

# UNITED WAY OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



# LETTER FROM UWNEMN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHELLEY VALENTINI



Dear friends,

It's bittersweet to write this year's letter for United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's (UWNEMN) Annual Report, as it will be my last as Executive Director. At the end of July of 2020, I will be retiring from my current role, remaining on the staff through the end of the year to assist with leadership TRANSITION.

I am filled with immense pride and flooded with countless memories as I look back over my 29-year career with UWNEMN. The organization has changed so much since I started - from the amount of funding raised, to the types of programs provided and the work being done, to the depth of positive impact UWNEMN has had on people's lives.

With the purchase and renovation of UWNEMN's building, our work has been transformed and reenergized. The building has become the cornerstone for our work and has revolutionized how we operate and serve the community. The partnerships and relationships that were created and strengthened through this process have proven invaluable, and UWNEMN is so grateful to have this space to serve our communities.

The Iron Range has always been my home. It's where my roots are, and I love that I have been able to serve this region through UWNEMN. I am from Hoyt Lakes originally; my dad was a mining engineer with Erie /LTV Mining. The Iron Range is in my blood. Through my work at United Way, I have been able to be a part of changing lives here for the better, made life-long friendships, and generated funds that stayed local and had local impact. Along the way, I have met so many wonderful people who helped further the mission of UWNEMN – many of them didn't even know my name and just referred to me as "United Way Lady." I am proud of that nickname and for all that we have united to accomplish together over the past 29 years.

I am honored to have led this organization and for the meaningful work that has been done and will continue. I am ready to pass the torch to my successor, Erin Shay, who will assume the role of UWNEMN's Executive Director on August 1, 2020. I have worked alongside Erin for more than 15 years and know that she will excel in this new role and will continue the impactful work of UWNEMN, putting her own stamp and creativity on it as she always has.

With this, I am signing off on the Annual Report and on my last full year with UWNEMN. It has truly been my honor to have been a part of connecting and strengthening our communities.

With gratitude,

Shelley Valentini  
Executive Director  
United Way of Northeastern Minnesota

Hello all,

I have had the honor of working with Shelley for the past 15 years. She has been an amazing mentor, boss, and friend. As she transitions into retirement, I feel beyond humbled and excited to step into the big shoes she's leaving and lead UWNEMN and its incredible team of talented and dedicated employees. I am grateful to the Board of Directors for their trust in me and to Shelley for her unwavering leadership and mentorship throughout the duration of my career at UWNEMN. I look forward to the next chapter at UWNEMN and continuing to create positive changes in the communities that we all love so much.

With gratitude,

Erin Shay  
Community Impact & Engagement Director  
United Way of Northeastern Minnesota



## UWNEMN MISSION:

*"To unite and focus our communities in creating measurable results to improve people's lives and strengthen our families."*



# WHY UNITED WAY?

The Iron Range. The Arrowhead. The Great Northwoods. No matter how you refer to our region, YOU are part of what makes Northeastern Minnesota a special place to live, work, and play, and the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) is proud to serve YOU.

United Ways around the world are individually operated which means UWNEMN has the ability to choose and fund programs that make the most positive impacts on our LOCAL communities. This means contributions to the UWNEMN stay RIGHT HERE so the UWNEMN is able to change programs and provide services that mean the most to YOU.

Our local United Way – in fact, our entire REGION – depends on YOU to make us strong. Your support of UWNEMN and partner agencies' initiatives, attendance of UWNEMN events, and input on community projects are critical to the success of our organization and the health and happiness of your neighbors!



"At Minnesota Twist Drill, we pride ourselves on producing Minnesota-made products because we know the impact that has on supporting local families. In that same way, our employees are proud to 'give where they live' and support United Way of Northeastern Minnesota because we know those dollars stay local and directly benefit Iron Rangers."



