: 3M, Aagard, Alomere Health, Brenton, CEG, Christensen Group, Douglas Machine, Gardonville, Geneva Capital, Glenwood State Bank, Heartland Orthopedic, Henry's Foods, Hilltop Lumber, Integrity Title, Kennedy Guitars, Marthaler, Massman Companies, Motion Ai, Pemberton Law, Sanford Health, Vivie, and Yaskawa.



UNITED IS THE WAY WE VOLUNTEER

Throughout the year, people across our region have come together to give their time, energy, and support through local events and programs. Volunteers truly make the work of United Way possible. Their generosity and care help create real change for families in our community. We are so grateful for everyone who shared their time and heart with us this year.



There are many ways to volunteer through United Way ~ these photos highlight just a few of the meaningful opportunities to get involved!

VOLUNTEER



UNITED WAY AFFINITY GROUPS

United Way Lakes & Prairie Affinity Groups bring together volunteers and donors across the region with shared goals and unique focuses. Each group aligns with United Way's mission to fill community gaps, support fundraising, promote volunteerism, and strengthen local advocacy.

Join an Affinity Group to connect with neighbors and make a lasting impact in our community.

WOMEN UNITED

United Way Lakes and Prairie's Women United is a network of women committed to creating opportunities that support childhood literacy and youth opportunities. Through leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropy, members support literacy-based initiatives. With two local groups serving different parts of our region, Women United members are united by a shared mission to close gaps and build a stronger future for every child. Two of United Way's internal programs that are strongly supported by Women United are the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Otter Tail County and the Traveling Tree House across our region.



'You can't get enough books in the hands of enough children' - Dolly Parton



STUDENTS UNITED

Students United is a student-led United Way affinity group offered through local schools in partnership with United Way Lakes & Prairie. The program empowers youth to take action on community needs through projects that focus on giving, advocating, and volunteering. Throughout the year, students participate in activities such as reading to children, collecting coats for our Warm Winter Wear program, supporting the Holiday Gift Program, and helping with events like our annual Chili Cook-off. Students United helps young leaders build empathy, teamwork, and a lifelong commitment to community service.

RETIRE UNITED

Retire United is a newly formed affinity group of community-minded retirees who stay connected and engaged through volunteerism, advocacy, and support of United Way initiatives. In Minnesota, 39% of adults age 65 and older volunteered last year, showing the incredible impact retirees continue to make in their communities. Members of Retire United use their time, experience, and passion to help strengthen our region while building friendships and staying active. To learn more or get involved, connect with us today.



BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Below is our regional list of Business Partnerships for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. It includes partners from Live United Partners through Business 365, reflecting a range of giving levels. Many partners also contribute time, event support, and in-kind resources that are not reflected here. For questions about the fiscal year, partnership levels, or your business's listing, please contact our office. To keep information current following our merger, we maintain an online version of this report and update it as needed. Visit: www.uwlp.org

REGIONAL LIVE UNITED PARTNERS | \$10,000+



GOLD/COMMUNITY IMPACT | \$5,000 - \$9,999

DOUGLAS, POPE & TODD COUNTIES

Alexandria Covenant Church
Alexandria Public Schools
Alomere Health
American Solutions For
Business
Anonymous Donor

Bethesda Lutheran Church
CentraCare Clinic
CEG
Enterprise - CP LLC
First Western Bank & Trust

ITW Heartland
LGC
Nibbe Family Charitable Foundation
Sanford Health

OTTER TAIL & WADENA COUNTIES

First Lutheran Church Foundation
Lakes Area Docks & Lifts

New York Mills Lions Club
Ottetail Lions Club

Perham Health & Perham Living

SILVER | \$3,000 - \$4,999

DOUGLAS, POPE & TODD COUNTIES

3M
Brenton Engineering

City of Long Beach
Runestone Electric Association

Vivie

OTTER TAIL & WADENA COUNTIES

Bremer Bank

Kiwanis Club of Otter-Risers Inc.

BRONZE | \$1,500 - \$2,999

DOUGLAS, POPE & TODD COUNTIES

American National Bank
Ameriprise Financial Services LLC
Eagle Bank

Nodland Construction Co. Inc.
ORB Management
Sauk Valley Lutheran Church

US Bank
VFW Auxiliary Post 7902

OTTER TAIL & WADENA COUNTIES

Ameriprise Financial Services LLC
Border States Electric
Companion Animal Hospital

Great Plains Natural Gas Co.
Lake Region Healthcare Corp.

Sanford Health - Parkers Prairie
Service Food Market
Zion Lutheran Foundation of Amor

COMMUNITY PARTNERS | \$500 - \$1,499

DOUGLAS, POPE & TODD COUNTIES

Alex Brick & Stone
Alexandria Clinic
Alexandria Veterinary Clinic
Barsness Lutheran Church
Caterpillar Foundation
Coborns Inc.
Cummins Foundation
CyberFyfe LLC
First Presbyterian Church

Glenwood Rotary Club
Integrity Title Inc.
Joseph M. Haack, DDS
Lions Club of Carlos Minnesota
Mark Lee Excavating, Inc.
Osakis Women's Association
Rotary
Snyder Thornburg -
Wealth Management

Township of Gordon
Township of Osakis
Vantage Bank
Widseth Smith Nolting -
& Associates

OTTER TAIL & WADENA COUNTIES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church WELCA
Fergus Falls Noon Rotary
Great River Energy
Lakes Family Eyecare
Minnesota Motor Co.
Nyhus Family Sales

