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About Us

At United Way of Cass-Clay, our mission is to improve lives by activating resources to solve complex community issues and create lasting social change. We have a unique and invaluable perspective of seeing the totality of our community’s challenges. This comprehensive perspective, along with data, provides direction and focus as to how United Way can lift local individuals and families out of poverty.

We do this through:

• Making connections. By bringing together the right people, we can find solutions to complex issues. Through community collaboration, we can develop meaningful and timely solutions no one group could do on their own.

• Leveraging resources. By ensuring donor dollars go towards the programs that will be the most effective and efficient, we know donors can be confident in entrusting their donations with us.

We know poverty doesn’t discriminate, and neither do we. Our commitment to our community is to serve all low-income families through our Bold Goals and provide opportunities for all individuals and families in our community to become stronger and healthier.
Karla Isley  
President & CEO

I joined the United Way team in September of 2021 and it is an honor to serve the community I call home. I have lived and worked in this community for more than 20 years, and my husband, Mike, and I are blessed to be raising our two boys, Oliver and Isaac, here. Growing up I was taught the importance of family and community – neighbors helping neighbors. To pass these values to my children and to other young people is so important to me.

In my first few months, it is amazing to see the change that can happen when key people come together. At United Way, our unique perspective of seeing all our community’s challenges and bringing together the right people at the right time to find solutions truly changes lives for our neighbors most in need. The data-driven intentionality of our investments ensures every dollar entrusted to us can do the most good toward lifting people out of poverty. I’m inspired and grateful for the commitment and investments from so many generous and thoughtful friends who share the values of United Way.

The campaign theme this year was so meaningful for me. Believe UNITED, succeed UNITED brings to life our shared values and calls us to come together to create change. We posed the question:

What do you believe?
• That all of us have potential and value?
• Moms and dads should have the opportunity for a job that supports their family?
• All people deserve the chance to succeed?

At United Way, we believe in those things, and we know we share those beliefs with many of our family members, friends, and neighbors.

Thank you to each of you for standing up for what you believe, and joining us to help our community succeed.
Our United Way of Cass-Clay team is a group of caring, mission-driven people who strive to connect and empower our community. Our company values – caring, creative, impactful, integrity, and magnetic – are alive in each team member and together make our workplace, and our community, a great place.
Our Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is an engaged group of community leaders and influencers who provide strategic direction for our organization. These dedicated volunteers actively guide decisions, provide financial oversight, and serve as voices for our mission and the needs of our community.
Community Impact Committee & Investment Review Panel

Community Impact Committee

This committee provides the volunteer leadership needed to make crucial decisions as to how the dollars entrusted to us are invested into our community. They review grant applications to evaluate their alignment to our goals and strategies, ensuring the work can be measured and will foster long-term solutions for people in poverty.

- Chair: Dan Dougherty, John Deere
- Cody Aldinger, KLJ
- Andrea Burkhart, Bremer Bank
- Gloria Doescher, Retired, SCHEELS
- Tracy Farahmand, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Kory Jacobson, Border States Electric
- Raul Leher, Rockwell Automation
- Christina Lindseth, Cognizant

Community Investment Review Panel

Each year, the Community Investment Committee works with these panel volunteers to carefully review applications from partners applying for United Way funds and proposes investment decisions. Any United Way investor is invited to apply to volunteer.

