



Newsletter

February 2023

Lakes Area United Way

**Thank you to all the entities that support the
Lakes Area United Way through campaigns:**

Brainerd School District #181

Xcel Energy

Crow Wing County

CliftonLarsonAllen

Essentia Health

CTC - Consolidated Telephone Co.

Pequot Manufacturing

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union

Hunt Utilities Group

Cuyuna Regional Medical Center

Crow Wing Power

Clow Stamping Company

Graphic Packaging, Inc.

Benevity Community Impact Fund

Costco

BNSF

Bremer Bank

UPS

First Western Bank

Riverwood Bank

Target

U.S. Bank

Widseth, Smith & Nolting

Minnesota Power

Deerwood Bank

Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber

Wal-Mart - 1654

Wells Fargo Community Campaign

IBM

Hubbard Radio

Royal Tire

Andersen Windows Corporation

State Combined Charities

CenterPoint Energy

ATEK Access Technologies, LLC

Marco Business Products

Good Samaritan Societies of

Brainerd and Pine River

TDS Metrocom & Telecom

Coborn/Cash Wise

Duke Energy

Bernick's

FedEx

Best Buy

ITW

If you would like to learn about starting a payroll deduction campaign or becoming a Small Business Circle Member please email contactus@unitedwaynow.org

Thank you!

The Lakes Area United Way was the beneficiary of Jack Pine Brewery's Pints for a Purpose on February 1. Thank you to everyone that came to show your support that night. It was a fun evening!



Brainerd Lakes Area Funders Network - Funder Panel

Would like to thank everyone that attended the Brainerd Lakes Area Funders Network - Funder Panel in January. It was a great afternoon of shared information. Participants learned about opportunities, priority areas, eligibility, and application timelines/deadlines for 2023 from several area foundations and funders. Nonprofits had the opportunity to network with colleagues and provide feedback on gaps that exist with funding and/or areas of need that have limited funding options.

Our community is very fortunate to have so many non-profits that serve our community with such passion and compassion!





Get Connected. Get Help.™

Each February, organizations around the country celebrate the 2-1-1 call center teams and their tireless work connecting their communities to services and resources.

United Way 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember, three-digit number that families and individuals in Minnesota can call to obtain free and confidential information on health and human services. 2-1-1 call centers are staffed

24/7 by trained Community Resource Specialists who quickly assess needs and refer callers to the help that they seek.

2-1-1 offers information on a range of services, including:

- Food and housing support
- Mental health and substance abuse resources
- Legal assistance
- Youth programs
- Medical and dental clinics
- Job training opportunities
- Household items
- And much more!

2-1-1 partners with MN State

Minnesota State and Greater Twin Cities United Way partnership leverages the 2-1-1 resource helpline to support students meet their basic needs. Through



211, students will be able to easily access information and referrals to on-campus and community-wide resources, including mental health support. Minnesota State and Greater Twin Cities

1,097 individuals in Crow Wing County received assistance from 211 in 2022.

United Way's 2-1-1 will support more than 340,000 students at the 30 colleges and seven universities of Minnesota

State and will serve as a national model of how higher education and 2-1-1 can partner together to increase student access to social services and community support.

To learn more about this partnership click here: www.minnstate.edu/media/newsreleases/2022/042022-UW.html

Making the News

Kare11 did a story on 2-1-1 noting that United Way's 2-1-1 service usually sees between 500-700 calls every day, which range in topics from advice about taxes to finding shelter in cold weather. Click on the url to view the story: <https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/breaking-the-news/greater-twin-cities-united-way-211-hotline-staff-encourage-people-to-use-the-free-resource/89-56859c1b-90cc-423e-8cf9-779ec5e2bd6e>

2-1-1 NEED HELP?

CALL TEXT Simply Dial 211

Send Zip Code to 898-211

BREMER BANK Home for Good Kits

Each year the United Way and Bremer Bank team up to create “Home for Good” kits for thousands of families. When families transition from homelessness to stable housing, many do not have the essential items they need such as plates, drinkware, silverware, utensils, toothbrushes, deodorant, bar soap, towels, laundry soap, cleaning supplies or fleece blankets.

Bags are distributed throughout the Bremer Bank service area, a donation was recently made to the Family Safety Network in Walker.

To learn more about the Home for Good kits click the link: www.bremer.com/company/newsroom/2021-10-24-bremer-bank-home-for-good



Pictured from left to right: Jon Aga, Executive Director for United Way; Heather Rogosheske, Executive Director for Family Safety Network; Rachal Johnson, Bremer, Treasury Management; Yvette Campbell, Bremer, Business Banker



The Pop-Up Pantry returns March 9

Lakes Area United Way coordinates and organizes these monthly distributions which serve about 200 households each month.



Lakes Area United Way





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Partner Programs

We are proud to highlight our 2022-2023 partner programs which were selected by our Vision Council for the impact they have on addressing community needs! Funds raised throughout the 2022-2023 fiscal year support their work, in addition to our own Lakes Area United Way programs like Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and GetConnected.