-- Paul Janssen,  
Minnesota Twist Drill

*Donations to YOUR local United Way have a direct impact on the communities where YOU live!*



# UWNEMN IRON RANGE PARTNER AGENCIES 2019

## HELPING CHILDREN SUCCEED

### **Arrowhead Center**

Adolescent Chemical Dependency Support

### **Camp Chicagami**

Camp Scholarships for Low-Income Children

### **Ely Community Resource**

Youth Mentoring Program & Positive Activities

### **Girl Scouts Lakes & Pines**

Mentoring & Community Outreach for Girls

### **Hibbing Kinship Mentoring Program**

Group Mentoring Program

### **ServeMinnesota - Reading Corps**

In-School Reading Tutoring

### **Summer Work Outreach Project (SWOP)**

Youth Mentoring & Community Outreach

### **Volunteers in Education (VinE)**

Tutoring for Youth

### **Voyageur Area Boy Scouts**

Mentoring & Community Outreach for Youth

When you **Give Where You Live**, you not only invest in UWNEMN programs but also our partner agencies.



**1,488**

youth in area schools received tutoring



**461**

youth were provided mentoring and positive out-of-school experiences in our area

**23**

area youth were provided chemical dependency and life skill services in and out of school

*United Way and its partners focus on results during critical stages of a child's development. We invest in programs that improve academics, encourage youth development, and work to address issues early.*



# UWNEMN PARTNER AGENCIES 2019



## 486

uninsured or under-insured individuals received free medical care



## 536

seniors received support services that promoted independence and healthy aging



## 484

individuals facing cancer or a life-limiting illness received financial assistance

## EMPOWERING HEALTHY LIVES

### Angel Fund

Financial Support for Individuals with Cancer

### ARC Range

Advocacy for the Differently Abled & Families

### Care Partners

Financial Support for Individuals with Cancer & Life Limiting Illnesses

### Ely Community Health Center

Free Clinic for Uninsured & Under-insured in Ely

### Floodwood Services & Training

Independence for the Differently Abled

### Mesabi Family YMCA

Healthy Living Programs

### Northwoods Partners

Support for Homebound, Ill, Elderly, & Caregivers

### Project Care Free Clinic

Medical Services for Uninsured & Underinsured in Hibbing and Virginia

Your contribution stays local and impacts thousands in our communities!

*United Way and its partners believe that strengthening the health and well-being of our most vulnerable men, women, and children leads to a stronger over-all community. We invest in programs that support safe, healthy, independent lives for individuals in our region.*



# UWNEMN IRON RANGE PARTNER AGENCIES 2019

## STABILIZING FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS

### **Advocates for Family Peace**

Domestic Abuse Intervention & Education

### **American Red Cross**

Disaster/Emergency Services

### **Elder Services Network of AEOA**

Senior Services

### **Food Shelves Area Wide**

Food Distribution to those in Need

### **North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity**

Affordable Housing Program

### **LSS Family Resource Center**

Safe Shelter for Children in Family Crisis

### **Range Transitional Housing**

Transitional Housing

### **Salvation Army - Hibbing & Virginia**

Food and Emergency Services

### **Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank**

Food Distribution

### **Sexual Assault Program of N. St. Louis County**

Sexual Assault Intervention & Education

### **Support Within Reach**

Sexual Assault Intervention & Education

# 2,157,905

pounds of food were delivered to local food shelves



# 1,433

survivors of sexual and/or domestic violence  
received support and advocacy services



# 176

individuals in need were able to obtain  
affordable permanent housing



*United Way and its partners strive to stabilize people in crisis through emergency food and housing services. We provide support to families and individuals experience domestic violence and sexual assault.*



# UWNEMN IRON RANGE PROGRAMS 2019

## ***BUDDY BACKPACKS***

"Buddy Backpacks makes me happy because I can't concentrate when I'm hungry."

- 2019 Buddy Backpack student survey response



One-in-five children in our region struggles with hunger. Teachers and school nurses have shared stories of students returning to school on Monday exhibiting signs of chronic hunger, like stomach cramps, headaches, dizziness, and an inability to focus. Buddy Backpacks was created to provide these children with nutritious, nonperishable, child-friendly meal kits each weekend or break from school.

Children are referred and enrolled by staff. **100% of school staff surveyed in 2019 said they find value in Buddy Backpacks.** Survey results show children's health, energy level, attendance, and feelings of being cared for also improved due to their involvement in the 2018-2019 Buddy Backpacks program.

# 902

Iron Range children are currently enrolled in Buddy Backpacks

# 37,000

Buddy Backpacks will be packed by volunteers for the 2019-2020 school year

## ***MEET UP AND CHOW DOWN***

In 2016, UWNEMN's Board of Directors recognized to expand the organization's food efforts to include a summer program for local children. Piloted in Chisholm its first year, Meet Up and Chow Down has since expanded to include nine different sites in Chisholm, Ely, Hibbing, Mt. Iron, Nashwauk, and Virginia.