- Matuor Alier, Moorhead Area Public Schools
- Angela Arneson
- Mandie Begin, Forum Communications
- Rachel Broer, Noridian Healthcare Solutions
- Jennifer Christianson, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Katie DeMars, XY Planning Network
- Jess Engel, Red River Commodities, Inc.
- Tracy Farahmand, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Dave Ferguson, Border States Electric
- Bobbiann Froemke, Salesforce
- Ashley Hahn
- Brian Haugen, Bell Bank
- Lee Havig, Wanzek Construction, Inc.
- Brittany Hoppe, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Pam Johnson, Alerus
- Glenn Key, Hornbacher’s
- Erik Kiesz, Principal Financial Group
- Megan Kleckner, Cash Wise
- Raul Leher, Rockwell Automation
- Matt Magnus, Border States Electric
- Melissa Marshall, CoreCounts
- Amy Miller, Western State Bank
- Amy Nephew, Red River Commodities, Inc.
- Anamaria Olson, Western State Bank
- Jenny Olson, State of North Dakota
- Heather Ostrowski, Gate City Bank
- Shawn Paschke, Xcel Energy
- Patrick Peick, Noridian Healthcare Solutions
- Carrie Anne Platt, North Dakota State University
- Mason Rademacher, FMWF Chamber
- Jon Reznecheck, SCHEELS
- John Rodenbiker, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
- Jen Sahr, Fargo Public Schools
- Rebecca Sandell, North Dakota State University
- Missie Schumaier, First International Bank & Trust
- Larry Seljevold, Moorhead City Council
- Jessica Shawn, WEX
- April Siverson, SCHEELS
- David Theige, MD, Sanford Health
- Miriam Troitte, Western State Bank
- James Whirlwind Soldier, Goldmark Property Management
- Scott Wirth, Roers
- Mara Zupko, Noridian Healthcare Solutions

It’s quite humbling to see all the organizations that are so passionate partner with United Way empowering those needing help and resources. I truly appreciate how every contribution to the campaign benefits our neighbors in need.

Christina Lindseth, Cognizant
United Way of Cass-Clay strives to be a great steward of every donor dollar entrusted to us. We keep administration costs to a minimum so donors can be confident their dollars go to creating positive change right here in our community.

Here’s the proof.
- We perform in the top 10% of United Ways in the United States.
- Charity Navigator awarded us the coveted 4-star rating demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.
- We have received the Platinum Seal of Transparency which is the highest level of recognition offered by GuideStar.
In the wake of one of the most challenging times in recent history, the people of our community continue to show generosity for our neighbors.

The believe UNITED, succeed UNITED theme rallied our community to stand up for what they believe, and join us to help our community succeed by donating, volunteering, and/or advocating.

We asked: What do you believe?
- That all kids deserve a home where they feel safe?
- Moms and dads should have the opportunity for a job that supports their family?
- Children shouldn’t have to worry when they will have their next meal?
- That all people in our community deserve the chance to succeed?

We believe in those things too. All families deserve a safe place to live, food on their plates, child care, and employment. When a family is strong, parents go to work with the determination to succeed, kids go to school with the confidence to learn and grow, and our community thrives. Your support helps build strong families. One dream at a time. One career at a time. One job interview at a time. One life changed at a time.

Our Campaign

In September of 2021 we invited our community to share their beliefs and be inspired by the real stories of people whose lives have been changed by our community coming together to LIVE UNITED.

Ashley Littlewolf, a United Way Career Coach, shared her inspiring moving story of growing up in poverty and now empowering parents in poverty to reach their dreams through workforce training and job opportunities.

Our community also got the chance to meet Rose, a local mom who was once at risk of becoming homeless and is now thriving as a CNA at a local nursing home and excelling as a mother to three young children. When we believe UNITED, we succeed UNITED, and have the opportunity to transform the lives of moms like Rose.
We focus on lifting families out of poverty. We have the unique role of seeing a community-wide view of all the issues and work to understand, solve, and invest to create long-term, sustainable change. By bringing together community partner, leaders, data, and innovation, we work to understand, invest, and create long-term, sustainable change for generations to come.

Our Bold Goals are the most challenging and chronic factors of poverty in our community. Reducing hunger and homelessness, preparing children to succeed, and helping people be independent will help create a better tomorrow for all. When we come together, we can create the change our community needs. That’s the Power of Community. Realized.
WHY WE INVEST
United Way works to reduce hunger and homelessness by improving systems and strengthening partnerships to provide individuals and families equitable access to stable housing and food. Together, we are working to end homelessness for youth and families with children through a community focus on the “housing first” philosophy and preventing homelessness from happening. Local data shows that in our community, children and families are disproportionately impacted by hunger. Together we’re focusing on collaborative solutions to reduce food insecurity, provide immediate access to food, all while addressing the root causes of hunger.

