











ANNUAL REPORT

2023 President's Message



2023 will be a year filled with optimism and gratitude.

I'll begin with gratitude. I want to extend sincere gratitude, to past president Carolyn Glesne. She has been a true example of servant leadership throughout her 2-year term. She continues to be an active, dedicated member of our board. Additionally, I'd like to extend gratitude to our Executive Director, Summer Hammond. Summer's proactive approach has been pivotal in leading our board as well as navigating our future. Both Summer and Meghana Anderson are passionate about the work they do, which is evident in their support for our communities.

As we embark on a new year, we recognize the challenges surrounding us yet are optimistic for our future. We are excited to welcome two new members to our board of Directors. We look forward to the fresh perspective and ideas they will bring. It is our goal to continuously improve and find new ways to reach people within our communities. I challenge our dedicated board, community members, and volunteers to continue to find new ways to support our mission of improving lives in the communities we serve.

Sadie Christiansen, United Way 2023 Board President

2022 /2023 VOLUNTEER BOARD & STAFF



Top Row

President: Carolyn Glesne - Retired, Underwood President-Elect: Sadie Christiansen - Perham Health, Perham,
Past President: Jackie Hendrickson - StoneL, Fergus Falls, Treasurer: Tim Kelly - St. William's Living Center, Parkers Prairie
Secretary: Pat Sjolie, Perham Health, Perham, Shelly Becker - Lakes Family Eyecare, Perham, Kathryn Enderson - Fergus Falls
Schools, Fergus Falls, Tammy Fosse - Henning Ambulance, Henning, and Ryan Jacobson - RDO, Fergus Falls

Second Row

Carey Johnson - Parkers Prairie High School, Parkers Prairie, Gary Sellman - Retired, Katie Polman - Wadena-Deer Creek Schools, Wadena, Medley Shamp - Astera Health, Wadena, Andrew Sorum - Minnesota National Bank, Pelican Rapids, JoAnn Thompson - Otter Tail Power Company, Fergus Falls, Stephanie Trout - Astera Health, Wadena, Sue Tysdal - Luminate Home Loans, Otter Tail County, and Casey Ward - Good Samaritan Society, Battle Lake

Third Row

Mike Olson, Otter Tail Power, Fergus Falls, Cory Thompson, FM Bank, Fergus Falls, **Summer Hammond**, Executive Director, and **Meghana Anderson**, Executive Asst. & Internal Program Coordinator

EDUCATION

Helping children and youth achieve their potential by supporting their learning, development and sense of belonging to raise responsible and contributing adults.



Salvation Army, After School Program United Way provides scholarships for 10 Children.

Story

Recently, we enrolled a new child. He has been struggling with some mild behavioral concerns at school, and his mom was working hard to find resources to address them. On his first day at After-School Program, he realized one of his school classmates also attends. The conversation was as follows: New child: "Hey! Why are you at MY Salvation Army?!" Current child: "Yours? It's my Salvation Army!" New child: "No, I come here with my mom for her meetings (POH) and to have lunch (Lunch in the Son Program) Current child: "Well I come here for church, game night, and after-school club! I guess it's both our Salvation Army!"

Captain Elysia Nordan said that for her, this exemplified what they are trying to do. We want all the kids to know this is THEIR Salvation Army.



Comprehensive Youth Development, OTC







Fergus Falls ECFE, OTC Child Care Visitor Program, OTC



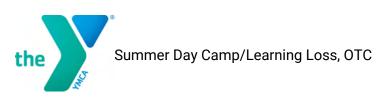
Girl Scouts Dakota Horizon, Leadership Experience, OTC Girl Scouts Lakes & Pines, Leadership Pathways, Wadena

Pelican Rapids ECFE

Bright Start Home Visits, OTC



Parenting Time, OTC



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Promoting financial stability & independence to ensure that basic needs of food, housing, clothing & safety are met.



StoryMahube-Otwa was working with two different individuals while they stayed in one of their master lease apartments to find permanent housing. Both individuals were found sleeping outside. With the help of the United Way's grant, both individuals have been approved for income-based housing.



Family Development Crisis Intervention Housing Program, OTC Housing Program, Wadena County





Family Development Program, OTC





Otter Tail & Wadena Counties



Domestic Violence Advocacy, OTC Sexual Violence Advocacy, OTC Human Trafficking, OTC Crime Victim Services, Wadena County Human Trafficking, Wadena County



Transitional Home for Women, OTC

HEALTH

Improving people's health status through higher levels of positive health and lower levels of disease for overall improved quality of life.



