



United Way of Otter Tail & Wadena Counties

2023/2024 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION, VISION, and Priorities

MISSION

To improve lives in Otter
Tail & Wadena Counties by
mobilizing the caring
powers in our
communities.

VISION

We LIVE UNITED, inspiring people to make lasting differences in the lives of all

Priorities



EDUCATION

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



FINANICAL STABILITY

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



HEALTH

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

A Letter from our Board President



Greetings,

As we reflect upon 2023, we have so many things to be thankful for, including our generous donors, active volunteers, our board, and our team.

In 2024 we will experience some change as our Executive Director, Summer Hammond leaves United Way and embarks on a new adventure. Summer has been pivotal in leading our board, creating positive change, and positioning us well to navigate our future. Summer will be dearly missed.

We also say goodbye and thank you to Carolyn Glesne, for the many years she's served Otter Tail and Wadena counties. Her dedication to the communities has been unmeasurable.

Finally, we look towards a new year, with hope, optimism, and commitment from our board. Our dedication continues to work to 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.

Medley

2023 - 24 Team Members & Board of Directors



Summer Hammond (Executive Director) Meghana Anderson (Executive Assistant)



First Row: President: Sadie Christiansen (Perham), President-Elect: Medley Shamp (Wadena), Treasurer: Andrew Sorum (Pelican Rapids), Secretary: Shelly Becker (Perham), Past President: Carolyn Glesne (Underwood) **Second Row:** Ryan Jacobson (Fergus Falls), Sue Tysdal (Battle Lake), Stephanie Trout (Perham), Kathryn Enderson (Fergus Falls), Tammy Fosse (Henning) **Third Row:** Katie Polman (Wadena), Carey Johnson (Parkers Prairie), Cory Thompson (Fergus Falls), and Mike Olson (Underwood)

Accreditation



Gold Transparency **2023 Candid.**

VOLUNTEERING

HELPER HELPER

Helper Helper is our website that hosts Otter Tail & Wadena County volunteer opportunities from United Way. You can create a profile, choose your favorite organizations and receive email updates when new opportunities are available. To get started visit https://app.helperhelper.com





Why do you volunteer

Ben – "Because I like helping people, It's fun". Jerry – "It makes me feel good to put the food in the bags".

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

- "I haven't eaten anything since yesterday, I really need your help."
- "I don't have any family here, I don't know who to call or what to do."
- "I need help to pay rent this month because I lost my job."

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.



Get Connected. Get Help.™

HEALTH

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

"We have a participant who became familiar with the OAKS program when given a ride to a medical appointment. This participant suffers from depression and anxiety and needs knee surgery. We coordinated their appointments for the surgery and provided transportation to the surgery. The day before the surgery the participant wanted to cancel the surgery. We informed them we would be with them until they were rolled down the hallway for the surgery. Afterward, we coordinated their care and provided grocery shopping and home visits. It went so well that the participant scheduled the second surgery on the other knee. We continue to work with this participant and because of the support and services we provided; this participant can remain in their home."









Meals & Meals on Wheels Caregiver Respite Program









UWOTW SINGLECARE: Prescription discount cards for individuals who have no or limited insurance or medications not covered by their current insurance. - \$0

FINANCIAL STABILITY

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

We express profound gratitude for the invaluable assistance provided by Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota. Their impactful work extends to those struggling with housing insecurity. Witness the impact of your contributions as we share a poignant testimonial.

A dedicated Legal Services attorney recently represented a client in a challenging eviction case. The client, a single mother of five young children, had secured a new place to live but required additional time for the transition. Faced with the prospect of homelessness and the associated disruptions and traumas for her children, she approached the situation with understandable trepidation. The attorney worked diligently to negotiate an agreement that granted the family the necessary time to move, thereby averting homelessness for her and her kids. Furthermore, the eviction case was ultimately dismissed, leaving her with a clean record for future rental endeavors.







Family Development Program, OTC



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





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

EDUCATION

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

"We had two kids this summer who had never had the opportunity to swim or learn how to swim. This summer was the first time the two kids went swimming. They were super scared with their life jackets on, but after a week or two of the staff working with them and them getting comfortable in the water, they were able to take their life jackets off in the shallow end and absolutely loved the water. Seeing them grow their confidence in themselves and their abilities was so great to see."





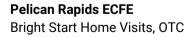
















Summer Day Camp/Learning Loss. OTC

INTERNAL INITIATIVES



STUFF THE BUS: Programs provide K-12 students with new school supplies and backpack through community collection and support.

The estimated cost per backpack is \$30. This free program gave out 900 backpacks in Otter Tail County.

Raised \$16,503 + In-kind donations









INTERNAL INITIATIVES CONTINUED



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 2023.

Day of Caring

Day of Caring partners with local school districts throughout the county to help those in their community clean up their yards.





