



HERE TO HELP

because of you!



UNITED WAY

Northeastern
Minnesota

In 2024, you helped
our organization raise
*\$2,900,000**

which is being put to work
across the Iron Range,
Koochiching County, and Lake
of the Woods County NOW!

In 2024, UWNEMN donors
and volunteers supported:

- 10 direct service programs
- 30 partner agencies
- 15 local libraries' summer reading programs
- 13 area food shelves

impacting
118,259
local people!



This is the third year in a row you have helped us raise more than \$2 million to reinvest in our communities, and because of that level of support, this milestone is a footnote to the others we've increased investments in local nonprofits, expanded our programming, and deepened our work in the community.

Every story, every smile, and every life changed is a reflection of the collective effort we put in every single day. Your time, energy, and resources have given hope to so many, and that is something to celebrate indeed.

While we celebrate our collective successes from the past year, we'd be remiss not to acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead amid our region's economic uncertainties, but UWNEMN, our commitment to serve cannot be shaken. We will continue to face these challenges head-on, knowing that our mission is more important than ever. - UWNEMN Executive Director Erin Shay

2024 MILESTONES



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY



UWNEMN collaborated with CEDA, Itasca County Habitat for Humanity, and the City of Keewatin for Day of Action, presented by U. S. Steel, mobilizing **100+ volunteers** to assist with **24 revitalization projects** throughout Keewatin.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota and our partners are here to help give local children the best chance for successful futures. We recognize that education is a powerful tool in breaking the cycle of poverty and that building resiliency is critical to improved health, development, and educational outcomes.



Adolfson & Peterson and Park State Bank organized a brand new bean bags tournament to benefit our programming, and for the third year in a row, UWNEMN events broke fundraising records. By attending events, you united to raise **\$270,280** to support our programs!

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS took a holistic approach to increasing childcare access in our region - securing **\$692,655** for a local center* AND certifying **33** local students as American Red Cross-trained babysitters!

IMAGINATION LIBRARY promoted early literacy, mailing **31,528** books to children ages 0-5 at no-cost to their families.

LUNCH BUDDIES MENTORING built resiliency, pairing elementary school students with screened, trained mentors in **11** schools regionwide.

YOUTH UNITED CONTEST invested in the future endeavors of seven high school seniors, awarding **\$10,000**.



Our new Step Into School program took all **61 Koochiching County children** who qualified shopping for new school shoes, thanks to the partnership of local businesses, non-profits, and city/county government.

NEW FOCUS AREA: FINANCIAL SECURITY



Asset Limited

ALICE has no safety net for emergencies.



Income Constrained

ALICE's income falls short of basic necessities.



Employed

ALICE is working but can't afford the cost of living.

“It's really hard to not be completely discouraged when you work 50+ a week trying to make your community better, but you can't afford to feed your family.”

- Anonymous, International Falls MN



2024 PARTNERS

- Boys & Girls Club of Hibbing
- Camp Chicagami
- Check & Connect
- Ely Community Resource
- Ely Historic State Theater CinemaKidz Pilot Program
- Girl Scouts of MN & WI Lakes and Pines
- Laurentian Arts & Culture Alliance
- Local Libraries with Summer Reading Programs
- Mesabi Fit
- ServeMinnesota Reading Corps
- Volunteers in Education (VinE)
- Voyageurs Area Council Boy Scouts of America

*Federal funding specifically for Ely Area Community Foundation Happy Days Childcare Inc.

UWNEMN HAS THE LARGEST UNITED WAY SERVICE AREA IN MINNESOTA PROVIDING PROGR

Alborn · Angle Inlet · Angora · Aurora · Babbitt · Baudette · Big Falls · Birchdale · Biwabik · Britt · Embarrass · Ericsburg · Eveleth · Floodwood · Forbes · Gheen · Gilbert · Hibbing · Hoyt Lakes · Indu Markham · Meadowlands · Mizpah · Mountain Iron · Nashwauk · Nett Lake · Northome · Orr · Palo · Peng



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota and our partners are here to help all people in our service area live healthy lives as long as possible. We know ensuring our region has access to comprehensive care, including increasing social connectedness for our most vulnerable citizens, will lead to a stronger overall community.