Thanks largely to volunteers who helped keep these sites staffed Monday-Thursday throughout the summer, more than 6,000 free summer lunches were served to youth (age 1-18) over the course of summer 2019. Meet Up and Chow Down is sponsored by the Summer Food Service Program of the Minnesota Department of Education and the USDA. *Plans are underway to expand Meet Up and Chow Down to Aurora, Eveleth, and Tower in the summer of 2020.*

# 6,635

free summer lunches served to Iron Range children across 9 sites during summer 2019



*Hunger and food access are Targeted Issues in UWNEMN's Investment Plan.*



# UWNEMN IRON RANGE PROGRAMS 2019

## SMILES UNITED

Dental disease is the most common chronic childhood illness and accounts for more than 51 million lost hours of school time each year. Through a partnership with UWNEMN and Children's Dental Services, the Smiles United program provides preventive and restorative dental care to uninsured and under-insured children, adults up to age 26, and pregnant women of any age via mobile dental unit. The dental unit could be found in schools across the Iron Range over the past year, and in 2019 the program also expanded to provide service during summer and school breaks at UWNEMN's building in Chisholm.

According to Children's Dental services, **7% of their patients in the UWNEMN service area in 2019 were uninsured, 87% were on public insurance or medical assistance, and 6% had private insurance** (most with a very high deductible).



# 1,589

Iron Range patient served in 2019

## IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Donations to UWNEMN support our organization's sponsorship of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. For more than 10 years, our partnership has provided children from birth to age five with a free book in the mail each month to spark their love for reading and increase literacy. Children enrolled in the program at birth will have a home library of 60 books before they enter kindergarten!

UWNEMN also encourages early literacy through "Wild About Reading" - free literacy events throughout our communities designed to bring the Imagination Library to life through activities that celebrate the joy of reading and encourage family participation - and "Read for the Record" which brings volunteer readers into classrooms across our service territory to read stories in hopes of breaking a world record. **Thank you to all who volunteer for these literacy events and others - including those who helped hand books out to local children at events throughout the summer of 2019!** Thank you also to board members who have helped UWNEMN bring books to children across our region by building Little Free Libraries and Big Blue Bookshelves!

# 300,000+

books delivered since 2008



# 2,015

Iron Range children currently enrolled

*Regional healthcare and oral health services + literacy and youth development are Targeted Issues in UWNEMN's Investment Plan.*



# UWNEMN IRON RANGE PROGRAMS 2019



## COMFORTS OF HOME

For the Comforts of Home program, UWNEMN has established partnerships with corporate businesses that donate unsold product to be distributed to people in need. Through partnerships with select Bed Bath & Beyond - and **new in 2019, Walmart** - stores, UWNEMN is able to lend a hand and provide household goods to those in need who are referred to our community organization.

In 2019, 818 adults and 371 children benefited from the program locally.

820

adults in crisis received home goods in 2019

371

children in crisis received home goods in 2019

## UNITED FOR VETERANS

United for Veterans is the local military initiative created and led by UWNEMN with support from local veterans and service members. The mission of the group is "To create an environment of honor and respect for all fellow comrades in Northeastern Minnesota while developing opportunities, supporting those in need, and empowering veterans.

United for Veterans services include:

- Military Connections Directory (Hero Guide)
- Retreats for families and for female veterans
- Crisis funding
- Emergency packs
- Holiday meal kits for home-bound or in-need veterans
- Transitional home for homeless veterans

In 2019, it was announced that the United for Veterans committee successfully applied for *The Wall That Heals* to be brought to Chisholm in Summer 2020. The exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and a mobile Education Center featuring a timeline of the war, more information about the Memorial in Washington D.C., and a collection of items that have been left at the wall.



"We attended our first UWNEMN Women Veterans Retreat May 3-5, 2019. The experience was life-changing for us. From the minute we arrived, we felt like we had known all of the women our entire lives. We learned, we laughed, we cried, and most of all, we made lifelong friendships. We are grateful to the United Way and all of the donors who support the NEMN Women Veterans group."