THE ISSUE
• Approximately 1,000 people experience homelessness on any given night in our community
• Last year, of those experiencing homelessness in our community, approximately 20% were children
• Of those experiencing hunger in our community, 37% are children

OUR STRATEGY
• Reduce hunger for families and children
• Reduce homelessness for youth and families with children

THE RESULTS
• 3,415 children received food on the weekends and during the summer when school was not in session
• 78% of people who went from homelessness to housed, were able to maintain housing once they exited from supportive housing programs

Community Partners
CAPLP (Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership)
Churches United
Emergency Food Pantry
FM Coalition to End Homelessness
Great Plains Food Bank
New Life Center
Presentation Partners in Housing
Rural Enrichment & Counseling Headquarters (REACH)
Youthworks
YWCA Cass Clay
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

• Expanded clinic-based food pantries and programs to directly connect hunger and health; with 695 households accessing 20,258 pounds of food this past year past year during clinic visits

• Expanded the Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program, through our partnerships, federal, state, local, and private funding. In 2021, 2,367 households were screened for services either because they were facing homelessness or feared they’d become homeless

SPOTLIGHT

The Housing Navigation Program, a solution-focused best-practice strategy, year over year has seen massive cost savings through housing individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and keeping them housed with collaborative, community-based supports.

In 2021, 54 active Housing Navigation Program participants served by Presentation Partners in Housing were able to attain safe, stable housing along with supportive services to maintain housing after experiencing long episodes of homelessness. In addition, data was collected on 28 program participants who reduced the usage of costly community services such as detox admissions, ambulance transports, jail time, emergency room visits, and emergency shelter stays after attaining housing. Over the past five years of this program, there has been a combined cost savings estimated at $2,148,756 for our local community!

Looking Forward to 2022

We will continue to grow and strengthen our partnerships focused on preventing and ending homelessness for youth and families with children. Working collaboratively, we believe this is possible as we leverage additional funding and get the right people to provide the right services at the right time. Additionally, we look to keep building on the momentum created by the Cass Clay Hunger Coalition in increasing access to food for children and families through innovative delivery models. This collaborative effort will allow our community to break the cycle of homelessness and hunger for generations to come.

HOUSING NAVIGATION PROGRAM
COST SAVINGS FROM 2017-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cost Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$261,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$317,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$437,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$558,767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$572,544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Combined Cost Savings Estimated At $2,148,756
WHY WE INVEST
United Way works to increase childhood and student success by supporting the entire family as the child moves through kindergarten, school, and beyond. Nationally-recognized research points to the long-term benefits from providing high-quality early childhood education to low-income children. The benefits not only improve kindergarten readiness levels but improve third-grade reading levels, high school graduation rates, and dramatically increase the lifetime earning potential for students who benefit from quality, early childhood experiences. Research also supports the importance of students receiving services for social and emotional skills to enhance readiness for their future career or entering college.

THE ISSUE
• In Cass and Clay counties, only 37% of children ages 3 and 4 are enrolled in early childhood education
• In North Dakota, 26,937 children are unsupervised after school, meaning for every child in an afterschool program there are two waiting to get in

OUR STRATEGY
• Children enter school ready to succeed
• Students are successful as they progress through school and upon graduation are ready for their next stage in life like post-secondary education, workforce, armed services, etc.

THE RESULTS
• 91% of children enrolled in pre-k programs and quality, affordable child care entered kindergarten this year socially, emotionally, and academically ready
• 1,491 students received support and participated in out of school time programming through our community-based partners
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

• Implemented innovative ways to expand food access for children and families, such as the School Lunch Repacking Program

• Worked with the North Dakota Afterschool Networks to increase access for quality afterschool programs for more youth, especially for low-income youth and youth of color who have more limited access to these programs

SPOTLIGHT
Over the past three years, in response to the growing behavioral and mental health needs of students, we’ve partnered with Central Cass, Kindred, Northern Cass, and West Fargo Public Schools to increase access and remove barriers for students. This past school year, 244 students received mental health services on-site at their schools. Of those served:

• 88% continued to the next grade level
• 91% decreased absenteeism or maintained attendance of at least 90% of school days
• 95% reduced behavioral referrals in school

These programs have grown over the past three years, impacting over 500 local students.