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SMILES UNITED addressed a growing need in the region and prevented serious health conditions, providing free or reduced cost dental care to **1,792** uninsured or underinsured patients of all ages.

UNITED FOR VETERANS listened to local veterans and responded to what mattered most to them, connecting **277** veterans, servicemembers, and their loved ones through no-cost events (including a completely full United for Veterans retreat!); delivery of **78** holiday meal kits; and launching a **new** no-cost oral history project, Operation: Service Story.

\$33,819 in crisis funding assisted veterans and civilians across our service area through Smiles United and United for Veterans.

2024 PARTNERS

- American Red Cross
- Care Partners
- Ely Community Health Center
- Koochiching Aging Options
- Northwoods Partners
- Project Care

2024 NE MN Dental Task Force Members:

Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging, Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA), BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota, CHI LakeWood Public Health, Children's Dental Services, East Range DAC, Ely Community Health Center, Essentia Health, Fairview Range, Koochiching County Public Health & Human Services, Lake of the Woods County, Medica, Minnesota Department of Health Follow Along Program, Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, Rainy Lake Medical Center, Scenic Rivers Health Services, St. Francis Health Services, St. Louis County



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota and our partners are here to help maintain the most essential resources for the safety and security of our community members. We aim for needs to be met promptly and with compassion in crisis, with thoughtful consideration given to help people become self-sufficient once stabilized.

2024 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BUDDY BACKPACKS fed **1,000+** children at-risk of hunger, packing and delivering **38,500** meal kits on weekends and holiday breaks throughout the school year.

COMFORTS OF HOME stabilized **873** local children and adults recovering from housing emergencies, providing them home essentials like pillows, towels, and dishes.

FLOOD RECOVERY ASSISTANCE helped our neighbors respond to widespread flooding in June 2024; **\$95,000** was raised and re-allocated to most-affected homeowners.

MEET UP AND CHOW DOWN united communities to hand out **10,230** free summer lunches to children 1-18.

2024 PARTNERS

- Advocates for Family Peace
- Backus Community Center
- Bois Fort Band of Chippewa Elderly Nutrition Food Program
- Food Shelves Area Wide
- Friends Against Abuse
- Justice North
- Koochiching County Food Access
- N.S.L.C. Habitat for Humanity
- Range Transitional Housing
- Salvation Army of Hibbing; Virginia
- Second Harvest Northland Food Bank
- Sexual Assault Program/N.S.L.C.
- Star of the North Maternity Home
- Support Within Reach
- United Way 2-1-1

AMMING IN FOUR COUNTIES: ITASCA, KOOCHICHING, LAKE OF THE WOODS, AND ST. LOUIS

Brookston · Buhl · Buyck · Canyon · Cherry · Chisholm · Cook · Cotton · Crane Lake · Culver · Ely
us · International Falls · Iron · Kabetogama · Keewatin · Kelly Lake · Littlefork · Loman · Makinen
illy · Ranier · Ray · Roosevelt · Saginaw · Side Lake · Soudan · Tower · Virginia · Williams · Winton · Zim

2024 Annual Report
Enclosed

Web: www.unitedwaynemn.org
Email: info@unitedwaynemn.org
Phone: 218-254-3329

Return Service Requested

United Way of Northeastern MN
608 East Drive
Chisholm, MN 55719



NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Chisholm, MN
Permit No. 5



UNITED WAY
Northeastern
Minnesota

**GET CONNECTED.
VOLUNTEER.**

www.unitedwaynemn.org/volunteer

Site provided with support from:



Essentia Health



MAVA MINNESOTA ALLIANCE FOR
VOLUNTEER ADVANCEMENT



**FULL FINANCIAL REPORT &
DETAILS AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

Scan here