— Jennifer Rebholz and Stacy Wesley

*Stable living environment for individuals and families - transitional and longterm - are Targeted Issues in UWNEMN's Investment Plan.*



# GET INVOLVED

## FLAVOR OF THE NORTH

This fabulous food showcase event took place on April 21st at the Range Recreation Civic Center in Eveleth. Local restaurants and food businesses presented their best menu offerings in the categories appetizer, entree, and dessert for a full house. The event raised **\$47,397** for the Buddy Backpack program.

## FUNSPIEL FOR UNITED WAY

The annual bonspiel was held on December 8th at the Range Recreation and Civic Center in Eveleth. Participants enjoyed a full day that included a light breakfast, lunch, dinner, silent auction, and raffles. The Funspiel raised **\$20,183** for the Smiles United program.

## POWER OF THE PURSE

On January 31st, more than 200 women gathered at the Mt. Iron Community Center to raise funds and awareness for Imagination Library. This year's theme was "Boots & Bling," and ladies enjoyed fabulous food, silent and live auctions, raffles and more. The event raised **\$24,645**.

## CASH RAFFLES

UWNEMN held two cash raffles in 2019 - one to benefit Buddy Backpacks at the Sawmill which raised **\$15,897**, and one at Tom & Jerry's to benefit United for Veterans which raised **\$16,000**.



*UWNEMN raises additional funds for our initiatives during the year by holding special events throughout our region. Many people attend, volunteer, participate, or just stop by to watch the fun!*



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Since 1966, UWNEMN has been partnering with friends and neighbors to build a legacy of giving in our communities. When investing in our region through United Way, Planned Giving can magnify the power of a gift by joining with others to help solve community needs not only today, but for generations to come.

In 1998, long-time resident Katherine "Katie" Ware left our organization a generous \$411,000 gift upon her passing. The UWNEMN Board of Directors after careful thought regarding how to make the most meaningful impact with her gift, created the "Forever Fund," an endowment to help strengthen families and care for our own in a more permanent way. All gifts to the endowment will remain in tact "forever" with the earnings and interest offsetting the costs of the organization. This allows more of every dollar contributed in the Annual Campaign to go directly to UWNEMN partner agencies and initiatives. Our "Forever Fund" is housed in the Minnesota Foundation.

Each year, a distribution from our "Forever Fund" has been returned to our organization while keeping the principal in tact. Funds are working NOW to strengthen our communities!

To date, our current endowment value is \$1,246,199 (reference financials on the following page). We encourage individuals to create a better life for everyone in Northeastern Minnesota, not just today but well into the future, by taking the following steps:

**Make a gift through a Charitable Gift Annuity.**



**Name UWNEMN as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy, or retirement plan.**

**Make a gift through a Donor Advised Fund.**



**Make an outright gift of cash or appreciated stock or real estate.**

*Donors who make a planned gift of any kind will be recognized as members of our Legacy Society. Your gift will change lives in our region FOREVER, and your example will inspire others to do likewise.*



# UWNEMN FINANCIALS MARCH 31, 2019 AND 2018

## UNITED WAY OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA, INC. STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION MARCH 31, 2019 AND 2018

	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 330,729	\$ 564,328
Cash - Deposits Held for Others	46,450	42,355
Investments	323,946	426,483
Contributions Receivable, Less Allowance for Uncollectibles of \$50,000 for Both 2019 and 2018	581,947	585,967
Prepaid Expenses	512	512
Property and Equipment, Net	1,154,855	631,068
Funds Held by Foundation	1,246,199	1,275,305
Funds Held by Lincoln Financial	33,678	30,254
Other Assets	-	88,446
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,718,316</u>	<u>\$ 3,644,718</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Allocation and Designations Payable	\$ 392,898	\$ 466,334
Deposits Held for Others	46,450	42,355
Accounts Payable	15,159	118,958
Capital Lease Payable	9,096	2,212
Retirement Plan Liability	-	1,299
Total Liabilities	<u>463,603</u>	<u>631,158</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Without Donor Restrictions - Designated:		
Property and Equipment	1,145,759	628,856
Funds Held by Foundation	1,246,199	1,275,305
Without Donor Restrictions - Undesignated	828,443	1,017,099
With Donor Restrictions (Note 4)	34,312	92,300
Total Net Assets	<u>3,254,713</u>	<u>3,013,560</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 3,718,316</u>	<u>\$ 3,644,718</u>