Looking Forward to 2022

We will continue to focus on how our Bold Goals are interconnected and can work together to lift families out of poverty. To create lasting social change, we need to help all families in our community reach their full potential through targeted, tailored interventions, and services to meet each family’s unique needs and strengths. From education to a family’s access to food, housing, social capital, and social support, we can help to prepare students to succeed. We continue to explore innovative solutions to meet the holistic needs of students and their families.
WHY WE INVEST
United Way focuses on a two-generation model to provide opportunities for low-income families to obtain family-sustaining employment and build the support systems and social capital needed to thrive. Research shows that a focus on a two-generational model improves outcomes for children and parents and can stop the cycle of generational poverty. We see the opportunity to fill our community’s workforce shortage by providing training, education, and support to low-income families to gain and maintain in-demand jobs.

THE ISSUE
• In Minnesota and North Dakota, 1 in 5 children have parents or guardians who lack secure employment
• Young families are struggling the most in our community, with 1 in 7 children under 5 years old living in poverty
• In Cass and Clay counties, 2,145 community members have limited English proficiency

OUR STRATEGY
• Increase employment and income to family-sustaining levels
• Increase family and social support necessary to maintain independence

THE RESULTS
• 81% of individuals who received services obtained stable employment, the remaining 19% are actively working with Workforce Development Case Managers to gain skills and employment
• 5,085 individuals received trauma-informed care and family support services

Community Partners
Afro American Development Association (AADA)  
CAPLP (Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership)  
Fargo Cass Public Health  
FirstLink  
Immigrant Development Center (IDC)  
Legal Services of North Dakota  
Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota  
Nexus PATH Family Healing  
Rape & Abuse Crisis Center  
Red River Children’s Advocacy Center  
SENDCAA (SouthEastern North Dakota Community Action Agency)  
The Village Family Service Center  
Vocational Training Center
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

• Continued place-based services, such as career coaching, financial literacy classes, and English Language Learner (ELL) programs, to low-income neighborhoods, including the Arbors at McCormick Park

• Expanded access to civil-legal representation for low-income families through partnerships with Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota and North Dakota to reduce evictions, family instability, and stress for at-risk families

SPOTLIGHT

The day she met her Career Coach, Sonja buzzed with energy as she talked about her dream of becoming a CNA but thought the dream was out of reach: no stable place to live, no reliable transportation, lack of a family support system, and no local employment history.

With encouragement from her Career Coach, Sonja:
  • Completed her CNA class
  • Was hired by Bethany Retirement Services
  • Saved and purchased a vehicle
  • Saved enough for her first month’s rent and obtained stable housing

United Way also supported Sonja with a Home for Good Basket, because she was starting over without any household essentials.

Sonja’s Career Coach provided support, encouragement, and resources, and coupled with Sonja’s determination to overcome obstacles, Sonja is now thriving with a family-sustaining income and a fresh start in life.

Looking Forward to 2022

We’ll strengthen our collaborative workforce development partnerships to include black, Indigenous, people of color, and women-run organizations. These additional partnerships will provide targeted services to meet the unique needs of underserved community members seeking to become entrepreneurs or gain skills to obtain family-sustaining employment and build a path to a successful career.
To build a strong community, it takes all of us to believe that everyone deserves opportunities to succeed. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, advocate, or friend, your involvement in United Way is what makes our impact possible. So many passionate, generous, and caring people choose to get involved in one way or another and help those less fortunate in our community. Together, we LIVE UNITED and by neighbors helping neighbors, we create a community we can all be proud to call home.
Presenting Sponsors

LIVE UNITED Give United Day Sponsors

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, Marsh McLennan Agency, Microsoft, Saving Smiles Dentistry

Emerging Leaders Sponsors

Catering Sponsor

Allegro Group, Doosan Bobcat, First International Bank & Trust, WEX

Community Kickoff Event Sponsors: Xcel Energy, Noridian Healthcare Solutions

Community Celebration & Annual Meeting Sponsors: Cornerstone Bank, Lillestol Research LLC, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Nodak Insurance, Noridian Healthcare Solutions, PRO Resources, Western State Bank, Xcel Energy

School Supply Drive Sponsors: First International Bank & Trust, Flint Group, Gate City Bank, Marvin, PARK CO., REALTORS®, RDO Equipment Co., RDO Truck Centers, SCHEELS, SCHEELS Arena, State Farm Insurance-Renee Forde Agency, West Acres Development

Women UNITED Golf Scramble Sponsors: Doosan Bobcat, Floor to Ceiling Carpet One, Sandin Law, Sanford Health, Saving Smiles Dentistry

35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program Sponsors: Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota, Sagency, Saving Smiles Dentistry, Dr. Susan Mathison

We are excited to welcome Essentia Health as a LIVE UNITED Partner for 2022.
Top 50 Generous Workplaces

We are proud to honor these 50 businesses and organizations who have been the most generous in supporting our community through their workplace campaigns.