"I was isolated and depressed. Then someone told me about A Place to Belong. I was so nervous because there is such a stigma about mental illness, but I decided to stop by and check it out. I felt right at home as soon as I walked through the door. I always thought I had to handle everything on my own, and life would get overwhelming for me. At A Place to Belong there is always someone to talk to. I have made dear friends. We support each other in our struggles and celebrate each other in our triumphs. It is more than friendships. It's a family."

A Place To Belong (AP2B)

United Way helps AP2B continue their work in the community to help those who have been diagnosed with serious mental health illness.

Children's Services Association Support for medical expenses, OTC



Caregiver Services, OTC Meals on Wheels, Wadena County

PARTNERS

Foot Care Services, OTC





LEADERSHIP GIVING

Giving to United Way is powerful. It's a true investment in our local communities. When you give, you are helping us drive real, measurable change in the neighborhoods where we live, work and play. Our combined efforts help hundreds in need while investing in organizations that are achieving the best results. That's how change happens. Donors listed below as of 12/31/2022

We are deeply grateful to those who chose United Way as their philanthropic partner.

Tocqueville Society (\$10,000)

Rostad, Constance

Platinum Level (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anderson, Janet Hanley, Yvonne 🛖 MacFarlane, Chuck & Linda 👗 📥 Thronsedt, David & Sara

Gold Level (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Endris, Robert Endrizzi, Jeffrey Erickson, John & Kimberly 🖈 Inga Johnson Endowment Fund 🌢 🖈 Klimek, Loren & Laura Krogh, Lee & Margaret 🛖 MacFarlane, John 🏅 🖈 💙 Rogelstad, Tim & Penny 🛖 Sellman, Gary & Gabriele Thompson, Lyndon Thorsen, Dean & Lori 🛖 Van Valkenburg, Michael & Janeen 👗 🛖 Wasberg, Peter Wasson, Rud & Timmy 🗼

Silver Level (\$1,000 - 2,499)

Ackerson, Jeff & Gina Beckman, Paul & Dianne, Bigwood, Robert & Gretchen Block, VJ 🚖 Boehland, Sue Buerkle, Ed & Pat 🛊 Christopherson, James 🖈 Doran, Dennis & Karen Eggebraaten, Tim Gray, Doug & Maranda 🖈 Johnson, David & Darlene 🖈 Kempfer, Randy & Tara Kennedy, Rev. Richard & Mary 🛖 Kjellerup, Douglas 🚖 Malchert, Brian & Nancy Miranowski, Duaine & Sandra Money, Bruce & Sherri 🛊 Muehlhausen. Garnet 🛊

Nelson, Kenneth & Kim

Pastir, Wayne & Connie 🛊

Ohe, Donna 🖈

Silver Level (\$1,000 - 2,499)

Pettit, William & Mary 🛊 Pribbernow, Dick & Carol 🛊 Schoeneck, Steve & Shelley Senyk, Wally & Nancy 🚖 Thompson, Ron & JoAnn Thorson, Diane & Douglas 🛖 Verhelst, Tom 🛊 Wasson, Robert & Karen 🖈 Welle, Bob & Gail

Friend Level (\$500 - \$999)

Achter, Beth & Jack 🖈 Andrews, Steve & Menghui 🖈 Arends, Greg Atchison, Steve & Lois Auwarter, Beth Barnes-Brown, Keshia Beck, Joyce 🛊 Becker, Rochelle Brimhall, Steve & Carol Brimhall, Tom & Robin 🛊 Bring, Mark Carlsrud, Deborah & Warren Ketterling Christiansen, Sadie Craig, Michael & Marian Dahlseid, Neil & Cindy Demuth, Aaron Denzel, Rick & Bonnie Dietman, Doug & Deb

Ditch, David & Sharon Ditch, Daniel & Emily Drake, Jeff Emmen, Audrey 🛊 Enderson, Kathryn Glesne, Don & Carolyn Hansen, Nicole & Randy Happel, Dennis & Joan Haukebo, Tim 🛊 Heggem, Josh & Shauna Helland, Mark & Catherine

Hendrickson, Jackie & Lanny Iverson, Jill & Jim Jacobson, Everett & Kathryn 🛖 Johnson, Janelle

Friend Level (\$500 - \$999)

