

# 2023

United  
Way



## UNITED WAY OF CASS-CLAY ANNUAL REPORT

United Way *inspires* and *activates*  
our community to improve lives.

**We are United Way.**

We are *grateful* for each and  
every person who helps bring  
*opportunities* to children and  
families in our community.



# Our Impact. Our Bold Goals.

Lifting people out of poverty takes focus, persistence, and passion. By using data and activating the right resources, we focus on solutions that will have the biggest, long-term impact. There are three main areas of opportunity – we call them our Bold Goals.

These amazing organizations share our goals. They have proven their commitment by demonstrating results in making positive change. We are proud how they use our grants to better our neighbor's lives.

## Our Community Partners

Afro-American Development Association (AADA)	Moorhead Area Public Schools
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Red River Valley	New Life Center
CAPLP (Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership, Inc.)	Nexus PATH Family Healing
Churches United	Presentation Partners in Housing
Emergency Food Pantry	Rape and Abuse Crisis Center
Fargo Public Schools	Red River Children's Advocacy Center
FirstLink	Rural Enrichment & Counseling Headquarters (REACH)
FM Coalition to End Homelessness	SENDCAA (SouthEastern North Dakota Community Action Agency)
Friends of the Children	The Village Family Service Center
Great Plains Food Bank	Vocational Training Center
Immigrant Development Center (IDC)	West Fargo Public Schools
Jasmin Childcare and Preschool	YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties
Jeremiah Program	Youthworks
Legal Services of North Dakota	YWCA Cass Clay
Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota	

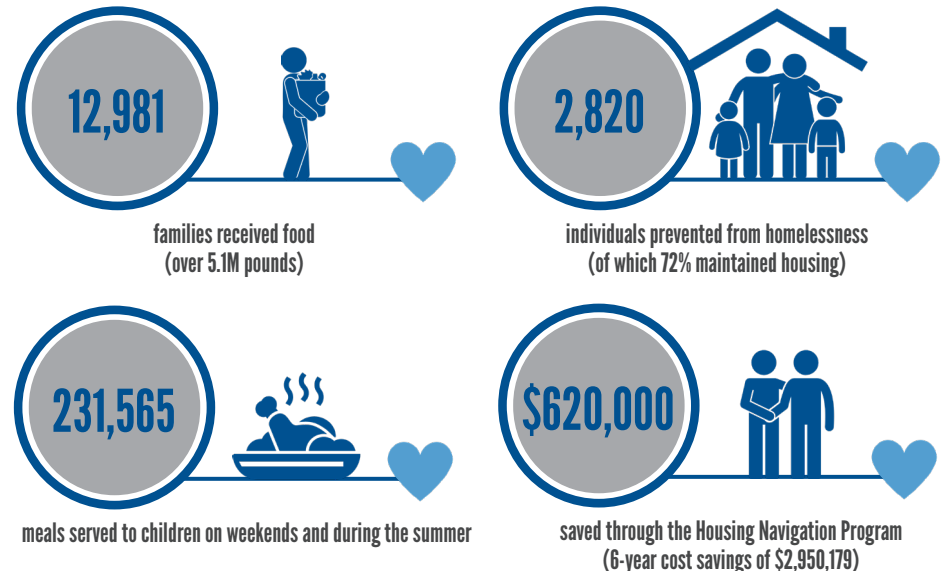
Kristen went from 18 and homeless to 18 and hopeful. Read her story!



## Bold Goal 1

### Preventing Hunger & Homelessness

A family in poverty cannot be successful or healthy without stable housing and access to nutritious food. We collaborate with local experts to address the root causes of homelessness and hunger. Together, we focus on prevention to keep families and children from ever experiencing these challenges. We also invest in short-term strategies, with a focus on all a family needs to try to break the cycle of poverty for good.





Isaac no longer struggles in elementary school. Read his story!



## Bold Goal 2

### *Preparing Children to Succeed*

We believe our community's kids deserve to have the support they need to reach their full potential. Children who have high-quality, early childhood education and enter kindergarten socially, emotionally, and academically ready have a higher chance of being successful in school and in life. Together, we help children reach adulthood with support, choices, and opportunity.

1,133



children enrolled in high-quality, early childhood education

1,302



children received extra support, outside of school, such as mentorship, tutoring, reading support, and after school programs

98%



of children entered kindergarten socially, emotionally, and academically ready

466



families improved their knowledge of child development and parenting strategies

Ashley, with our community partner SENDCAA, works as a career coach. Read stories of lives shes changed!



## Bold Goal 3

### *Strengthening Families*

Breaking the cycle of poverty is not easy. Not having access to, things such as housing, a job, education, good physical and mental health, food, transportation, basic needs, childcare, a bank account, credit, and more can collectively keep a family from rising above poverty and finding a better life for themselves. We fund solutions that comprehensively look at families and all their needs to best support a positive change in their life.

