The Power of Community. Realized.
United Way of Cass-Clay

We improve lives by activating resources to solve complex community issues and create lasting social change.

We | We
---|---
Activate the Community | Invest Strategically
Empower Volunteers | Practice Stewardship
Ignite Social Innovation

We have a unique ability to connect partners and resources to solve complex community issues.

We innovate the way people, organizations and systems work together to solve the most pressing complex problems in our community through our identified 4 BOLD Goals.

We rally a community of change-makers to build connections, develop talents and make a meaningful difference.

We ensure resources entrusted to us are invested efficiently and responsibly, with a focus on results.

We inspire the community to invest in everyone’s tomorrow.

The Power of Community. Realized.
# Table of Contents

## Who We Are

- 4 Our Leadership
- 5 Volunteer Leadership - Susan Jarvis
- 6 Volunteer Leadership - Erik Hatch
- 7 Top 50 Most Generous Workplaces
- 8 Board of Trustees
- 9 Our Team
- 10 Corporate Partners & Sponsors
- 11 Financial Highlights

## Our Investments

- 12 BOLD Community Goals - Strategies & Results
- 20 Housing First & Housing Navigation
- 21 UNITED for Workforce Development Pathways
- 23 Workforce Development Case Manager
- 24 Community Investments
- 26 Student Mental Health Investments
- 28 UNITED for Child Care
- 30 Child Care Scholarships
- 31 Community Investment Committee
- 32 A Day in the Life: A Perspective on Poverty
- 34 Imagination Library
- 36 School Supply Drive
- 38 Day of Caring
- 40 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program

## Our Investors

- 42 Emerging Leaders
- 44 Women UNITED
- 46 Tocqueville Investor Network
- 48 Campaign Volunteer Leadership
- 49 Corporate Community Events
- 50 LIVE UNITED Leader of the Year
- 51 LIVE UNITED Award Winners
- 52 Billboard Partnerships
- 54 LIVE UNITED T-shirt & UNITED Acts of Kindness Day
Our approach to charity is different. We have evolved from a historic community chest with a broad mission into a critical community convener focused on identifying the greatest needs of the community and then leveraging resources to solve complex community issues through our BOLD Community Goals.

Our work is collaborative, strategic, data-driven and focused on results. When you give to and volunteer with United Way, you make these results possible.

Results such as:
- Increasing the number of children enrolled in quality child care so their parents can enter the workforce.
- Improving how many students are on track to succeed in Kindergarten.
- Reducing barriers for people to access the training they need to attain and maintain a job that will support their family.

We’re thankful for the businesses and organizations that are empowering their employees to volunteer and give. United Way is your partner when it comes to activating the next generation of leaders and strengthening community-minded corporate culture through volunteer opportunities and meaningful ways to give back.

Harnessing the power of community results in a better tomorrow for everyone — and that is United Way’s ultimate goal.

Kristi Huber
President & CEO
United Way of Cass-Clay
I have been very proud to serve as the Board Chair for United Way for this past year and as a member of the Board of Directors for six years now. I am not originally from Fargo and have been involved with the United Way in other communities. When I moved to Fargo and joined Sanford, I was asked to join the Board of Directors of United Way. I was immediately struck by how unique this United Way is.

The United Way is about making lasting change for good in our wonderful community. We are about achieving outcomes that will last for generations to come. The 4 BOLD Goals ensure that we invest our community’s generous dollars in programs that will make a significant difference to our children and our future.

It has been an honor to serve as Board Chair for the United Way. The staff are some of the most dedicated individuals that I have ever encountered, and they, along with our wonderful donors and volunteers, are accomplishing great things. I am proud of this organization and thankful that I was allowed to contribute to the success of the United Way in some small way.

Susan Jarvis
Vice President Operations, Fargo
Sanford Health
2018 United Way of Cass-Clay Board of Trustees Chair
Four and a half years ago, I became a father for the first time. It was unbelievable. From that moment on, everything has changed for me. It’s as though my perspective on the world has a new lens. Instead of thinking about only me, I now see the world as a “we.”

I realize now that my kids are going to be deeply impacted by the world. The things my wife and I do at home will only be a part of what influences them. We are reliant on a village to raise these children. What will mold them? And do we trust the community to be a positive influencer for these young souls?

We are watching something inherently special happen throughout the Red River Valley. We’re watching people run toward issues to help instead of watching people running from problems that “don’t involve them.” Service, selflessness and passion. That’s what my kids are seeing.

The truth? Everything is interconnected. We all win or lose together. And through the leadership of the United Way, we are winning far more than we are losing. Those that support the United Way are carriers of one of the most contagious outbreaks our community has ever seen. That outbreak running rampant is one of generosity, love and service.

As I’ve had the privilege to represent the United Way over the last year, I have come to see clearly that my kids will be in good hands. The people of our area get it. Love is the heartbeat of Cass and Clay counties, and I’m honored to be a part of something so inherently special.

Erik Hatch
Hatch Realty and Hatch Coaching
2018 United Way Volunteer Campaign Chair

Hatch Cash
For the third year, Erik Hatch donated $500 of Hatch Cash to United Way each time the NDSU Bison scored a touchdown during home football games at the Fargodome. Thank you to Erik and his family for joining our team out on the field to present a check for $16,000!

Multiply Gala
Hatch Realty teamed up with Sanctuary Events Center to plan a new, fun and engaging event designed to multiply local impact. The event raised more than $20,600 for United Way!
Top 50 Most Generous Workplaces

1 Scheels
2 John Deere Electronic Solutions
3 Sanford Health
4 Eide Bailly LLP
5 American Crystal Sugar Company
6 Border States Electric
7 Discovery Benefits
8 Bell Bank
9 Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
10 Microsoft
11 Hornbacher’s
12 Sammons Financial Group
13 Butler Machinery Company
14 U.S. Bank
15 North Dakota State University
16 Marvin
17 Caterpillar Reman Drivetrain
18 Cornerstone Bank
19 The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
20 Dawson Insurance
21 Doosan Bobcat Inc.
22 Wells Fargo
23 Fargo Public Schools
24 Titan Machinery Inc.
25 Alerus Financial
26 AgCountry Farm Credit Services
27 Nodak Insurance Company
28 Roers
29 Essentia Health
30 Warner and Company Insurance
31 Concordia College
32 Goldmark Property Management
33 Cardinal IG
34 Vogel Law Firm
35 West Acres Development
36 Bremer Bank
37 Trail King Industries
38 First International Bank & Trust, N. A.
39 General Equipment & Supplies
40 Dakota Supply Group
41 Bank of the West
42 Wanzek Construction, Inc.
43 Swanson Health Products
44 Midco
45 Cash Wise Foods
46 CoreLink Administrative Solutions
47 WEX Health, Inc.
48 United Sugars Corporation
49 Western Products, Inc.
50 Xcel Energy

United Way makes it easy for us to have a broad impact on our communities. They have identified four strategic goals for improving the lives of people in our community, and they do the hard work to identify the investment where our dollars can be used most effectively.