Johnson, Mark & Katie Korby, Sheila Loll, Larry & Claudia Lundeen, Buzz & Ann 🛊 McFarland, Lisa McGovern, Todd & Stacy 🖈 Monke, Dean & Beth Morris, Dustin Nelson, Gerald & Barb 🖈 Neubauer, Marni Oehler, Cris & Mike 🔷 🛖 Olson, Guy & Pam Olson, John & Donna 📥 Olson, Robbie Phillipe, David & Mary Portmann, Dick & Virginia 🛊 Rasmusson, Marlowe Riewer, Michael & Christy Rogness, Leland & Lavonne 🛊 Rotto, Curt & Ann Rufer, Steve & Sandra Saetre, Homer & Esther Samson, Scott Sjostrom, Deborah Stommes, Wally & Dianne 🛖 Strand, Chelsea & Steve 🖈 Tommerdahl, Stuart & Kay 🛖 Uggerud, Debra 🛊 Votava, Rodney & Erin Wahlund, Todd & Stacy Wolfe, Lisa Zosel, Jason & Leah

In-Kind Donation

Buchholz, Nancy Hagen, E & H Manteufel, Brady 🛡 Marvel, Chris & Diane McRoberts, Dave ♥ Nelson, Scott & Debra • Olson, Keith Wallgren, Kari Western, Gregg & Pam •



10% Mental Health
5% Food
11% Utilities
74% Housing

Top five agency referrals in Otter Tail & Wadena Counties

- Salvation Army
- Otter Tail County Human Services
- · Mahube-Otwa
- Wadena County Human Services

200% below poverty 30.90%

What is 2-1-1? United Way 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember, three-digit number that families and individuals in Minnesota can call to obtain FREE and confidential information on health and human services. 2-1-1 call centers are staffed 24/7 by trained Community Resource Specialists who quickly assess needs and refer callers to the help that they seek.



2023 Raised \$70,000

\$70,500 Distributed in 2022

All donations raised go toward eight food shelves and Weekend Feeding Backpack program throughout Otter Tail County and the City of Wadena.

Feeding Backpack Program

\$16,000 Fergus Falls \$1,000 Henning \$5,000 New York Mills \$4,500 Pelican Rapids \$17,000 Perham \$2,000 Underwood \$3,000 Wadena

Food Shelves

\$2,500 Battle Lake \$2,500 Henning \$2,500 Parkers Prairie \$2,500 Pelican Rapids \$2,500 Perham \$2,500 New York Mills \$2,500 Wadena \$4,500 M-State Fergus Falls













2022 AWARDS



The Shining Star award is presented to one local business that has gone above and beyond to support the community and worked to improve lives locally.

RISING STARS

BREMER BANK

Fergus Falls & Perham



The Rising Star award(s) are given to businesses that go above and beyond with their campaign, volunteerism, or another ongoing commitment to United Way.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



The Volunteer award(s) are given to individual(s) that go above and beyond with their ongoing commitment to United Way.

COMMUNITY HEROES

Battle Lake, Fergus Falls, New York Mills, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Underwood, and Wadena







WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

TOP FIVE CORPORATE GIFTS TOP FIVE EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGNS \$52,508 \$41,880





















Tocqueville Society (\$10,000)

Otter Tail Power Company Service Food Market ★ Vector Windows

Platinum Level (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

First Lutheran Church Foundation Lake Area Docks & Lifts Tri-County Health Care (Astera Health)

Gold Level (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union Central Market (Perham) Otter Tail Corporation ♣★ Pelican Rapids Public Schools Perham Health & Perham Living

Silver Level (\$1,000 - 2,499)

Bremer Bank (Fergus Falls) ★
Bremer Bank (Perham) ★
Frontier Powersports, LLC
Great Plains Natural Gas Co. ★
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
Kiwanis Club of Otter-Risers, Inc.
Mid-Central National Bank
New York Mills Lions Club
Quality Toyota ★
Sanford Health
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Valmet ★ ♥
Victor Lundeen Co. ★

Leadership Level (\$500 - \$999)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
BHH Partners Planners Arch
Brew, LLC
Edward Jones - Tim Graff
Fergus Falls Noon Rotary ♥
Hammers Construction Inc.
InVison Eye Care ★
Lake Region Healthcare Corporation
Leighton Broadcasting ★♥
Maplewood Lutheran Church
Minnesota Motor Co.
★
M-R Sign Company, Inc. ★
Northern Lakes Dental & Implant Center

Leadership Level (\$500 - \$999)

Nyhus Family Sales
Olson Funeral Home
Pelican Drug ★
Perham Family Dentistry
Perks Coffee and Tea, LLC
Pickett & Demuth, LTD ★
Precision Landscape & Irrigation
TNT Repair, Inc.
United Community Bank
Weicher Real Estate - Paulson Land Company



BUSINESS CAMPAIGNS

Businesses or organizations who held Employee Giving Campaigns. Please note not all workplace 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.

715 Hot Heads

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic

All Seasons Heating & Air Conditioning '

Allen Haugrud, Attorney at Law

American Federal Bank

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Area Travel Service of Perham, Inc.