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 an 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.

900

dental kits dispersed



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 provided \$2,500 + to United Way or a United Way Program

In Kind Giving

Mahube-Otwa Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Heartland Tire

All Around Divas Boutique

Perham Family Dentistry

Life Smiles Dental

Prairie's Edge Dental

Otter Tail Dental

Aastad Lutheran Church

American Family Insurance - Annabelle & Associates, Inc.

Evelyn Horng

St. James Episcopal Church

Perham Health

Lakes Community Cooperative

Premier Meats & Seafood

Nancy Buchholz

Chris & Diane Marvel

Valmet

Sheryl Olson

Bremer Bank

Grants

Blandin Foundation

Otto Bremer Trust

Masonic Charities

Round Up

RDO

Early Childhood Dental Network

West Central Initiative

- Inga Johnson
- Deloris Barnack Kenner
- Floyd & Harriet Miller



Imagination Library Sponsors







Affinity Groups

WOMEN UNITED WAY

Women United strives 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 affect 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.

In 2023 Women United was able to raise dollars through events, grants, and fundraising \$25,031 to support Imagination Library, Prescription for Reading, and Buddy Book Bins. Consider becoming a member of this powerful, dedicated group of women! Interested? Join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 a.m. at the United Way office in Fergus Falls.











\$1,077,226 +

Who are Friends of Friends? A group of concerned Otter Tail County neighbors helping local food shelves providing for those in need. Over the years the group expanded into helping fund the Weekend Feeding Backpack Programs. All donations raised go toward eight food shelves and the Weekend Feeding Backpack Program throughout Otter Tail County and the City of Wadena.

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 12/31/2023*

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

Tocqueville Society (\$10,000)

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

Yvonne Hanley

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

Robert & Gretchen Bigwood

Robert Endris

Jeffrey Endrizzi

John & Kimberly Erickson

Laura & Loren Klimek

Chuck & Pat Krekelberg

Lee & Margaret Krogh

John MacFarlane

Tim & Penny Rogelstad

Gary & Gabriele Sellman

Lyndon Thompson

Michael & Janeen Van Valkenburg

Todd & Stacy Wahlund

Peter Wasberg

Rud & Timmy Wasson

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

Jeff & Gina Ackerson

Keshia Barnes-Brown

Paul & Dianne Beckman

VJ Block

Sue Boehland

Mark Bring

Ed & Pat Buerkle

James Christopherson

Tim Eggebraaten

Audrey Emmen

Don & Carolyn Glesne

Doug & Maranda Gray

David & Darlene Johnson

Randy & Tara Kempfer

Rev. Richard & Mary Kennedy

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

Douglas Kjellerup

Brian Malchert

Bruce & Sherri Money

Garnet Muehlhausen

Kenneth & Kim Nelson

Donna Ohe

Wayne & Connie Pastir

William & Mary Pettit

Dick & Carol Pribbernow

Rev. Curt & Ann Rotto

Steve & Shelley Schoeneck

Wally & Nancy Senyk

Ron & JoAnn Thompson

Dean & Lori Thorsen

Douglas & Diane Thorson

Robert & Karen Wasson

Bob & Gail Welle

Karen Zell-Verhelst

Friend Level (\$500 - \$999)

Beth & Jack Achter

Steve & Menghui Andrews

Steve & Lois Atchison

Beth Auwarter

Joyce Beck

Steve & Carol Brimhall

Michael Brown

Sadie Christiansen

Michael & Marian Craig

Aaron Demuth

Rick & Bonnie Denzel

David & Sharon Ditch

Dr. Daniel & Dr. Emily Ditch

Tim & Kathryn Enderson

Clifford & Christine Fegert

Bridget Grenier

Nicole Hansen

Dennis & Joan Happel

Friend Level (\$500 - \$999)

Josh & Shauna Heggem

Mark & Catherine Helland

Jill & Jim Iverson

Tanya Kelm

Kristopher Koch

Sheila Korby-Johnson

Hannah Lauinger

Larry & Claudia Loll

Buzz & Ann Lundeen

Lisa McFarland

Todd & Stacy McGovern

Dean & Beth Monke

Dustin Morris

Marni Neubauer

Cris & Mike Oehler

John & Donna Olson

Joshua Parker

Jack & Sandra Pearson

Mary & David Phillipe

Dick & Virginia Portmann

Michael & Christy Riewer

Matthew Robinson

Leland & Lavonne

Rogness

Steve & Sandra Rufer

Homer & Esther Saetre

Scott Samson

Linda Sander

Rod & Jo Scheel

Bradley Schenck

Jenn Schmidt

Beverly Schoon

Vicki Severson

Deborah Sjostrom

Susan Sorensen

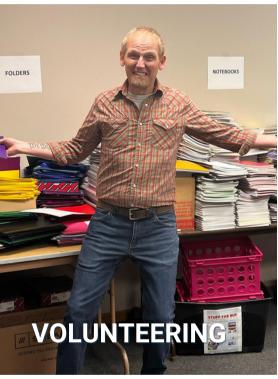
William Swanson

Stuart & Kay Tommerdahl

Becky Wontor











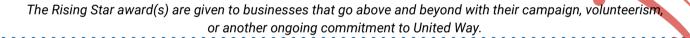


The Shining Star award is presented to one local business that has gone above and beyond to support the community and worked to improve lives locally.