- Tom Astrup, President and CEO
American Crystal Sugar Company
Board of Trustees

Susan Jarvis
Board Chair
Sanford Health

Matt Leiseth
Chair Elect
Hornbacher’s

Lisa Borgen
Vice Chair
American Crystal Sugar

Jay Lies
Treasurer
Wells Fargo

Erik Hatch
Campaign Chair
Hatch Realty and Hatch Coaching

John Biwer
Discovery Benefits

Dan Dougherty
John Deere
Electronic Solutions

Camille Grade
Myriad Mobile

Mary Jo Hotzler
Forum Communications

Denise Kolpack
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota

Chris Lerum
WEX Health, Inc.

Dr. Faith Ngunjiri
Offutt School of Business
Concordia College

Mark Nisbet
Xcel Energy

Danielle Paulus
Roers

Kim Pladson
TNT Kid’s Fitness & Gymnastics

Dr. Jeff Schatz
Schatz & Associates, LLC.

Joanna Slominski
Mortenson Construction
Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

— Andrew Carnegie

United Way Team

Kristi Huber
President & CEO

Travis Christopher
Resource Development Director

Summer Hanson
Finance & Administration Director

Kristina Hein-Landin
Marketing & Brand Management Director

Thomas Hill
Community Impact Director

Tiffany McShane
Community Engagement Director

Kelley Dickhuld
Executive Support Specialist

Chantel Carlson
Community Engagement Program Manager

Megan Jenson
Community Impact Manager

Christie Lewandoski
Resource Development Manager

Amie Northagen
Communications Specialist

Erica Nygaard
Community Engagement Experience Manager

JoAnn Ohma
Accounting & Technology Specialist

Ahmed Shiil
Community Impact Manager
LIVE UNITED Partners

AgCountry Farm Credit Services • Avalon Events Center • Bell Bank • BlackRidgeBANK • Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota • BNG Holdings Inc. • Border States Electric • Cornerstone Bank • Corwin Automotive Group • Costco • Eventide • Fiebiger, Swanson, West & Company • Gate City Bank • Great North Insurance Services • Integreon • Microsoft • Midco • Minnesota State University Moorhead • Moorhead Center Mall • Mortenson Construction • Park Co. Realtors • RealTruck • Sagency – Strategic Talent Solutions • Sammons Financial Group • Sanford Health • Saving Smiles Dentistry • Scheels • Square One Rental Kitchen & Events • Sundog • United Savings Credit Union • Vogel Law Firm • Walgreens LTD • Walmart • Wells Fargo • West & Ehlis Orthodontics • West Acres • WEX Health • Xcel Energy • YWCA Cass Clay
Finances Committee Volunteers

Dan Armbrust, Dawson Insurance, A Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company
Steve Dewald, RDO Equipment Company
Kevin Jordre, First International Bank & Trust, N. A.
Chris Lee, Butler Machinery Company
Jay Lies, Wells Fargo

Amber Merhiy, KPH Inc.
Sarah Nikle, Edward Jones
Michelle Schumacher, Microsoft
Emmett Worth, Gate City Bank

Financial Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Support</th>
<th>Community Investments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship &amp; Investment Income</td>
<td>Fund Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Giving</td>
<td>Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Giving</td>
<td>United Way Initiatives &amp; Community Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOLD COMMUNITY GOALS

1. REDUCE HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS
2. PREPARE CHILDREN TO SUCCEED
3. HELP PEOPLE BE INDEPENDENT
4. LIFT PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY
We see an opportunity to reduce hunger and homelessness by improving systems and strengthening partnerships to allow individuals to access stable housing and food that ultimately leads to homelessness and hunger being rare, brief and nonrecurring. We place a strong focus on the housing first philosophy, a proven method of ending all types of homelessness, which offers individuals and families experiencing homelessness immediate access to permanent affordable or supportive housing with a low threshold for entry.
**The Issues**

- **OF THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCING HUNGER:**
  - 37% are children
  - 7% are seniors

- **APPROXIMATELY 800 INDIVIDUALS ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT**

- **STUDIES FOUND THAT LEAVING A PERSON TO REMAIN CHRONICALLY HOMELESS COSTS TAXPAYERS AS MUCH AS $30,000 - $50,000 PER YEAR**

**The Action**

- **Collaborated with community partners to work together to look at long-term solutions for hunger insecurity in our community**

- **Developed and invested in Housing First and provided Housing Navigators to increase access and remove barriers to stable housing for individuals facing homelessness**

**The Results**

- **2,312 CHILDREN RECEIVED FOOD ON THE WEEKENDS AND DURING SUMMER WHEN SCHOOL WAS NOT IN SESSION**

- **83% OF TEACHERS SURVEYED SAID STUDENTS ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE & LEARN AT SCHOOL MONDAY MORNINGS BECAUSE OF RECEIVING FOOD ON FRIDAY THROUGH SCHOOL BASED PROGRAMS**

- **232 PEOPLE ATTAINED STABLE HOUSING WHILE IN HOUSING PROGRAMS**

- **94% OF INDIVIDUALS WERE ABLE TO MAINTAIN STABLE HOUSING FOR 6 MONTHS WHILE IN PROGRAMING**

- **65% OF CLIENTS SELF-REPORTED A REDUCTION IN OVERALL USAGE OF COSTLY SOCIAL SERVICES**
Nationally recognized research points to the long-term benefits and return on investment (ROI) from providing high-quality early childhood education to low-income children. Quality childhood experiences lead to improved kindergarten readiness, higher third-grade reading levels and increased high school graduation - therefore dramatically increasing lifetime earning potential. We recognize that students and families must be supported as they progress through school from cradle to career.
### The Issues

- **68% of children in ND and 55% of children in MN ages 3 and 4 are not in pre-school.**
- **Every student who does not complete high school costs our society $260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.**
- **Students who read proficiently by 3rd grade are 4x more likely to graduate from high school.**
- **80% of those who improved on reading skills completed the program.**
- **Students only spend 20% of their waking hours in school. The rest of the time they spend in their communities.**

### The Results

- **95% of children enrolled in pre-K programs demonstrated age-appropriate skills, preparing them socially, emotionally and academically for kindergarten.**
- **459 children enrolled in quality slots throughout 2017-2018 school year which is an increase of 92 children from the previous year.**
- **93% of children spent time with a positive role model.**

### The Action

- **Increased number of children enrolled in quality pre-K programming by 25% throughout the metro from the 2016-2017 to the 2017-2018 school year.**
- **Collaborated with community-based afterschool programs in 9 schools throughout the metro & provided literacy supports in 27 schools in the metro & rural Cass County.**
- **458 kindergarten-3rd graders received literacy support through ND Reading Corps.**
- **80% of those who completed the program improved on reading skills.**