547



individuals secured employment

5,000+



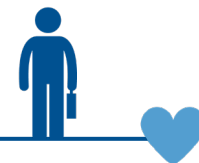
families accessed supportive services and reported a 87% increase in well-being

186



individuals attended English Language Learner classes

60%



of individuals increased their wages, through securing a new job or upskilling

# Leadership

United Way is led by caring, mission-driven individuals who work every day to inspire and activate our community to create a better tomorrow.

## Our Team



Meet our team!



## Our Board of Trustees

These amazing community leaders, company executives, and influencers volunteer their time and expertise to actively guide decisions, provide financial oversight, and serve as advocates for our work.



**Tiffany Lawrence**  
Chair  
Sanford Health



**Mike Arntson**  
Chair Elect  
Cardinal IG



**Ashton Hansen**  
Vice Chair  
Allegro Group



**Stacie Heiden**  
Treasurer  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND



**Kimberly Busch**  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND



**Eric Christianson**  
Enclave



**Kelly Dawson**  
Border States



**Randy Gerhold**  
Bushel



**Laetitia Mizero Hellerud**  
Jeremiah Program



**Lynn Johnson**  
Bell Bank



**Dr. Jeff Schatz**  
Schatz & Associates, LLC



**Julie Whitney**  
Bremer Bank



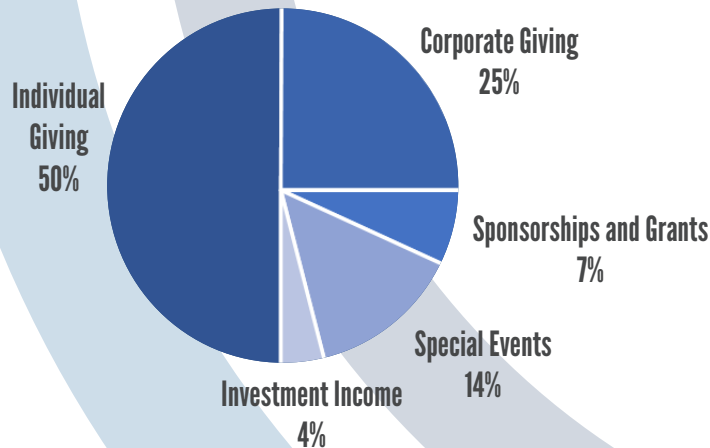
**Sarah West**  
Campaign Chair  
Light Consulting



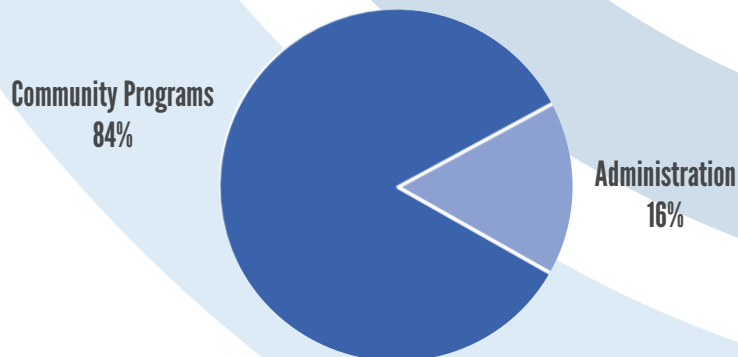
# Financial Highlights

Our commitment is to be thoughtful stewards of every dollar entrusted to us. We strive to keep administrative costs low and programs efficient, so we can maximize every dollar possible into the work of creating positive change in our community.

## Community Support



## Community Investments



## Our Future is Bright Letter From Our Leaders

How do you create a community where everyone can thrive? It starts with each of us. Individually we are mothers, fathers, business owners, volunteers, donors, and advocates. Together, we are United Way.

This past year, you helped create some extraordinary impact through United Way. Together, we saw:

- 6,000 students receive a new backpack and school supplies - their hearts filled with hope for the upcoming school year.
- Tammy, who had been homeless for months, moved into an apartment of her own.
- Over 300 volunteers put in 1,245 hours of volunteer time for Day of Action to make a profound impact on our community.
- A young man named Josh shared his story of resilience and passion to help other young people experiencing homelessness find support and hope.
- Our Community Partners worked diligently to find new solutions to provide food, safe homes, hope, support, and encouragement for our neighbors in need.

And so many stories yet to be written by you and United Way. Every good story begins with the right setting, and there is nowhere more generous and committed than our Cass-Clay community. It is this place and the people here that inspire us to work together to improve lives and create a welcoming community where everyone can thrive. We know we are better together. We are United Way.

Thank you for helping to write the stories for so many and for making a commitment to join us as we look to the future – together we will find new strategic opportunities to help even more of our neighbors in need. That's the power of community, realized.