1 SCHEELS
2 Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
3 Bell Bank
4 Eide Bailly LLP
5 American Crystal Sugar Company
6 Sanford Health
7 John Deere
8 Border States Electric
9 Marvin
10 Hornbacher’s
11 Sammons Financial Group
12 Microsoft
13 Wanzek Construction, Inc.
14 North Dakota State University
15 AgCountry Farm Credit Services
16 Caterpillar Reman Drivetrain
17 Marsh McLennan Agency
18 Cornerstone Bank
19 Doosan Bobcat
20 WEX
21 Butler Machinery Company
22 Cardinal IG
23 First International Bank & Trust
24 U.S. Bank
25 Nodak Insurance Company

26 Alerus
27 Titan Machinery Inc.
28 UPS
29 Bremer Bank
30 The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
31 Essentia Health
32 Wells Fargo
33 City of Fargo
34 RDO Truck Centers
35 Flint Group
36 Xcel Energy
37 Bank of the West
38 Western Products, Inc.
39 Western State Bank
40 Fargo Public Schools
41 Cash Wise
42 Vogel Law Firm
43 Choice Bank
44 Bushel
45 General Equipment & Supplies
46 West Acres Development
47 Gate City Bank
48 BNG Team
49 Hatch Realty brokered by Real
50 Roers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Company Name</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>American Crystal Sugar Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cornerstone Bank</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Red River Commodities, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Microsoft</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Noridian Healthcare Solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Marsh McLennan Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Xcel Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Flint Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>PARK CO., REALTORS ®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>First International Bank &amp; Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>CAPLP (Lakes &amp; Prairies Community Action Partnership)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Marvin</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>WEX</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Wanzek Construction, Inc.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Rasmussen University</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Light Consulting &amp; Coaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sammons Financial Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Western State Bank</td>
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<td>Cardinal IG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>United Savings Credit Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Fargo Glass and Paint Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honoring a group of companies and organizations that go above and beyond to encourage their teams to get involved with the work of United Way of Cass-Clay.
Our Donors Change Lives

Investing financially makes it possible for thousands of families and children to have support, services, and opportunities to overcome challenges and find a path of hope for themselves and their children for generations to come.

COMMUNITY BUILDERS
Helping Those in Need

By donating $300 or more annually, Community Builders unite with thousands of their neighbors who share their values centered on investing in the community we all call home. They help build a positive future for families in poverty by making crucial and innovative services and support possible.

LEADERS IN GIVING
Shaping the Future

Leaders in Giving have a deep commitment to help their neighbors overcome challenges by investing $720 or more annually. The energy, excitement, and enthusiasm of these individuals inspire others and drive programs and new initiatives that measurably make change in our community.

The United Way will always hold a very special place in my heart. I love everything it stands for.

Brianne Stoffel
Community Builder

I donate to United Way because they put my dollars to use right here in our community. Their Bold Goals don’t just provide services to people who need them, they are working to solve the root causes of problems. I can get behind that vision and I encourage you to do the same.

Laura Oster-Aaland
Leader in Giving
Building a Legacy

Our Tocqueville investors are a group of distinguished, local visionaries who strive to make a difference in our community by investing $10,000 or more annually in the work of United Way. Their investments build a brighter and stronger future for us all and their leadership inspires others.

These leaders set a high bar in philanthropic leadership in our community. When they share their experiences, abilities and ambitions, the result is a sphere of influence able to transform lives and help more people in our community have a path to thrive.

We donate to the United Way because we care deeply for our community and the people at the United Way know the best way to get our donation to the people who need it most.