### BOLD GOAL 2

- **Every student who does not complete high school costs our society $260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.**
Community Partners

Barnesville Area Helpers | Living at Home Program • Catholic Charities
North Dakota | Guardianship Program • Community of Care | One Stop Service Center • FirstLink | 2-1-1 Information & Crisis Services • Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization (HERO) | Affordable Healthcare Supplies • CAPLP | Rainbow Bridge Safe Exchange • Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota | Kids Legal Aid Work (Kids LAW) • Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota | Caregiver Support & Respite Program, Guardianship Services Program • Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota | Senior Companion Program • Northern Cass Public School District | Rural Cass Mental Health Initiative • Rape & Abuse Crisis Center | Crisis Intervention, Therapeutic Intervention • Rebuilding Together Fargo-Moorhead Area | Rebuilding Together • Red River Children’s Advocacy Center | Forensic Interviews • Red River Human Services Foundation | Activity Center • Sexual Abuse Treatment Program • Sexual Abuse Treatment Program • South Central Adult Services | Prescription Assistance Program • The Village Family Service Center | Counseling Services • Vocational Training Center | Center-Based Employment Program • West Fargo Public Schools | Student Wellness Facilitator • Youthworks | Brief Family Counseling

Help People Be Independent

BOLD GOAL 3

Why We Invest

We know that what makes us healthy is more than just clinical care, genes and biology. Eighty percent of what makes an individual healthy is where one lives, works and plays. There is an increased need for mental and behavioral health services in our community. This need intensifies when paired with the many barriers faced by individuals and families who are economically disadvantaged and underserved. Additionally, we know there is an ever increasing need for senior services in our community. It is more economical and provides a better quality of life when individuals can age in place and maintain appropriate levels of independent living.

Our Strategy

Increase access and reduce barriers to health and behavioral resources

Increase access and reduce barriers to social and vocational opportunities
The Issues

- **1 in 4 students** struggle with mental health issues in North Dakota.
- The number of people 65 years and older is expected to double between 2000 & 2030.
- **The number of people 65 years and older** has doubled in the past decade.
- The average nursing facility rate in North Dakota is **$270.71 per day** (that’s **$98,809.15 per year**).

In North Dakota, the number of high school students who have attempted suicide has doubled in the past decade.

The Results

- **266 students** were referred and/or received mental health support while at school throughout the 2017/18 school year.
- **608 seniors** received services to help keep them independent or delay the need for assisted living.

The Action

- Collaborated with community-based nonprofit service providers, school districts and corporate partners to provide school-based behavioral & mental health supports in 7 schools.
- Provided comprehensive wraparound services to seniors so they can stay independent and in their own homes.
The two-generation model is a way to provide opportunities for low-income families to obtain family-sustaining-wage employment and improve educational opportunities for their young children. There is substantial evidence that supports the success of the two-generation model in outcomes for both children and parents. Research has demonstrated that educational attainment and poverty are strongly correlated, and this approach grows the workforce by providing training, education and support to low-income families to meet the skills gap.
The Issues

1 IN 7 CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 LIVES IN POVERTY (LESS THAN $25,100 A YEAR FOR A FAMILY OF 4)
THAT'S ALMOST 2,400 CHILDREN

1 IN 9 PEOPLE LIVES IN POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT'S 26,000 PEOPLE

LIVING IN POVERTY IS ONE OF THE SINGLE GREATEST THREATS TO A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT

LOW-INCOME CHILDREN ARE HEARING ROUGHLY 30 MILLION FEWER WORDS SPOKEN TO THEM BY 4 YEARS OLD

THE ACTION

Expanded from 1 Workforce Case Manager to 6 Workforce Case Managers to provide low-income individuals with skills and supportive services necessary to obtain and maintain living-wage employment in the highest-demand career areas

Invested in child care scholarships that provide opportunities for children of low-income working families to access quality early childhood education

The Results

19 INDIVIDUALS EARNED A CERTIFICATE IN CNA OR WELDING

71% OF INDIVIDUALS OBTAINED LIVING-WAGE EMPLOYMENT WITHIN 3 MONTHS OF COMPLETING THE PROGRAM

4 OUT OF 5 CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY ON TRACK, SOCIALY AND EMOTIONALLY

117 CHILDREN FROM LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES ACCESSED QUALITY CHILD CARE BECAUSE OF CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

BOLD GOAL 4

77 CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE PROVIDED MONTHLY TO LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES

AN AVERAGE OF
Housing First & Housing Navigation

As the issue of homelessness continues to grow, we know that innovative solutions are needed to help local people in need be housed more rapidly and for longer periods of time. With the help and expertise of an experienced leadership team, we co-designed and launched this project focused on collaboration and stopping the cycle of homelessness.

Housing Navigation is a community-based, solution-focused strategy that assists individuals with complex and frequently occurring issues that prevent them from accessing and maintaining stable housing. The goal of this investment is to create a new culture of service delivery and enhance collaboration and partnerships among homeless-service providers.

In 2018, 36 active Housing Navigation Program participants were able to attain housing, with 88 percent maintaining stable housing for at least six months.

With this new approach, our partners create a link between existing resources and case management, thus closing gaps and removing barriers in order to achieve housing stability for our most vulnerable homeless population - men, women and children who are chronically homeless - while reducing the usage of costly community services such as detox admissions, ambulance transports, jail time, emergency room visits and emergency shelter stays.

United Way is proud to partner with Presentation Partners in Housing to continue to implement this innovative strategy.

COST REDUCTION SAVINGS IS AN ESTIMATED $317,808

THIS SAVINGS AMOUNT REPRESENTS ONE YEAR OF HOUSING FOR 20 INDIVIDUALS
Tremendous potential for individuals currently living in poverty to be a part of solving our workforce shortage in our local community. This new initiative will work to unite our community to see the potential of underemployed and unemployed individuals to positively impact their own lives and meet our community’s growing workforce demands.

**ESTABLISH & INCREASE** collaboration and partnership among workforce development agencies, educational institutions and community-based organizations to leverage resources and align services to help new Americans and low-income individuals enter the workforce and elevate their employment and career opportunities.

**IDENTIFY & REMOVE** the gaps and barriers that currently exist for new Americans and low-income individuals to enter the workforce and attain and retain family-sustaining employment.

**POSITION** underemployed and unemployed workers on a path to long-term family-sustaining employment and career success.

**INCREASE** access to educational services such as training classes, skill training, GED classes and ELL classes; increase access to supportive services such as housing, transportation and child care; and increase the number of eligible workers to enter the workforce to meet and respond to the local workforce shortage.

Solving our region’s workforce shortages requires collaboration and resources to close gaps for area training programs.

“I support United Way’s work to align our communities with the tools required to create a cohesive workforce development plan.”