Attitudes for Hair

Azure Vision Care, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Wadena

B & D Foods, Inc. Bakken Insurance Bank of the West **Battle Lake Review** Bay Window Quilt Shop Beyer Body Shop, Inc. Beyond the Mitred Corners Big John's Pelican Pizza LLC Bjorn's Heating & Air Conditioning Boys and Girls Club of the Perham Area

Brown Eyed Susan's

Brunswick New York Mills Operation

BW Integrated Systems

CarlsonSV

Centennial Realty

Christianson Bus Service

City of Battle Lake City of Pelican Rapids

CJB Law, PLLC

Coldwell Banker Preferred Partners

College Way Auto

Companion Animal Hospital Cooper's Office Supply

Cora's Closet

Country Villa Insurance

Crane-Johnson Lumber Company

Culligan Water Service

Dennis W. Happel Attorney at Law

Design Intent Architects

Dicks Standard Service - Gappa Oil Company, Inc.

Don Pablo's Mexican Restaurant LLP

Dorn & Company

Dr. Rachel Grieger, DDS

Ebner Insurance

Edward Jones - Cory Oehlke Edward Jones - Phil Gilbert

Edward Jones Investments - MacKenzie Barry

Effington Township

Erickson Insurance Agency

Everts Lumber Co

Farmers & Merchants State Bank - NYM Farmer's Daughter Rustic Bakery, LLC

Farmers Elevator, Co.

Farmers Union Insurance - Grant Davenport Agency

Farmers Union Insurance - Preuss Agency

Fergus Falls Chiropractic

Fergus Falls Monument Company Fergus Falls Optometric Center Fergus Falls Public Schools #544 Fergus Falls School of Dance Fergus Falls Spine & Injury Center

Fergus Tire Center

First National Bank - Battle Lake, Henning, Ottertail

FM Bank

Fortwengler Electric, Inc. Gibbs #10 Sales Gerald N. Evenson, Inc. Glende-Nilson Funeral Home Gottenborg Chiropractic Clinic **Grace United Methodist Church** **Grinnell Mutual Group Foundation**

Hockert's Inc. INVISION Jaeger Furniture

Jefferson Hearing Aid Center

John's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

K.L.N. Family Brands

Karkela, Hunt & Cheshire, PLLP Karvonen & Son Funeral Home Inc. Karvonen's Furniture/Refreshing Design Keller Williams Realty Professionals

Klein Insurance Agency, New York Mills, Wadena

Lake Cabin Meat and Deli Co. Lake Country Graphics Inc. Lakeland Auto Repair, LLC Lakeland Mental Health Center Lakes Country Insurance Agency Lakes Country Service Cooperative

Lakes Family Eyecare Lakes Hardware, Inc.

Lakes Vintage & The Warehouse

Larry's Foods Larry's Supermarket Leaf River Ag Service

Lind Family Funeral & Cremation Services Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Mark's Fleet Supply, Inc. Mauk Jewelers, Inc. Mercantile on Main Merickel Lumber Mills, Inc.

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union

Midwest Bank

Midwest Insurance Agency Mills Country Market

Mills Lanes & Lucky Strikes Grill Minn-Dak Transport Inc. Minnesota National Bank

N.F. Field Abstract Company, LLC

Nadine's

Nature's Garden World **Nettestad Insurance** New Horizons Realty

New York Mills Public School #553

North Pines Market Northern Aire Lanes Northside Floral Nygaard Advisors

Oak Hill Ag Custom Services, LLC Otter Tail County Employees

Otter Tail Dental

Otter Tail Telcom/Park Region Telephone Ottertail Minn-Dakota Coaches, Inc. Overland Insurance Agency, Inc.

Park Region Co-Op

Parkers Prairie Public Schools #547

Pederson & Pederson, P.A. Pelican Dental Clinic Pemberton Law Firm

Perham-Dent Public Schools #549 Pine Shelter Veterinary Hospital

Pizza Ranch - Perham Polman Transfer, Inc. **Prairie Archery** Prairie Fitness

Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative Rapids Brake & Alignment, LLC

Ray's Sport & Marine RDO of Fergus Falls

Re-Use It Thrift Store Revive Salon Spa Richter's Men's Wear

Riverview Place/Pelican Paddle Company

Rohde Insurance Services Rotary Club of Pelican Rapids

Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Services

Schornack Rentals

Schuller Funeral Service, Inc.

Scot's Machine Shop

Security Insurance and Investments Sherwin-Williams Co.

Shoreline Restaurant & Lanes

Smith & Sem, Ltd.