Kenny and Michelle Useldinger
Tocqueville
Campaign Volunteers

Workplace campaigns are an integral part of how we educate, engage, and rally support. And we couldn’t do it without the amazing individuals who volunteer their time and talents to connect our work with the generous companies in our community. These caring and committed volunteers are extensions of our team and we’re inspired every day by the passion they bring to their role in helping our neighbors most in need – all while building a positive, caring culture at their workplace.

Campaign Chair Volunteers

2021 Volunteer Chair

Jodi Duncan
Flint Group

2022 Volunteer Chairs

Dan Conrad
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota

Rachel Conrad

2023 Volunteer Chair

Sarah West
Light Consulting & Coaching

Employee Campaign Coordinators

Hundreds of coordinators work to help spread the message of United Way’s mission to their coworkers. Too many to list, but we are grateful for their commitment to LIVING UNITED.
Campaign Cabinet Volunteer Coaches

Susie Carlson, NDSCS-Fargo
Kendra Goette, Bell Bank
Brian Haugen, Bell Bank
Charley Johnson, Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau

Campaign Cabinet Volunteers

Mallari Ackerman, Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau
Brandon Baity, Youthworks
Kriss Burns, PRO Resources
Aaste Campbell, Sanford Health
Bob Carlson, Bank of the West
Carrie Carney, Eventide Senior Living Communities
Lindsey Cernik, Border States Electric
Alex Cyusa, Fargo Jet Center
Amber Dahl, Bushel
Kelly Edwards, First International Bank & Trust
Amanda Even, CAPLP (Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership)
Dave Ferguson, Border States Electric
Jessica Fyre, AgCountry Farm Credit Services
Sarah Greteman, Aldevron, LLC
Shawn Gruenberg, Gate City Bank
Amy Hannaher-Overby, Connect Interiors
Carla Hanson, Caterpillar Reman Drivetraing
Mandi Hanson, Gate City Bank
Caileen Huertz, Alerus
Natalie Hilgers, Northwestern Mutual
Amy Hochgraber, Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Bethany Kleven, Bell Bank
Melanie Kraker, Vocational Training Center (VTC)
Raul Leher, Rockwell Sales Offices
Ashley Littlewolf, SENDCAA (SouthEastern North Dakota Community Action Agency)
Kelsey Lubbers, Wanzek Construction, Inc.

Tim Lystad, John Deere
Casey Sanders, FMWF Chamber
JoVal Wettlaufer, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
Megan Zee, iHeartMedia Inc.

I really enjoy speaking about the efforts and the impact of the United Way. One of the things that I believe is that progress is inevitable, but we want that progress to be moving in the right direction. The United Way is key to our community being able to move in the right direction and that’s why it is so easy to passionately speak about our mission and our goals.

Raul Leher
Rockwell Sales Offices
Events

Home for Good

For the second year, we invited the community to help welcome families home—for good. Through the support of community donations, 120 Home for Good baskets were provided to individuals and families in our community who were once homeless, that were moving into a new home. These baskets ensured that they would have the essential supplies they needed to make the transition to a new home just a little warmer.

Meet Amy

Thanks to donors like you, United Way was able to help a local mom named Amy and her 3 children. The family was living in an unsafe place for several months and ended up losing their home and belongings. When they had the opportunity to move into a safe apartment, a United Way Home for Good Basket was waiting for them on their doorstep. Amy was nearly in tears as she unpacked the basket with her kids.

“The basket had pretty much everything we needed to get settled into our apartment. I’m very grateful for your help. You are helping our family get started and back on our feet in such an amazing way. Thank you!”

- Amy, local mom who received a United Way Home for Good Basket

Hornbacher’s Gobble It Up for United Way

Each summer, Hornbacher’s partners with United Way to raise dollars to support local families in need through a turkey sandwich lunch fundraiser. Nearly 100 volunteers served lunch at eight Hornbacher’s locations and encouraged people to support their community.
School Supply Drive

Each summer, the School Supply Drive provides thousands of local K-12 students with the backpacks and supplies they need to succeed in school.