EDUCATION

helping people achieve their potential



Youth Mentoring



LifeTalks



Restorative Group Conferences

HEALTH

building accessibility to affordable and quality care



School-Based Dental Care



Participant Sponsorships



Family Home Visiting



Support Groups



Crisis Line And Referral Service



Community Advocacy



Alex and Brandon Child Safety Center

FINANCIAL STABILITY

promoting stability and independence



Emergency Services/ Pathways to Hope



Warming Shelter



Youth Build



Outreach Program



Youth Pack



Food Rescue



Food Distribution

Partner Program Highlight



Aitkin County
**Habitat
for Humanity**[®]



Aitkin County Habitat for Humanity, Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Aitkin County Child Abuse Prevention Council, Lakes and Woods Horticultural Club and neighborhood volunteers partnered with Lakes Area United Way.

A rain garden was installed at the new home in Aitkin. It is an environmentally-friendly project, which will filter runoff and rainwater before it flows into the Mississippi River watershed.

Through partnerships and volunteers, we were able to complete the planting of a rain garden at 218 Minnesota Ave. S., Aitkin. This is the Habitat for Humanity home of Kara Anderson and her children, Addie, fourth grade, and Damon, kindergarten.

Summary of work

In the fall of 2021, we obtained a water management grant from the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District. This was used to landscape and install pipes and waterways to

direct runoff to the bottom of our lot at the new home at 218 Minnesota Ave. S. We also accomplished other erosion prevention projects with that grant.

In the spring, Jean Pitt, retired extension educator, completed a thorough landscaping plan for the home. Then, Ann Schwartz, Aitkin County Habitat for Humanity Director, made a presentation to the Lakes and Woods garden club and obtained some volunteers and donations of plants.

On Sept. 6, 2022, we held a planting party at the home. This was to engage the partner family children, neighborhood children, and various adult volunteers in completing the planting and mulching of a rain garden at the bottom of the hill. This prevents unwanted runoff into the area watersheds, including the Ripple and Mississippi rivers.

We planted the garden and had a cookout. All who attended received gardening aprons. We had five adult volunteers and eight children and youth involved in the project. Ongoing, the family had to finish mulching the space. Also, we are anticipating



Addie, the homeowner's daughter, and Dan, garden club volunteer, work hard on the rain garden.

more donations of perennial plants from garden club and community members that we hope to plant this fall. We also went back and reseeded the hillside to prevent erosion. (Further planting is delayed till spring).



Damon and Addie chow down on the picnic lunch that was provided at the cookout for the Planting Party. Left, Kara and daughter, Addie, are shown with their backyard and the project. There is a slope from the home to this lower yard.





Partner Program applications due Tuesday, February 28!!

Each year, Lakes Area United Way raises funds from the community and reinvests those funds in local nonprofit programs making a positive impact in the areas of health, education, and financial stability of Lakes Area community members. We invite eligible programs to apply to come alongside the United Way in our work as a funded Partner Program for our next fiscal year of 2023-2024. Eligible programs will be scheduled for an interview or site visit with our 2023 Vision Council in late March. For more details and to apply, visit unitedwaynow.org/grants.

BASIC NEEDS

If education, financial stability, and health care are the pillars of a good quality of life, then basic needs are the foundation. Without basic needs, kids struggle to focus in school, adults aren't able to be at work consistently, and reaching everyone's full potential is impossible. Together we strive to stabilize lives.

EDUCATION

Access to quality education is vital to child development, lifelong learning, and regional economic growth. United Way understands that barriers exist in our community that impact one's ability to obtain quality education, so we continually strive to address these issues by ensuring equal opportunities exist for all.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

United Way empowers people to become financially independent so that our entire community can thrive. Those living in financially unstable homes frequently struggle when it comes to other foundational basic needs. Without a stable income, people can find themselves falling behind rather than moving forward.

HEALTH

Staying healthy both physically and mentally is essential to living a great life. Without good health, people face roadblocks around employment and education and are unable to become their best selves. Healthy communities are strong communities, so we must work to improve health and well being county-wide.

We Are Seeking Vision Council Members!

Vision Council is a group of community members who review applications and conduct site visits and interviews for agencies who have requested funding. Vision Council members come to understand community needs, learn about the impact that applicant agencies are making in the community, and make funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors. To learn more and sign up, visit unitedwaynow.org/visioncouncil



Keys *for* Community

An evening of music, comedy & improv

Sponsorships and Tickets



Grand Sponsor \$2,000

- VIP Stage-side table for 8
- Additional sponsorship recognition & benefits



Key Sponsor \$1,000

- Table for 8 near the stage
- Additional sponsorship recognition & benefits



Ensemble Table \$600

- Reserved seating for 8



Solo Ticket \$60

- One reserved seat

*A Selection of Hearty Appetizers
Included with all Tickets!*

featuring

DEUCES WILD
DUELING PIANOS

Thursday, May 11

6pm Social Hour

sponsored by Pequot Manufacturing

7:30pm Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos
at The Woods Gather on 3 Event Center



Lakes Area United Way

Key Sponsors:

Bremer Bank | Magnum Research
CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen)

For more information or to order tickets
use the QR code or visit unitedwaynow.org