Smith Furniture & Carpet, Inc.

Someplace Safe South Mill Service Southtown of Pelican Rapids

St. William's Living Center State Farm - Jake Bothwell State Farm - Janet Swenson State Farm - Johannes Agency State Farm - Shawn Frank State of Minnesota Svaren Financial Services Sverdrup Women of the ELCA

Swenson, Saurer, Gerber, Anderson Taco Johns Taqueria Escobar

Target

Terry Tumberg, EA

Thalmann Insurance Agency, Inc. The Flower Mill Unique Floral The Funky Farmhouse

The Muddy Moose

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans - Wadena Thrivent Financial for Lutherans - Nathan

Woodard

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

Townsend Concessions Underwood Public Schools #550 United Methodist Women - Perham

UPS- Fergus Falls UPS - Wadena US Bank/U.S. Bancorp Vaughn Auto & Marine Co. Vistad Chiropractic Clinic Wadena Family Dental Wadena HRA

Wadena State Bank

Wadena-Deer Creek Public Schools #2155

Warner Garage Door

Wells Fargo - Fergus Falls & Pelican Rapids

West Central Abstracting West Central Initiative Westside Sports Woodland Dental, Inc.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Aastad Lutheran Church Arvig Enterprise, Inc. Dairyland Drive-In Interiors By Winkels Midwest Printing

Pan-O-Gold Baking Company St. James Episcopal Church Stavanger Lutheran Church

Internal Initiatives

United Way's initiatives focus specifically on important issues such as strengthening families, providing financial stability, and community health.



Coats for Kids is a program where we collect clean gently used or new winter outerwear for children and adults that are in need. United Way accepts clean gently used or new coats year round.

Special **Thank You** to Carmen & Allen Arvig for donating a significant amount of new winter coats for the Coats for Kids program in 2022.



Stuff the Bus is a program where school backpacks and supplies are filled for children of families in need throughout Otter Tail County.

Over 900 backpacks were filled for students in need during the 2022/2023 school year.

Special **Thank You** to all the businesses throughout Otter Tail County that host our blue collection bins.



Weekend Feeding Backpack Program services over 800 children throughout Otter Tail County and the City of Wadena, which equals 25,600 food bags a year. United Way operates the Feeding Backpack program for the Fergus Falls area. We're serving on average **5,400** meals annually.

United Way serves as the fiscal host for Fergus Falls, Henning, and New York Mills Feeding Backpack program.

Volunteers are crucial to this program as they weekly fill and deliver food bags to the schools. **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!**



Tooth Fairy program partners with local dental offices to educate students on the importance of oral health. Each classroom visited by the Tooth Fairy receives a dental kit filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, and education sheet courtesy of United Way.

Children receiving a Stuff the Bus backpack in the fall also receive a dental kit to start the school year off right.

Special **Thank You** to Lakeland Smiles, Pelican Rapids and Woodland Dental, Wadena.

Funding is provided by Early Childhood Dental Network



Women Un Around the educating a share their with their lopromote ear UNITED

Women United strive to improve the lives of all children in Otter Tail & Wadena Counties. Around the country, United Ways are mobilizing women and providing them a greater voice; educating and encouraging them to effect change in their communities; creating venues to share their concerns and visions; and strengthening their relationships with each other and with their local United Way. These women leaders invest their time, talent, and resources to promote early childhood literacy.

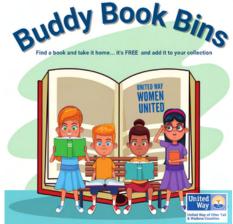
Their primary focus is Buddy Book Bins, Imagination Library, and Prescription for Reading programs.

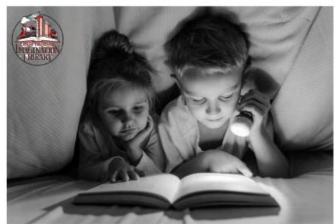
Imagination Library

This was created by Dolly Parton in 1996 to foster the relationship between children and reading. This **FREE** monthly book program helps foster the love of reading in children and their families.

United Way pays for the cost of postage to all 650 children throughout Otter Tail & Wadena Counties. This cost equals \$30 a year for each child.







Imagination Library Title Sponsor







Prescription for Reading

When a child goes in for their yearly physical between the age of birth and five they will have a "**Prescription**" for Reading filled. Children will receive an age-appropriate book to take home to continue building on the love of reading.

1,200 books were distributed throughout Otter Tail and Wadena Counties at Astera Health (formerly Tri-County Health Care), Lake Region Healthcare, and Perham Health locations.









120 East Washington Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 218-736-5147

Web: uwotw.org