- Tony Grindberg, Fargo City Commissioner and Vice President for Workforce Affairs, North Dakota State College of Science
Regional Workforce Initiative

When faced with a long-term, critical workforce shortage, a unified community effort is the best strategy. Since 2015, United Way has partnered with four local organizations to collaboratively tackle our workforce challenge.

Together, we are investing in a strategy to:

**CULTIVATE:** Strengthen the pipeline of local talent to support regional employers.

**ATTRACT:** Enhance and coordinate efforts to bring new talent to the region.

**BUILD:** Develop a framework for financial self-sufficiency and upward mobility for workers in basic-skill jobs.

**INNOVATE:** Encourage the development of innovative solutions to address the region’s workforce-related challenges.

United Way is specifically investing to:

- Provide child care scholarships to working families.
- Increase access to supportive workforce training.
- Prepare children to succeed in school and the future workforce.
- Create and support more workforce development case managers.

“If you work hard, the sky is the limit. I am so thankful for the support that Amy provided to me and am so proud to work at Marvin!”

- James, Workforce Development Case Manager Client
Since 2014, United Way has invested $10,000 annually to two Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs as part of BOLD Goal 4, Lift People Out of Poverty.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

It’s more than providing people with education and resources about financial stability; it’s giving them support and encouragement and creating connections in our community.

1,381 INDIVIDUALS SERVED

43 VOLUNTEERS

$2,447,903 OVERALL TOTAL REFUNDS (BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL)

Workforce Development Case Manager

United Way has collaborated with CAPLP and Minnesota State Community and Technical College (MState) to provide training, education and support to low-income families to meet the skills gap and to address the three key components of a two-generation model: education, economic support and social capital.

The Workforce Development Case Manager assists low-income individuals with the skills and support necessary to obtain and maintain living-wage employment in the highest-demand career areas in our region.

Thanks to United Way, the workforce development case manager will continue to provide support to clients in these MState training programs: welding and certified nursing assistant (CNA).

Because of United Way donors like you, individuals like James are able to get the training and job skills they need to secure a good paying job to support themselves. Not only did James earn the opportunity to work at Marvin, their company also gained a hard-working & dedicated employee to fill their growing workforce needs.

Today, James is working toward his dream of owning his own home here in our community and building a better life.

It is rewarding to know that together we are eliminating barriers to help people in our community get the jobs that will support their family.

- Amy Hochgraber,
MState Director of Business and Industry
Hunger & Health Summit

Eighty-one attendees joined in for the first Hunger and Health Summit held in Cass and Clay counties. This summit highlighted the history of the community’s Hunger Coalition, current data and research, innovative and collaborative projects, and what next steps could be taken by individuals and agencies to better work together to end hunger in our community.

In addition to staff from food pantries and feeding programs, a number of community leaders, elected officials and staff from both Heidi Heitkamp’s office and John Hoeven’s office attended the event. United Way held a role in the planning and facilitation of this summit along with co-sponsoring the lunch provided to the participants.

A Place At The Table

A Cass/Clay Hunger Coalition-sponsored screening of the documentary “A Place at the Table” drew 165 attendees to the Fargo Theatre. Sixty attendees participated in a post-documentary panel discussion on hunger in our community.

The film provided a compelling portrayal of hunger in America, and the post-film panel provided a place for people to ask questions about what hunger is like in our community, including multiple panelists with lived experience. United Way was proud to support an event that helped the community understand the realities of hunger in our community.
**Fargo UNITED**

Nearly 7,000 youth in our community were impacted by this project, which shared the main messages to students that they have an ability to impact their own schools and love is always stronger than hate.

After each event, the students had an opportunity to engage, take photos, and exchange hugs and handshakes with the performers and police officers. The purpose of the events are to create unity within our local schools. United Way was proud to support and invest in this project, which helps prepare children to succeed in our community.

**Fill the Dome**

Over 50 area schools and 20 businesses were able to team up for the nation’s largest food drive to benefit food pantries locally and throughout the state of North Dakota. This event raised nearly $30,000 and 193,300 pounds of food or 283,000 meal equivalents, and United Way was proud to support and invest in this youth-led event focusing on reducing hunger in our community.

**FM Coalition to End Homelessness Conference**

Seventy local homeless service providers received quality training opportunities to build and improve their services. This not only impacts the homeless community by giving them access to quality services, but the wider Fargo-Moorhead community by taking strides in preventing and ending homelessness.

Key areas of the conference included advocacy, leadership, collaboration, evidence-based best practices, ethics and program support. United Way was proud to support and invest in this professional development opportunity to reduce homelessness in our community.
In response to the growing behavioral and mental health needs of students in local districts, United Way has partnered with West Fargo Public Schools, Moorhead Area Public Schools and Northern Cass Public Schools to increase access and remove barriers for students needing mental health services. By partnering with the school districts, Burgum Family Foundation and local nonprofit service providers, such as The Village Family Service Center and Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Professionals, Inc., mental health services are provided to students on-site at their school.

The best way to make proactive investments into reducing barriers to mental health services for families is to collaborate with our schools and nonprofit partners to provide services where children spend their days. These professionals provide parents and guardians with the information they need to support their child’s mental well-being and navigate the medical and insurance system. By providing services in the schools, the barrier of transportation is eliminated for students and their families.
I WISH MY TEACHER KNEW...

“I wish my teacher knew I don’t feel safe without my brother here. I feel scared for next year...”

“I wish my teacher knew I have to take care of my sister...”

“I wish my teacher knew it feels to lose all of your stuff...”

“I wish my teacher knew that my heat for my house is gone because we can’t afford to pay the bill...”

“I wish my teacher knew how my life is at home. If they knew how my life was at home they could see the reasons why I’m not as smart as others...”

“I wish my teacher knew that I am going through hard times and don’t know what to do...”

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“Thank you to United Way for leading the way to increase access and remove the barriers for students and families in our state to access mental health services.

Ensuring local students in rural North Dakota have access to mental health services on-site at their schools is an integral piece of eliminating the stigma of mental illness and addiction in North Dakota."

- Kathryn Helgaas Burgum
  First Lady of North Dakota

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“You have to stand up and invest – so the kids who don’t have that support network still have a chance. There are a lot of kids that struggle, and all I want is for them to be who they want to be in life. We owe it to every child to give them that opportunity – and United Way makes it possible. Through focused and purposeful giving, we not only believe every learner can change the world but we KNOW every learner can change the world."

- Cory Steiner
  Superintendent, Northern Cass Public Schools
UNITED For Child Care

The UNITED for Child Care Coalition is a group of local child care leaders, professionals and businesses connected by a common goal to encourage people to understand, advocate for and invest in critical child care issues facing parents, child care providers and our community.

The UNITED for Child Care Coalition has two goals:
1. Increase access to high-quality, affordable child care for working families.
2. Increase training and professional development

UNITED For Child Care Training

In partnership with Child Care Aware of North Dakota and Minnesota, United Way held the first UNITED for Child Care Training Event, which provided quality training and professional development to local child care providers, teachers and staff members of child care programs. More than 230 child care providers from more than 40 child care agencies received professional development.