700+ VOLUNTEERS | 6,000 BACKPACKS & SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED

School Supply Drive Committee Volunteers

Nikki Anderson, West Fargo Public Schools
Jessica Dunlap, NAU Country Insurance
Erik Kiesz, Principal Financial Group
Tamara Leher, Border States Electric
Ruben Lopez, Hornbacher’s
Miranda Scheel, SCHEELS
Tiffany Scheel
Greg Vandal
Emmett Worth, Gate City Bank

Women UNITED Golf Scramble

In June, we hosted the 16th Annual Women UNITED Golf Scramble at Osgood Golf Course. The nearly 200 women that were a part of this year’s event helped give local kids the very best start in life and helped lift families out of poverty – all during a fun round of golf with their friends and co-workers. In 2022, we will be hosting two rounds of golf – in the morning we will have a women’s round, followed by an afternoon round open to all adults.

Women UNITED Leadership Team Volunteers

Chair: Kimberly Busch, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
Katie Bjornson, Fargo Center for Dermatology
Courtney Buskirk, SAP Concur
Kristin Dehmer, Moorhead Area Public Schools
Katie DeMars, XY Planning Network
Jess Engel, Red River Commodities, Inc.
Natalie Ganske, Wells Fargo
Jaye Gust, Sanford Health
Heather Heick, Bell Bank
Mary Jo Hotzler, Forum Communications
Liz Johnson, Saving Smiles Dentistry
Kate Lea, Wells Fargo
Melissa Marshall, CoreCounts
Wendy Mason, Hatch Realty brokered by Real
Anamaria Olson, Western State Bank
Jenny Olson, State of North Dakota

The School Supply Drive is important to our family because we have been going through a hardship since the pandemic, so income for my family has not been as great. We really needed help getting our children school supplies and we are so grateful to United Way for helping our family. It makes my children happy to know that they will have supplies to use for school.

Parent of child who received school supplies
Each year we take time to recognize and celebrate the amazing companies who give back to the community and LIVE UNITED, as well as honor and lift up the tremendous individuals who volunteer. These companies and people are leaders who help make our community a great place to live, work, and thrive.

Our award winners inspire all of us to continue our work to help our neighbors in need.

**Award Winners**

**Rising Star Award - Border Bank**
A company who stepped forward to give back to United Way for the first time and is starting a tradition of giving back to our community.

**Humble Hero Award - Ashley Littlewolf, SENDCAA (Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency)**
A person or company whose everyday exceptionality and kindness remind us we all have the opportunity to be heroic to those in need by stepping forward to volunteer.

**Magnetic Marvel Award - Marvin**
A local company that brought energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to their company’s United Way campaign.

**Change Maker Award - Lisa Maloy, American Crystal Sugar Company**
A Campaign Cabinet volunteer who put in outstanding effort to engage our corporate community to give back.

**MVP (Most Valuable Person) Award - Chantelle Gosselin and the United Way Committee, Fargo Glass and Paint Co.**
An outstanding Employee Campaign Coordinator volunteer or group of volunteers who gave it their all when it came to spearheading their company’s United Way campaign.

**Power of Partnership Award - Flint Group**
A company or person who personify collaboration by extending their hearts, minds, dollars, and/or goods to further the mission of United Way in an invaluable and immeasurable way.
Heart of Our Community Award
Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota

United Way is honored to recognize the Most Engaged Workplace, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota (BCBSND), with the Heart of Our Community Award. This award honors a company whose corporate culture embodies what it means to LIVE UNITED through their commitment to taking action to positively change our community. The company recognized has volunteerism woven throughout everything they do as a company. The heart of our community lies within the people and leaders at BCBSND who step forward to get involved in the community where they do business.

BCBSND encourages their employees to take on volunteer leadership roles, get involved, participate in hands-on volunteer events, and give back to the community we all call home with United Way. Their outstanding display of volunteerism and volunteer hours given by their employees fuel United Way’s Bold Goals and put opportunity in the hands of our neighbors to lift families out of poverty.

Supporting the community is front and center in the culture at BCBSND. They believe health and well-being are the building blocks of thriving individuals and communities. They strive to provide meaningful support to our community by collaborating on shared outcomes, creating lasting change, and investing in innovative ideas that improve communities. We are honored to partner with BCBSND to build a foundation for the health and well-being of our community.