# UWNEMN FINANCIALS MARCH 31, 2019 AND 2018

UNITED WAY OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA, INC.  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 2019 AND 2018

	2019	2018
<b>NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>		
<b>PROGRAM SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Gross Campaign Results	\$ 997,145	\$ 1,096,041
Less: Donor Designations	(12,974)	(9,555)
Less: Provision for Uncollected Accounts	(103,367)	(66,195)
Net Campaign Revenue	880,804	1,020,291
Contribution Income	200,000	193,266
Initiative Contributions (Net of Disbursements)	128,828	170,199
Gifts in Kind - Good 360	190,151	226,232
Special Events	272,716	254,638
Total Public Support	1,672,499	1,864,626
Investment Income	4,601	6,516
Change in Funds Held by Foundation	21,560	111,408
Gain on Disposal of Property and Equipment	212	-
Grants	35,000	-
Release from Restrictions	394,363	486,927
Total Revenue	2,128,235	2,469,477
<b>ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENSES</b>		
Allocations and Program Services:		
Gross Allocations to Agencies for Programs	421,475	478,857
Less: Donor Designations	(12,974)	(9,555)
Net Allocations Awarded	408,501	469,302
Initiative Distributions	474,518	347,634
Gifts in Kind Distributions	192,533	235,248
Contributions	84,546	-
Program Services	389,685	351,873
Total Allocations and Program Services	1,549,783	1,404,057
Supporting Services:		
Management and General	94,918	78,796
Fundraising	184,393	165,487
Total Allocations and Expenses	1,829,094	1,648,340
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	299,141	821,137
<b>NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>		
Contributions	223,626	181,275
Initiative Contributions	112,749	22,586
Release from Restrictions	(394,363)	(486,927)
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS</b>	(57,988)	(283,066)
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	241,153	538,071
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Beginning of Year	3,013,560	2,475,489
End of Year	\$ 3,254,713	\$ 3,013,560