“We appreciate United Way’s investment in our youngest learners. The dual-generation approach ensures that parents have the skills to thrive in today’s workforce and provides an opportunity for their children to be ready for kindergarten. We are grateful for United Way’s partnership and dedication to helping prepare children and students to succeed.”

- Rupak Gandhi, Superintendent, Fargo Public Schools

IN NORTH DAKOTA & MINNESOTA
CHILD CARE IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN COLLEGE TUITION

LOCALLY (FM AREA) OVER 4,200 FAMILIES HAVE DIFFICULTY AFFORDING QUALITY CHILD CARE
Representatives from United Way, Bright & Early North Dakota, YWCA Cass Clay and YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties were the featured speakers at the June session of “Eggs & Issues”, a monthly event series led by The FMWF Chamber of Commerce that connects individuals, influential public figures and industry leaders to discuss issues facing our community.

These child care leaders shared research, data and insight on how strategic initiatives, such as United Way child care scholarships, are improving access to quality child care and why and how affordable quality child care is vital to the success of our business community to help meet workforce demands today and in the future.

The State of Local Child Care and Its Impact on the Workforce

In the fall of 2018, United Way partnered with the West Fargo Public Schools and the YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties to provide new pre-K opportunities for children at the Lodoen Kindergarten Center.

This new center opened in August 2018 and has the capacity to serve 120 4-year-olds year-round in the West Fargo school district.

Because of United Way’s investment, scholarships for low-income working families are available to ensure that they can access high-quality early learning opportunities for their children. Early results are showing that 97% of children are developmentally on track with literacy skills and 87% are on track with social-emotional & cognitive skills, demonstrating they are more prepared to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

West Fargo Child Care Development Center

It’s necessary for our school districts to have partners like United Way who have the willingness and resources to make this opportunity happen for our students and families.

Early intervention means we have a chance to close the achievement gap and put an end to poverty in our community.

- Beth Slette
Superintendent
West Fargo Public Schools
Child Care Scholarships

Since 2013, United Way has invested more than $2 million in child care scholarships that have impacted the lives and careers of hundreds of local families, and data demonstrates that children who receive child care scholarships are on track to enter kindergarten with higher social, emotional and educational skills than children who did not receive scholarships.

Research shows that child care assistance helps working parents experience fewer missed days, allowing them to work more hours and remain at the same employer for longer periods of time.

The benefits not only improve kindergarten readiness levels but also improve third-grade reading levels, high school graduation rates and dramatically increase the lifetime earning potential for students. United Way is working to remove barriers for low-income families to access quality child care. The result? More kids are receiving a higher quality of child care and in turn, they are better prepared for school and better prepared for life.

“Quality early learning is the precursor to success in school and life. Children from disadvantaged homes deserve the same chance as everyone else, and United Way helps eliminate that economic disparity through child care scholarships.”

- Erin Prochnow, YWCA Cass Clay

4 OUT OF 5 CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DEVELOPMENTALLY ON TRACK FOR KINDERGARTEN

AN AVERAGE OF 77 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE PROVIDED MONTHLY TO LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES
As the chair of the Community Investment Committee, it’s very rewarding to see how targeted investments are making an impact across the community. Our committee uses a strategic investment framework to ensure we have a comprehensive portfolio of programs to solve complex issues, like homelessness. These programs work in collaboration and report back their progress on a regular basis to United Way and the community. As an investor and volunteer, this gives me great confidence that the dollars I give to United Way are making a difference where they’re needed the most.

- Chris Lerum, WEX Health, Inc.

We feel incredibly fortunate to be helped by United Way so that my daughter can go to child care and preschool at the YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties. As a working single mom and full-time student at MState in Moorhead, without the help, preschool would be out of reach for us financially. My daughter is bright and social and eager to learn.

I want my daughter to have the same opportunities in life as any other kid. I work hard every day towards creating a better life for us. Thanks to United Way, she will not be left behind. Thank you so much for all you do. I hope to be able to pay it forward one day.

- Local parent impacted by United Way Child Care Scholarships

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- Local parent impacted by United Way Child Care Scholarships

Community Investment Committee

The individuals on the Community Investment Committee provide the volunteer leadership needed to make crucial decisions as to how and where dollars are invested locally and ensure that investments align with our 4 BOLD Community Goals. Each year, the volunteers on the committee lead a team of Community Investment Review Panel volunteers to carefully review applications and visit the locations of the Community Partners applying for United Way funding to help propose investment decisions to the United Way Board of Trustees. United Way investors are invited to volunteer to serve on a review panel, and 48 volunteers participated in 2018.

Chris Lerum, CHAIR
WEX Health, Inc.

Kimberly Busch
Ambridge Hospitality

Gloria Doescher
Scheels

Dan Dougherty
John Deere Electronic Solutions

Nicole Ellis
Concordia Language Villages

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- Chris Lerum, WEX Health, Inc.
A Day in the Life: A Perspective on Poverty

To fight poverty, we must first seek to understand it. United Way is now regularly hosting poverty simulations to help our community gain this perspective. This interactive immersion experience depicts real-life scenarios faced by many of the families in our community who are sometimes one paycheck away from homelessness or crisis.

During the simulation, participants role-play a month in poverty and experience the challenges and barriers families in our community face. United Way hosted a number of simulation events in 2018, both for the community and businesses.

"It reminded me of the struggles our own employees face on a daily basis. We talk with employees who are financially strapped, who can’t transfer to go to a new jobsite miles away because they don’t have a functioning vehicle, who have a great opportunity to work but can’t afford the child care in the location where they’d be heading. Sometimes it’s easy to think, “I don’t know anyone living in poverty” or that these situations don’t directly impact me, but even at Wanzek some of our very own employees struggle with the things that the simulation depicted."

- Jessica Kulzer, Wanzek Construction, Inc.

85% of participants said they gained a better understanding of the barriers and challenges people living in poverty face after experiencing the simulation.

| 354 | INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED |
| 83  | ORGANIZATIONS & COMPANIES PARTICIPATED |
| 84  | VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED |
Thank you to our 2018 Event Site Sponsor Microsoft

@BCBSNDAmber
Transportation, groceries, bills, medical care etc and now imagine living in poverty trying to keep food on the table & a roof over your head. This is sadly reality for many people in this community. Thx @UnitedWayFargo for putting on this poverty simulation @BCBSND #BeGrateful

@BCBSNDTara
Wow! Today I attended the @UnitedWayFargo “day in the life” poverty simulation at @BCBSND. Did you know there are 6,000 local kids living in poverty in our region (enough to overflow the @ScheelsArena)? You can be a part of the solution! #ForceForGoodCassClay
Imagination Library

2018 marked the 15th year of United Way’s local partnership with this national program. United Way partners with the Dolly Parton Foundation to provide children ages birth through 5 with a free book in the mail each month to help spark a love for reading. Our partnership provides children in Cass and Clay counties the possibility to build a home library of 60 books before they enter kindergarten.