Warmly,

Tiffany Lawrence  
2023 Board of Trustees Chair

Karla Isley  
President & CEO

# Our Community Makes It Possible

Making change is only possible when we come together. Every donor, partner, and volunteer plays a crucial role in advancing our mission. When people give, in a way that is meaningful to them, we bring together the gifts of many and do great things for our neighbors in need.

## Donors

Investing financially is an important way to make the biggest impact. Some donors choose to give a gift once per year, while others give from every paycheck. Every dollar matters.



Giving back fuels our work and gives thousands of children and families the opportunity to succeed.



Donors who give \$10,000 or more annually leave a remarkable legacy and serve as role models for how we can impact the lives of countless families by our generosity.

## Volunteers

People who give of their time, talent, and energy make our programs, projects, and events possible. Whether it was building a sandbox for Day of Action or providing your voice on a committee, we couldn't do our work without you.



Thank you to these amazing people who serve as committed volunteers on our committees.

## Events

We love to create opportunities for our friends and advocates to come together! In 2023, we hosted more than 35 events. Opportunities such as Lead UNITED and the 35 Under 35 Women's Leadership Program brought our community together to hear about our work, advance leadership skills, and meet others with common values.



There are so many ways to get involved with United Way. Visit our website to learn how you can get involved or check out upcoming events.



## Companies

More than 300 of our region's most generous companies partner with us to create change. By investing dollars, time, and focusing on opportunities for their team members to connect and give back, they improve their company culture, employee morale, and recruit the next generation of impact-focused employees.

This March, we honored the best and brightest companies and individuals who go above and beyond for our community. Congratulations to these people and businesses!





This year marked 25 years of helping students in our community get the backpacks and supplies they need to start school with confidence and prepared to succeed. In the last 25 years, we provided 100,000 backpacks to local students! This milestone is a great example of how each investment comes together to make a big change, felt for generations.

That's the power of community. *Realized!*

## 2023 United Way Award Winners

Change Maker Award - *Sarah Mastera, Bell Bank*  
 Heart of Community Award - *Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota*  
 Humble Hero Award - *Keith Medhus, John Deere*  
 Magnetic Marvel Award - *Goldmark Property Management*  
 MVP Award - *Cardinal IG United Way Committee*  
 Power of Partnership Award - *Light Consulting*  
 Rising Star Award - *Dacotah Bank*

## Top 25 Engaged

1. Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
2. Marvin
3. Red River Commodities, Inc.
4. Cardinal IG
5. American Crystal Sugar Company
6. Eide Bailly LLP
7. Light Consulting
8. Marsh McLennan Agency
9. SCHEELS
10. Western State Bank
11. AgCountry Farm Credit Services
12. Noridian Healthcare Solutions
13. Fargo Glass & Paint Co.
14. Wanzek Construction, Inc.
15. Border States
16. Flint Group
17. Cornerstone Bank
18. Bremer Bank
19. Goldmark Property Management
20. Sanford Health
21. Fargo Center for Dermatology
22. Hornbacher's
23. Choice Bank
24. Sammons Financial Group
25. Caterpillar Reman Drivetrain

## Top 50 Generous

1. SCHEELS
2. Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota
3. Eide Bailly LLP
4. John Deere
5. American Crystal Sugar Company
6. Marvin
7. Border States
8. Bell Bank
9. Sanford Health
10. Hornbacher's
11. Sammons Financial Group
12. Caterpillar Reman Drivetrain
13. Marsh McLennan Agency
14. Cardinal IG
15. AgCountry Farm Credit Services
16. North Dakota State University
17. Titan Machinery Inc.
18. Microsoft
19. Red River Commodities, Inc.
20. Cornerstone Bank
21. First International Bank & Trust
22. Doosan Bobcat
23. Nodak Insurance Company
24. Enclave
25. Essentia Health
26. Butler Machinery Company
27. Bremer Bank
28. Choice Bank
29. Wanzek Construction, Inc.
30. Alerus
31. WEX
32. U.S. Bank
33. The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead
34. Light Consulting
35. Goldmark Property Management
36. General Equipment & Supplies
37. Wells Fargo
38. Dakota Fence
39. West Acres Development
40. Vogel Law Firm
41. Western Products, Inc.
42. Flint Group
43. Corwin Automotive Group
44. Western State Bank
45. Brandt Holdings Company
46. Cash Wise Foods
47. Fargo Glass & Paint Co.
48. Midco
49. Valley Imports
50. Fargo Public Schools

# Companies Provide the Spark

## 2023 LIVE UNITED Partners

ALERUS



## 2023 Presenting Sponsors



## Mission Match Sponsors



**Luncheon and Silent Auction Sponsors:** Beth's Place, Choice Bank, Cornerstone Bank, Enclave, Fargo Center for Dermatology, Flint Group, Noridian Healthcare Solutions, PRO Resources, Red River Commodities, Inc, Sanford Health, Saving Smiles Dentistry, WEX



United Way of Cass-Clay