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



# UWNEMN IN KOOCHICHING COUNTY

## 2019 PARTNER AGENCIES

### Falls Hunger Coalition

Food Distribution to those in Need

### Friends Against Abuse

Abuse Intervention & Education

### Koochiching Aging Options

Senior Services

### Salvation Army - International Falls

Food and Emergency Services

### Servants of Shelter

Shelter & Support for Homeless Persons



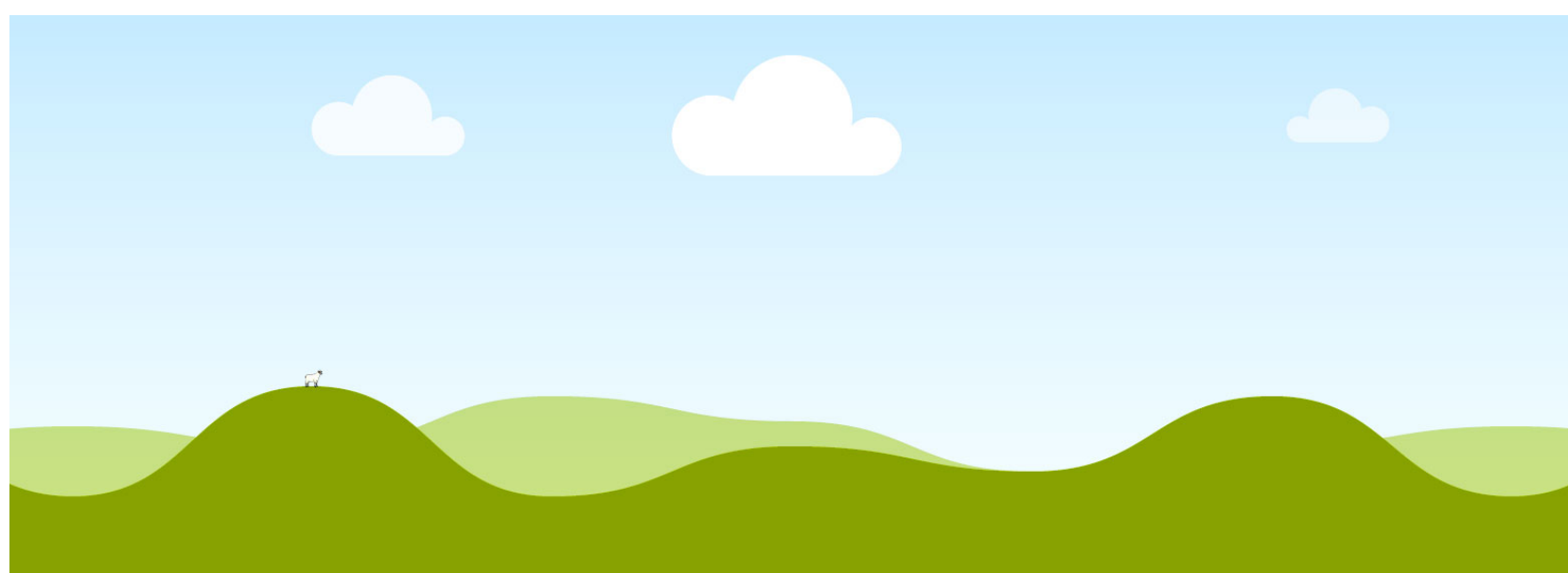
# 228,388

pounds of food distributed in Koochiching County



# 6,405

Buddy Backpacks meal kits will be delivered in  
Koochiching County this school year



# 43,544

Imagination Library books delivered in Koochiching  
County since 2009

## 2019 Programs

### Comforts of Home

2 families experienced a house fire in 2019 and  
utilized Comforts of Home

### Smiles United

68 patients received dental care

### Buddy Backpacks

183 children currently receiving Buddy Backpacks

### Imagination Library

440 children currently receiving books

### United for Veterans

Open to all Koochiching County veterans

*United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's programs and agency  
partnerships in Koochiching County are supported through a separate  
campaign in Koochiching County.*



# UWNEMN LEADERSHIP

## STAFF

**Shelley Valentini**  
Executive Director

**Erin Shay**  
Community Impact &  
Engagement Director

**Elizabeth Kelly**  
Resource Development & Events  
Director

**Michelle Lampton**  
Community Impact  
Coordinator

**Gail Rice**  
Bookkeeper

**Katy Lofquist**  
Communications &  
Engagement Coordinator

**Sarah Gardeski**  
Education & Childhood  
Program Specialist

## 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Paul Janssen, President**  
Minnesota Companies

**Mark Bakk**  
Lake Country Power

**Randy Babiracki**  
Lakehead Constructors

**Chad Buus**  
U.S. Steel MN Ore Operations

**Eric Clement**  
Minnesota Power

**Dean DeBeltz**  
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**Julie Ehrman**  
PCA/Boise Paper

**LaTisha Gietzen**  
PolyMet Mining

**Dustin Grangruth**  
Reichel Electric IBEW #294

**Stacy Hart**  
Range Center

**Matt Hiti**  
Hibbing Taconite USW Local 2705

**Tom Jamar**  
Retired, Jasper Engineering

**Breanne Katrin**  
Delta Air Lines

**Bruce Kingsley**  
Hibbing Taconite

**April Klander**  
Fairview Range

**Marci Knight**  
American Bank

**Dan Kotnik**  
Retired, U.S. Steel Keetac USW  
Local 2660

**Frank LaMusga**  
Hibbing Taconite USW Local 2705

**Julie Lucas**  
Hibbing Taconite

**Mike Norton**  
United Taconite

**Robb Peterson**  
ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine

**Laura Rosier**  
Northeast Service Cooperative

**Danielle Seppi**  
Frandsen Bank & Trust

**Sam Stone**  
Essentia Health

**Jim Skalski**  
Iracore

**Cliff Tobey**  
U.S. Steel / Local 2660

**Taylor Wudinich**  
Wells Fargo

**Tony Zupancich**  
Delta Air Lines



**United Way of  
Northeastern MN**

*United Way of Northeastern Minnesota staff and board members are proud to work together towards a brighter future for all individuals and families in our region!*





Orr  
POP 267

Tower  
POP 500

Eveleth  
POP 3,718

Hoyt Lakes  
POP 2017

Hibbing

Bert  
POP 99



Virginia  
POP 8,712

Pengilly

Chisholm  
POP 4,976



Centennial  
Town  
2008  
Aug. 29-30-31

Yellow  
Ribbon  
City  
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

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