We are proud to recognize BCBSND with the Heart of Our Community Award!

BCBSND continues to increase employee engagement and participation in their United Way campaign. Over 340 employees made an investment in United Way during their campaign with over 80 serving as Leaders in Giving.

They hosted their Annual Eat UNITED Food Truck Feed event where hundreds of community members came together to support United Way and enjoyed a tasty lunch.

Through a friendly competition with their sister company, BCBSND and Noridian hosted their annual Battle for the North fundraising competition. Together they made a huge impact in the community raising over $144,000 for our community!
Corporate Engagement

Today more than ever, companies are recognizing how important it is for employees to feel connected not only to their employers but also to their teammates. We heard from many companies how their United Way campaigns successfully bolstered the morale of their employees because of the fun, virtual events they were able to host even though the workforce was remote. When companies create events and opportunities for team members to connect and give back, the return on investment greatly impacts the company culture, employee morale, and overall health of companies. Our team is dedicated to inspire others with creativity while working to provide meaningful volunteer experiences.

“United Way events give employees a chance to connect with one another and be engaged with their community, and those are all factors as to how employees feel about their work and their workplace.”

Chris Barta
Senior Director of Operations at Marvin

963 volunteers hosted through Corporate Engagement
Literacy Kits

Literacy and early learning are critical to ensuring kids are ready for kindergarten. Our literacy kits were designed to focus on skills young children need when learning to read. With the help of volunteers, hundreds of literacy kits were created and distributed to local children in Cass and Clay counties.

Senior Commodity Box & Care Card Deliveries

In collaboration with CAPLP (Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership), United Way rallied volunteers to help seniors who were struggling with isolation and safety concerns during the pandemic to ensure that they had access to nutritional food and a friendly note delivered to their doors each month. Our dedicated and thoughtful volunteers made this such a great experience for the seniors, making this something they looked forward to.

Tie Blankets

New this year, we asked the community to help provide fleece tie blankets so that Home for Good Baskets provided to families can also include a warm, cheerful, and colorful blanket for kids to have as they settle into their new home. This was a wonderful option for coworkers to volunteer together, involve their kids, and have fun in the process, even if they were working remotely.

Over 500 blankets donated to Home for Good
Emerging Leaders

Emerging Leaders is a network of community-minded professionals who work together to give, connect, build skills, and volunteer to lead the change for a better tomorrow for our community. Members connect through exclusive professional development events and volunteer opportunities where they grow as leaders and effect change for decades to come.

Emerging Leaders Committee

Chair: Kelly Edwards, First International Bank & Trust
Co-Chair: Aimee Stone, Noridian Healthcare Solutions
Jen Christianson, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
Alexa Ducioame, Moore Engineering
Kendra Goette, Bell Bank
Haley Hermanson, Cornerstone Bank
Karissa Hofer, WEX
Kristin Jones
Bret Kinzler, Alerus
Paige Larson, Eide Bailly LLP
Darin Loven, WEX
Jon Reznecheck, SCHEELS
Sydney Wurzer, SCHEELS

966 MEMBERS | $795,113 DOLLARS INVESTED | 18 EVENTS | 116 COMPANIES REPRESENTED
35 Under 35 Women’s Leadership Program

This program’s goal is to inspire local women from all backgrounds to make a difference, help them realize their leadership skills and energize their collective power as women in our community. The program includes sessions, led by local leaders, covering topics such as goal-setting, communication, public speaking, conflict management, and more. Each year, alumnae volunteers aspire to select a group of dynamic and diverse women to experience the leadership program. Since 2009, 420 women have participated in the program.

Mission
• Strengthens leadership skills and confidence of female leaders
• Enhances the impact of women across our workplaces, homes, and community
• Inspires collaboration and unity

I believe the skills and knowledge learned in United Way’s 35 Under 35 program will impact every child in my school district. Richland #44 has a strong history of being an excellent school district, but my experience in this program will bring more opportunities to my students and identify resources for all children throughout our schools.

Britney Gandhi
Richland #44 School District
2021 participant
Thank You.

We are so thankful to live in a community with such giving and caring neighbors. Generosity is what makes our work to lift families out of poverty possible.

We could not do it without you.