RISING STAR



SANF#RD



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

BRUNSWICK New York Mills Operation









Small Business 365 Circle

We are proud of our new initiative to make philanthropy more accessible and more rewarding for the business community in

Otter Tail & Wadena Counties — United 365 Small Business Circle (SBC). Aside from creating long-lasting changes in the education, health, and financial stability of our community, supporting United 365 Small Business Circle gives your business added value, benefits, and recognition as a charitable partner and good corporate citizen.

We are so excited to share with everyone our SBC 365 members!

MEMBER

Allen Haugrud, Attorney at Law American Federal Bank Arntson Construction, LLC **BHH Planners Arch** Centennial Realty Edward Jones - Tim Graff Esser Plumbing & Heating Farmers Union Insurance - Preuss Agency Frontier Powersports **Hammers Construction** Lakes Family Eyecare Leighton Broadcasting Mark's Fleet Supply, Inc. Minnesota Motor Company Northern Lakes Dental & Implant Center Nyhus Family Sales Park Region Co-Op Pelican Drug Perham Family Dentistry Pickett & Demuth LTD

Precision Landscape & Irrigation

Rohde Insurance Services St. William's Living Center

The Williams Company Store

United Community Bank

Super Septic, Inc.

TNT Repair, Inc.

PARTNER

Companion Animal Hospital
Lakes Area Pediatric Dentistry
Quality Toyota
Tag Up - Rischard Marketing
Victor Lundeen Company
Weichert Realtors - Paulson Land Company

LEADER



WORKPLACE 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.

TOP TEN EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGNS RAISED \$70,230











Fergus Falls Public Schools #544 | Leighton Broadcasting | InVision Eye Care | Farmers & Merchants State Bank | Central Market, Perham

TOP TEN CORPORATE CAMPAIGNS RAISED \$86,782











Perham Health | Service Food Market | Astera Health | FM Bank | Tag Up

Tocqueville Society (\$10,000)

K.L.N. Family Brands Otter Tail Power Company RDO of Fergus Falls **Vector Windows**

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

First Lutheran Church Foundation Lake Area Docks & Lifts Perham Health & Perham Living Service Food Market

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

Astera Health FM Bank

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

Bell Bank - Fargo Bethlehem Lutheran Church WELCA **Bremer Bank** Great Plains Natural Gas Co. Lake Region Healthcare Corp. Lakes Area Pediatric Dentistry **Quality Toyota**

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

Rischard Marketing - Tag Up Valmet Victor Lundeen Co.

Friend Level (\$500 - \$999)

Allen Haugrud, Attorney at Law American Federal Bank BHH Partners Planners Arch Companion Animal Hospital Edward Jones - Tim Graff **Esser Plumbing & Heating** Frontier Powersports, LLC Hammers Construction Inc Kiwanis Club of Otter-Risers Inc. Lakes Family Eyecare Leighton Broadcasting Mark's Fleet Supply, Inc.

Minnesota Motor Co.

Nyhus Family Sales

Pelican Drug

Northern Lakes Dental Center

Friend Level (\$500 - \$999)

Perham Family Dentistry Pickett & Demuth, LTD Precision Landscape & Irrigation Super Septic, Inc. of Pelican Rapids The Williams Company Store TNT Repair, Inc. **United Community Bank** Weichert Realtors- 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.

Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union All Creatures Veterinary Clinic Allen Haugrud, Attorney at Law All Seasons Heating & Air Conditioning

American Federal Bank

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

Arntson Construction, LLC Arvig Enterprises, Inc. Astera Health Attitudes for Hair **Azure Vision Care** B & D Foods, Inc. Bakken Insurance

Battle Lake Public School #542

Battle Lake Review Bay Window Quilt Shop Bell Bank - Fargo

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church WELCA

Beyer Body Shop, Inc **BHH Partners Planners Arch** Big John's Pelican Pizza LLC

Boys and Girls Club of the Perham Area

Bremer Bank Brown Eyed Susan's **BW Integrated Systems** Brogard Plumbing, Inc.