Because parents are a child’s first teacher, Imagination Library gives them a fun and easy way to get involved with their child’s early education. Studies show that 97 percent of parents surveyed reported that the program has encouraged them to read more to and with their children.

“...a fun family event for us to be able to sit down and read those books together and see how the books have helped her develop over these past three years.”

- Jessica Shawn
Mother of Imagination Library Recipient
Another child was born the day that our daughter arrived, Their family didn’t have what we all did, but wouldn’t be deprived Because someone cared enough to say “these children need to hear The sort of stories that we tell to show we hold them dear.”

Before I met my daughter, I’d took time to look around At thrift stores and at rummage sales to see what books I found. And every time I’d buy a few, a couple in the stack Would say “United Way” with “Love, Dolly” on the back.

I didn’t have to think twice about a dollar here and there, It was just another little way for me to say, “I care.” But what about that other family’s child on the way? How could they purchase books when they were living day to day?

Someone said, “I can make this better Though I can’t tell these stories by myself. If we give a little, all of us together Can help put books on every child’s shelf.”

A thoughtful friend had signed us up and now we watch the mail. And every single month a new book shows up without fail. But more books are delivered on the day that ours arrives, And each one makes a difference in kids’ and parents’ lives.

A book’s a present you can open over and again And getting one from someone can make all the difference when You’re barely scraping by, but someone’s love persisted To give a bedtime story that might never have existed.

Because someone said, “I can make this better Though I can’t tell these stories by myself. If we give a little, all of us together Can help put books on every child’s shelf.”

West Acres Story Squad

United Way teamed up with West Acres to host Story Squad – a weekly event where children and families had the opportunity to hear a story from special guest readers such as Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney and Fargo Police Officer Michael Bloom. Kids got to take home a free book to get them more excited about reading.
I love being on the School Supply Drive Committee because I witness the generosity of community members who contribute money, supplies and time. I meet parents relieved to know that their children are properly equipped for school. I see smiling students excited to receive their new backpack. As a teacher, I know this event accomplishes great things, and I’m very thankful to be a part of it.

- Brad Storm, West Fargo Public Schools School Supply Drive Committee Volunteer

6,097 LOCAL K-12 STUDENTS WERE EQUIPPED WITH BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

STUDENTS IN OVER 70 SCHOOLS WERE IMPACTED

MORE THAN 500 VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED

Wiggles & Giggles Lemonade Stand

For the sixth year in a row, children from a local child care center worked together to run a lemonade stand to raise $4,440 to buy school supplies for the United Way School Supply Drive. The children then went shopping to buy thousands of school supplies to donate to the United Way School Supply Drive.
The School Supply Drive is important to our family because it allows my children to start their school year off right. They don’t have to worry about whether or not they have everything they need. This drive eases my mind as their mom, knowing the community around us is so willing to help those who are struggling. My children are going to start school with all they need thanks to United Way!

— Mom of School Supply Drive Recipients

It was so much fun packing 460 backpacks @UnitedWayFargo with these amazing ladies from @BCBSND. I love my job! :) #ForceForGood #Volunteer #WhyNot

Today was awesome and a huge success! Our group of volunteers was able to pack 300 backpacks for kiddos… AMAZING! So glad I was able to be part of this! #LIVEUNITEDCassClay #FargoParks #ILoveMyJob @UnitedWayFargo #Volunteer
Every year, local seniors request the community’s help to prepare for winter by completing tasks from raking and mowing to basic cleaning and organizing. They enjoy an afternoon of companionship as well as assistance from the caring United Way volunteers.

2018 marked the 27th annual Day of Caring volunteer event in our community. More than 1,900 individuals volunteered their time to help more than 500 senior citizens in their homes.

"The overall excitement of both seniors we came to help really stuck with me. They were so thankful for the assistance and our presence there. It really makes you remember what is important in life and what to cherish. Our team really enjoyed this opportunity. Thank you!"

- Day of Caring Volunteer

Day of Caring

1,900 VOLUNTEERS  500 LOCAL SENIORS ASSISTED
For the second year, a group of 25 Emerging Leaders traveled to rural Cass County to help senior citizens in their homes.

The feeling today was indescribable. As for myself I felt a sense of accomplishment. It made me want to do more. Not only that, but to see the smile on our seniors face was one of the best feelings in the world. She was so happy and appreciative!

- Day of Caring Volunteer

To the Day of Caring volunteers, you dear friends came to our home and helped us beyond expectation. Thank you, thank you! Your spirit of helping was a spirit we appreciate very much, and you went the extra mile! Your kindness and helpfulness will not be forgotten. Thank you, volunteers and United Way!

- Senior Citizen Helped on Day of Caring
Since 2009, 350 women have participated in this leadership program which focuses on personal and professional growth, goal-setting, communication, public speaking and other topics. Each year, alumni volunteers aspire to select a group of dynamic and diverse women to experience the leadership program.

**MISSION**

Mobilize the caring power of women. Energize and inspire women to make a difference. Deepen leadership opportunities for young women.

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I was invited to attend the celebration ceremony for a friend who had just completed the program, and I was so impressed with the women who participated and the confidence they inspired as they spoke on stage about their experience. I immediately went back to our police department and asked how we could actively encourage more women within our department to apply to participate.

- Chief David Todd
  Fargo Police Department
In 2018, United Way celebrated the 10th year of the 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program by inviting alumnae to a retreat to recharge, reconnect and reengage. More than 125 women experienced motivating speakers and activities focused on self-reflection and identified ways to connect to improve their community.

The 35 Under 35 10 Year Celebration was one of the highlights of 2018. It was an amazing opportunity to connect with alumni and foster a stronger network of inspired leaders in our community.

It gave me a chance to reflect and focus while providing motivation to stretch and grow myself as a female leader in Fargo-Moorhead.