Otter Tail Telcom -
Park Region Telephone
Percent Impact Foundation
Perham Rotary Club
Pickett & Demuth, LTD
Quality Toyota

Rischard Marketing - Tag Up
St. William's Living Center
TNT Repair, Inc.
Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative
Victor Lundeen Co.
Wadena State Bank

SMALL BUSINESS 365 PARTNERS

DOUGLAS, POPE & TODD COUNTIES

Alex Tax & Business
Hagstrom Engineering
Juettner Motors
MECO 7

ORB Management
State Farm Insurance -
Amy Christopherson

Studio E Architects
The Edge
Thrivent - Alan Iverson -
& Lucas Kosters

Tom's Market/Food Pride
Winning Edge
Zimny Insurance

OTTER TAIL & WADENA COUNTIES

Catholic Daughters of America -
Court St. Rita #409
Edward Jones - Tim Graff
Esser Plumbing & Heating

InVision Eye Care
Lakes Family Eyecare
Nyhus Family Sales
Park Region Co-Op

PEO Chapter DU - Fergus Falls
Quality Toyota
Rohde Insurance Services
Victor Lundeen Company

EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

Workplace Campaigns are at the heart of United Way's annual giving efforts. They bring employees together to make a difference where they live and work. Through workplace campaigns, teams unite around a shared goal of supporting their community by raising funds that stay local and strengthen programs focused on supporting their community through United Way. Each organization chooses how to run their campaign, from payroll giving opportunities to friendly competitions, themed events, and creative fundraisers.

The United Way team works alongside every campaign manager to ensure they have the resources, presentations, and support needed to make their campaign successful. These campaigns not only raise vital funds for our community, they also build a stronger workplace culture, encouraging teamwork, compassion, and a shared sense of purpose in helping local families thrive.



In-Kind Giving | Goods or services donated that valued \$500+

DOUGLAS, POPE & TODD COUNTIES

Alex Rubbish and Recycling	Discovery Middle School	Geneva Golf Club	US District of MN
Bremer	Enterprise – CP LLC	Henry's Foods	Vivie
Broadway Ballroom	Elks Lodge #1685	Livewire	Marthaler Chevrolet -
Cub Foods	Faction Marine	Pike & Pint	of Glenwood
	FFA Brandon/Evansville	Smokin Brews & Ques	

OTTER TAIL & WADENA COUNTIES

Lakeland Smiles	Otter Tail Dental	Prairie's Edge Dental
Life Smiles Dental	Perham Family Dentistry	White Oak Dental

GRANTS RECEIVED BY UNITED WAY | Grants awarded that valued \$2,500+

DOUGLAS, POPE & TODD COUNTIES

Douglas Machine Foundation	Community Giving - Alexandria Community Foundation	Laura Musser Fund Osaic Foundation
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OTTER TAIL & WADENA COUNTIES

West Central Initiative

GRANTS DISTRIBUTED BY UNITED WAY LAKES AND PRAIRIE

To strengthen the depth of our mission, we support organizations through grants that address needs and fill gaps identified in our communities. Guided by our Community Investment Panels, United Way Lakes & Prairie awarded 2024–2025 grants to organizations creating meaningful local impact.

DOUGLAS AND POPE COUNTIES

HEALTHY COMMUNITY - Village Family Services | Safe Families for Children | Lutheran Social Services Outpatient Counseling and Community Based Programs

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY - Brandon Evansville Early Ed Scholarships | Alexandria Public Schools Community Education Early Education Access | Minnewaska Schools Little Lakers Preschool | WCMCA – PLUS Kids | Elder Network

FINANCIAL SECURITY - North Country Food Bank – Douglas & Pope | Legal Services | Someplace Safe - Crime Victim, Advocacy - Douglas & Pope | Parenting Time Center - Pope | Life Connections | WCMCA – Launch Pad & Phoenix Transitional Housing

OTTER TAIL AND WADENA COUNTIES

HEALTHY COMMUNITY - Lutheran Social Services Nutrition Services - Wadena | A Place to Belong | Pelican Rapids OAKS

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY - ECCE/Child Care Visitor | Bright Start Child Care Home Visits | Children's Services Association | Boys & Girls Club

FINANCIAL SECURITY - Someplace Safe: Parenting Time Center, Crime Victim - Wadena, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Trafficking - Wadena & Trafficked | North Country Food Bank – Wadena & Otter Tail | Salvation Army Feeding Program & After School Program – Fergus Falls | Lutheran Social Service Care Giver Support & Respite | Welcome House



HOW A \$100 DONATION CAN CREATE CHANGE THROUGH OUR LOCAL PROGRAMS



WEEKEND BACKPACK MEALS

Backpack Attack/Feeding Backpack

FEED 16 KIDS WITH WEEKEND BACKPACK MEALS



MONTHLY FOOD DROPS

BUYS SUPPLEMENTAL GROCERIES FOR 5 FAMILIES FOR 1 MONTH



DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

SPONSOR 3-4 KIDS / 48 DELIVERED BOOKS



STUFF THE BUS

FILLS 2 STOCKED BACKPACKS FOR STUDENTS



TRAVELING TREE HOUSE

PROGRAMMING FOR 1 CHILD FOR THE WHOLE SUMMER



HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM

\$75-\$100 SPONSORS A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS



WARM WINTER WEAR

25 PAIRS OF MITTENS

UNITED IS THE WAY™

**WE ARE BUILDING A STRONGER
COMMUNITY TOGETHER**