CarlsonSV Centennial Realty Central Market - Perham

Chamber of Commerce - Fergus Falls

Christianson Bus Service

City of Perham CJB Law, PLLC

Coldwell Banker Preferred Partners - Pelican Rapids

Companion Animal Hospital Country Villa Insurance

Dairy Queen

Davenport Insurance

Dennis W. Happel - Attorney at Law

Design Intent Architects Dorn & Company Gappa Oil Company, Inc. Eddie's Insulating Service

Edward Jones Charitable Gift Fund

Edward Jones Investments: MacKenzie Barry

Edward Jones - Tim Graff Effington Township Erickson Insurance Agency Esser Plumbing & Heating **Everts Lumber Co**

Farmers & Merchants State Bank - NYM Farmers Union Insurance - Preuss Agency

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 Lutheran Church Foundation First National Bank of Henning

FM Bank

Fortwengler Electric, Inc. Frontier Powersports, LLC

Gate City Bank

Gibbs #10 Sales

Glende-Nilson Funeral Homes Gottenborg Chiropractic Clinic Grace United Methodist Church Great Plains Natural Gas Co. **Grinnell Mutual Group Foundation** Guardian Crop Insurance

Hammers Construction Inc Harmony Studios

Hillbilly Laser Hockert's Inc. InVision Eye Care Jaeger Furniture

J K Sports & Outdoors, LLC

Joe Foltz Construction, Inc. & River's Edge Cabinetry

John's Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.

K.L.N. Family Brands

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

Klein Insurance Agency

Klein Insurance Agency, Inc. - Wadena

Kiwanis Club of Otter-Risers Inc.

Lake Area Docks & Lifts Lakeland Auto Repair, LLC Lake Region Healthcare Corp. Lakes Area Pediatric Dentistry Lakes Community Cooperative Lakes Country Insurance Agency Lakes Country Service Cooperative

Lakes Family Eyecare Lakes Hardware, Inc. Perham

Larry's Supermarket Leaf River Ag Service Leighton Broadcasting Life Smiles Dental

Lind Family Funeral & Cremation Services

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

Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union - Fergus Falls

Midwest Bank

Midwest Insurance Agency Mills Country Market

Minn-Dak Transport Inc. & Gerald N. Evenson, Inc.

Minnesota Motor Co. Minnesota National Bank N.F. Field Abstract Company, LLC

Nature's Garden World Nettestad Insurance

New Horizons Realty Co. of Perham New York Mills Public School #553

Northern Aire Lanes

Northern Lakes Dental Center

Northside Floral Nyhus Family Sales

Oak Hill Ag Custom Services, LLC

Otter Tail County

Ottertail Minn-Dakota Coaches, Inc.

Otter Tail Power Company

Otter Tail Telcom/Park Region Telephone

Overland Insurance Agency, Inc. Parkers Prairie Public School #547

Pampered Chef Park Region Co-Op Pelican Dental Clinic Pelican Drug

Pelican Rapids Press

Pelican Rapids Public Schools #548

Pemberton Law Firm

Perham-Dent Public Schools #549

Perham Family Dentistry Perham Health & Perham Living

Pickett & Demuth, LTD Polman Transfer, Inc.

Precision Landscape & Irrigation Premier Specialty Vehicles **Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative**

Quality Toyota

Quick's NAPA Auto Parts RDO of Fergus Falls Re-Use-It Thrift Store Revive Salon Spa Richter's Men's Wear Rischard Marketing - Tag Up Riverside Fergus Falls Lions Club

Riverview Place / Pelican Paddle Company, LLC

Rohde Insurance Services Rotary Club of Pelican Rapids

Sanford Health

Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Service

Schuller Funeral Service, Inc. Scot's Machine Shop Service Food Market Sherwin-Williams Co.

Shoreline Restaurant Bar and Grill

Smith & Sem, Ltd.

Smith Furniture & Carpet, Inc. Southtown of Pelican Rapids St. William's Living Center

State Farm Insurance - Jake Bothwell State Farm Insurance - Janet Swenson State Farm Insurance - Johannes Agency

State of Minnesota Employees Super Septic, Inc. of Pelican Rapids Svaren Financial Services

Sverdrup Women of the ELCA Taco John's Taqueria Escobar Terry Tumberg, EA

Thalmann Insurance Agency, Inc. The BBO Smokehouse, Inc. The Flower Mill Unique Floral The Haircut House, LLC

The Williams Company Store

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans- Nathan Woodard

TNT Repair, Inc.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

Townsend Concessions

True North Financial Group - Prudential Financial

United Community Bank

United Methodist Women - Perham

Valmet

Vaughn Auto & Marine Co. Vector Windows Victor Lundeen Co. Vistad Chiropractic Clinic

Wadena-Deer Creek Public Schools #2155

Warner Garage Door

Weichert Realtors- Paulson Land Company

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



120 East Washington Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 218-736-5147

Web: uwotw.org