- Katie Hutton
  Eide Bailly LLP
  2012 35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Alumna

2018 Participants
Marqelle Albrecht, Park Co. Realtors
Tasha Barrett, Park Co. Realtors
Merideth Bell, Sanford Health
Katie Bertsch, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.
Sydney Bosichert, Scheels
Chelsea Burns, Michael J. Burns Architects
I Cho.Be. Art & Design
Sarah Busse, Border States Electric
Emily Carrow, Discovery Benefits
Shelby Cochrain, dogIDs
Emily Finley, The Pines Wedding & Events
Alexandra Floersch, Bell Bank
Robyn Gatz, Hope Blooms
Kendra Goette, Preference Employment Solutions
Carrie Gress, Cass County Sheriff’s Office
Erin Hagen, Hospice of the RRV
Ashley Halvorson, Conmy Feste Ltd.
Chelsea Hanson, Flag Family Media
Brandi Hedin, Dawson Insurance
Mindy Hogness, Doosan Bobcat
Sara Lau, Discovery Benefits
Kayla Leier, U.S. Bank
Lindsey Little, Heritage Homes
Allie Morth, CoreLink Administrative Solutions
Brittany Olson, Fargo Public Schools
Amanda Pieters, Concordia College
Lisa Richter, NDSU
Nicole Rousar, BlackRidgeBANK
Casey Sanders, The Chamber
Michelle Schumacher, Microsoft
Puja Sharma-Husmann, Minnesota State Community and Technical College
Becky Torkelson, Scheels
Alyssa Bernhardt, Probitas Promotions
Meredith Williams, Razor Consulting Solutions
Teri Winkelman, Butler Machinery Company
Karla Wolford, Fit Elevate Human Potential and EHP Cross Fit

2018 Volunteer Leadership
Tonya Stende, Dale Carnegie of ND and MN
Briana Scearcy, Stoneridge Software
Erin Koepp, Concordia College
Katie Bjornson, Sanford Health
Sarah Nikle, Edward Jones Investments
Jill Piela, Doosan Bobcat Inc.
Katie Olson, Integreon
Katie Ehls, Katie Ehls L&D
Elisha Beck, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota

Christen Anderson, Christen Joy Homes
Jenna Kirschmann, Stay at home mom
Kylie Seaberg, Microsoft
Ashley Bosh, Network Center Inc.
Heidi Knutson, Roers
Alycia Peter, Rasmussen College
Emerging Leaders

Emerging Leaders is a network of community-minded professionals who are looking to make connections with purpose while creating real and lasting change in our community. This is an opportunity for leaders to position themselves to take action and learn how to effectively give back their time, talents and resources to make the greatest impact in our community.

Through events, Emerging Leaders have the ability to connect and build skills with local professionals who have the same interest to improve our community through United Way’s BOLD Goals. They also have the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and volunteer with other Emerging Leaders by sharing their knowledge and skills with the community.

“The volunteer and skill-building events have helped me build confidence, develop my leadership skills, and expand my circle of friends. I’m grateful to United Way for recognizing how important it is for the future of our community to invest in the next generation of our community leaders!”

- Aimee Stone, Noridian Health Care Solutions
United Way Emerging Leader
Emerging Leaders Committee

Alissa Maier, CHAIR, Discovery Benefits
Cody Aldinger, KLJ
Wylee Allen, Sundog
Bethany Berkeley, Dale Carnegie of ND and MN
Kelly Edwards, First International Bank and Trust
Laura Gariano, Dynamic Communities Inc.
Glenn Key, Hornbacher’s
Bret Kinzler, Alerus Financial
Darin Loven, Discovery Benefits
Jon Reznecheck, Scheels

Leadership is learning to lead at any level. One of the most important applications in leadership is how you lead yourself. Sometimes managing yourself and your own emotional intelligence and what you do and don’t do is the hardest, but I think it is what will make you the best leader.

- Tim Huckle, President and CEO
  Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota

You can’t change the way the world works every day, but you can change your portion of it. Change your attitude, and it changes your outlook on the world.

- Julie Peterson Klein
  EVP | Chief Culture Officer, Bell Bank

$388,044 invested in United Way’s four bold goals by emerging leaders

20 emerging leader events focused on volunteering, connecting and building skills
Women UNITED

Women who give an annual gift of $720 or more or a combined gift of $1,440 with a spouse or partner are members of Women UNITED. Women UNITED hosts a variety of events throughout the year to raise dollars to invest in United Way's BOLD Goal 2: Prepare Children to Succeed.

MISSION

Create a powerful network of women who strengthen our community through an investment of leadership, fundraising and community service.

Women UNITED Leadership Team

CHAIR: Mary Jo Hotzler, Forum Communications Co.
Tamara Anderson, Dale Carnegie of ND and MN
Courtney Buskirk, SAP Concur
Kimberly Busch, Aimbridge Hospitality
Kristin Dehmer, Moorhead Area Public Schools
Emily Flanagan, Harland Clarke
Katie Froeb, Dynamic Communities Inc.
Bobbian Froemke, Sundog
Jayne Gust, Sanford Health

Heather Heick, Bell Bank
Kate Lea, Wells Fargo
Jenny Olson, State of North Dakota
Danielle Paulus, Roers
Kimberly Peterson, Lillestol Research LLC
Naomi Schempp, Dale Carnegie of ND and MN
Jill Staffne, Scheels

“"If you’re not doing one thing that you’re scared about every day, you’re not growing."" - Anna Maria Chávez

2018 Women UNITED Luncheon Keynote Speaker
More than 800 women attended this event focused on giving kids the very best start in school and in life.

Keynote speaker Anna Maria Chávez shared how investing early in the lives of children can transform our entire community.

Women UNITED Luncheon & Silent Auction

Volunteering to lead the luncheon is important to me because I know I am helping provide quality child care, which sets kids, parents and employers up for success. Kids are prepared to start school, parents can be engaged and present in their jobs, and employers retain productive employees. It is a triple win for our community.

- Kimberly Busch, Aimbridge Hospitality Inc.
2018 Women UNITED Luncheon Co-Chair

Women UNITED Golf Scramble

Seeing more than 200 women come together was inspiring to me because it shows that women are stepping forward to give back to help kids in our community be successful. From the costume contest to the fun games at each hole, this event is always a blast, and knowing that all of the proceeds help kids means a lot to me as a mom and a volunteer.

- Courtney Buskirk, SAP Concur
2018 Women UNITED Golf Scramble Volunteer Co-Chair

May Day Baskets of Books

We were so proud that our Women UNITED volunteers delivered more than 1,000 books and read to kids at 17 different child care providers in our community on May Day! We loved seeing the smiles and hearing the kids tell us that they were going to take their book home and read it with their families.

- Kristin Dehmer, Moorhead Area Public Schools
2018 Women UNITED May Day Baskets of Books Volunteer Co-Chair
The United Way Tocqueville Investor Network is a powerful group of local leaders, caring individuals and couples who invest $10,000 or more annually to improve lives in our community.

There is also an opportunity for individuals to give through a step-up plan and increase their investment throughout a multi-year commitment. United Way is proud to recognize their commitment to their community and for inspiring others to greater philanthropy.

“Merhiy Family Volunteering”

Our family chooses to give to United Way as they diligently select the areas that are in the greatest need within our community. We know our funds will be used to positively impact those around us and create long-term change.

- Amber Merhiy
United Way Tocqueville Investor
Each year, United Way invites current and potential Tocqueville investors to events to network, socialize and learn more about how their gifts to United Way make a significant impact on the lives of people that live and work in our community. United Way’s Tocqueville Investor Network has had an active local membership for more than 10 years.

"We are proud to be a part of the Tocqueville investor network and have supported United Way’s strategic and impactful work for over 35 years.

Thank you to the Tocqueville investors for stepping forward with your significant investment in United Way to create a positive change in the lives of children and families in our community."

- Dick & Jo Ellen Solberg
United Way Tocqueville Investors
Campaign Volunteer Leadership

More than 40 individuals volunteered with United Way as part of the Campaign Cabinet. This group of volunteers served as liaisons to corporate campaigns throughout 2018 to help inspire and engage the community. Their leadership ensures United Way can continue to invest strategically and help individuals and families in need.

Campaign Cabinet Volunteers

- Cody Aldinger, KLJ
- Dave Anderson, Sanford Health
- Mary Bombersbach-Holden, Sammons Financial Group
- Kriss Burns, PRO Resources
- Chelsie Camp, Discovery Benefits
- Susie Carlson, NDSU-Fargo
- Janna Curry, West Acres Development
- Kristin Dehmer, Moorhead Area Public Schools
- Erik Diederich, Industrial Builders Inc.
- Sara Frith, General Equipment & Supplies
- Ryan Grussing, Cornerstone Bank
- Jayne Gust, Sanford Health
- Sara Hanstad, Bremer Bank
- Julie Haugen, YWCA Cass Clay
- Dale Hetland, Starrow Financial
- Charley Johnson, FM Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Bethany Kleven, Bell Bank
- Heather Leas, West Fargo Public Schools
- Tim Lystad, John Deere Electronic Solutions
- Jeri McQuade, Alerus Financial
- Tracy Meckler, The Chamber
- Kelsi Mikkonen, Hatch Realty
- Maggie Moen, Sundog
- AnnaLisa Nash, Border States Electric
- John Nelson, Fargo Public Schools
- Nancy Nelson, Consolidated Communications
- Rob Neuteboom, Rasmussen College
- Rammie Olson, Bremer Bank
- Jeremy Ostrowski, Border States Electric
- Eric Piela, CoSchedule
- Jen Ranz, Microsoft
- Jim Schaeferbauer, Capital Credit Union
- Lori Schwartz, CAPLP
- Angie Scoville, Western State Bank
- Paul Tebben, U.S. Bank
- Rachel Thurs, Great North Insurance Services
- Katy Ulrich, Microsoft
- Chris Volkers, City of Moorhead
- Steve Walker, Gate City Bank
- JoVal Wettlaufer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Carly Willson, The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
- Steve Winter, Dawson Insurance

“If you want to have an impact ... if you want to change things, you need to do that through helping others and helping make other people’s lives better.”

- John Nelson
Fargo Public Schools
2018 Campaign Cabinet Volunteer
Our teams at Roers and Keller Williams are so proud of how this event has grown into an event for the entire community! We are all passionate about making our community a better place for ourselves, our business and our families, and we know that the dollars we raise are making a difference for men, women and children that need our help.

- Sarah West, Roers

Over 50 chili recipes, corn bread and all the fixings are served up for lunch every year for a fun, tasty afternoon and a little friendly competition for the title of Best Chili!

- Stephen Kriegler, Marvin

It’s wonderful to be able to give back and open our doors so the community can support a great organization like United Way, and this event also gives our employees a chance to make an impact in their community.

- Matt Leiseth, Hornbacher’s President

Employees, families and friends participated in a 5K Run/Walk to raised money for United Way and enjoyed a morning filled with energy, enthusiasm, and good company!

- Stephen Kriegler, Marvin

Each summer, Hornbacher’s partners with United Way to serve a delicious $5 lunch. Nearly 150 volunteers served lunch at seven Hornbacher’s locations and encouraged people to support their community!
LIVE UNITED Leader of the Year

As the top award given by United Way, this recognizes an organization with outstanding commitment to United Way and an excellent workplace campaign. The recipient of this award is a dynamic organization that engages their employees to invest to make our community a great place to live, work and succeed.

The Discovery Benefits team focuses on education, engagement and volunteerism. With senior leadership support, employees are encouraged to participate in giving, volunteering year-round and to get involved in “fun-raising” events. Discovery Benefits increased their commitment to United Way by $37,555 and connected more than 20 new employees to the work of United Way with their Disney-inspired campaign theme.

There are eighty-six Emerging Leaders within their company, which is the largest Emerging Leaders representation in our community. The Discovery Benefits Emerging Leaders are actively taking part in our volunteering, networking and skill building events throughout the year. Discovery Benefits is a leader in our community and a Force for Good!

"It is heartwarming to see how much money our company can raise in one week and how that equates to meals or books for children in need. Since we have such a young demographic of employees, our company relates to the needs of children and the need to fulfill and equip them with those necessary items."

- Discovery Benefits Team
LIVE UNITED Award Winners

Outstanding Employee Engagement Award
American Crystal Sugar Company (More than 500 employees)
Wanzek Construction, Inc. (Less than 500 employees)

Outstanding Campaign Cabinet Volunteer
Jeremy Ostrowski, Border States Electric

Best NEW United Way Campaign
Five Star Call Centers

Most Innovative & Creative Campaign
General Equipment & Supplies

Community Engagement Award
Fargo Park District

Emerging Leader Catalyst of the Year
Karissa Hofer, Discovery Benefits

Social Media Maven
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
Billboard Partnerships

All LIVE UNITED Partner sponsors receive the opportunity to be featured on a United Way billboard. United Way also offers a unique corporate sponsorship opportunity for any company to sponsor a United Way billboard and participate in this co-branding experience.
LIVE UNITED T-shirt & UNITED Acts of Kindness Day

2018 was the third year United Way encouraged people to not only wear the shirt but live it. On the sixth annual LIVE UNITED T-shirt Day, we asked people to do a UNITED Act of Kindness. Some people brought doughnuts to share with their offices while others wrote notes of encouragement to friends, co-workers and strangers. Scheels, Sandy’s Donuts, and Scoop N’ Dough Candy Co. offered incentives to help encourage the community to spread UNITED Acts of Kindness.

“As a new business, we were looking for the right organization to partner with in our community. The United Way has a clear mission, and the United Acts of Kindness Day was a great fit. We are passionate about taking care of the members of our community and watching acts of kindness transform the area!”

- Josh Ulrich
Scoop N’ Dough Candy Co.
United Way UNITED Acts of Kindness Day is off to a great start with surprise treats from our CXO and his amazing wife - how sweet it is! #UNITEDforKindness #TitanFamily

I hope you have a BERRY good Friday! #LIVEUNITED #UNITEDforKindness

A special thank you to Aiden & Reese who brought Sandy’s Donuts to the West Fargo Police Department for their United Way of Cass-Clay random act of kindness! Reese even saved up his allowance to purchase them! #RandomActOfKindness #WestFargoPD

@WEST FARGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

@BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

@PARA BECKER