



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CELEBRATING
50
Years
1966/2016



United Way of NE MN





Mission

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

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Dear friends,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of United Way of Northeastern Minnesota. Fifty years! Wow! Our theme for the year was “What’s Your Story” – that’s really what it’s all about – stories. Stories make up our history; they tell the tales of our successes as well as our challenges. There are so many stories that are woven into our organization – so many memories.

I have been with United Way for the entire second half of our current 50 years. It’s crazy to me to think about it that way. I recently dug out our giant scrapbooks dating back to the inception of our organization in 1966. Looking back on the history of the organization has been incredible! The organization was born from the urging of the area mining companies and local unions who wanted to have one “United Fund” rather than many individual “Community Funds”. The foresight for those involved to create efficiencies was so visionary! And it’s worked! By uniting, we have come out on the other side stronger.

From day one, I have met so many incredible people through United Way who are still involved today – still giving, still volunteering, still caring. I’ve always viewed our area as one big, strong “take care of our own” community. Throughout the past 50 years, collectively we have truly created a United Way family. Together we have weathered many storms and faced many challenges. When the United Fund was getting underway, we were raising \$100,000 in the first fund drive. In 2014, we raised a record high of \$1.8 million. How incredible! All of these dollars were raised locally, stayed local and helped our friends, families and neighbors.

As the organization has evolved, we have become fully immersed in community impact. We are truly making a difference – and are measuring that impact. Through surveys, data collection from our agencies and also collecting stories, we are able to prove our impact on the Iron Range and in Koochiching County and the positive changes we have made.

Dedicating my career to United Way and to our community members, has been a true pleasure for me. I am thrilled at what the future holds for our organization and am confident we are moving in a direction for successful growth and long-term sustainability.

We want to thank you for being a part of our first 50, an integral part of our story. You have helped shape United Way of Northeastern Minnesota into what it is today. As we look forward to the next 50, we invite you to remain united with us, creating real change, enacting impactful solutions and improving stories within the communities we all love.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Valentini".

Shelley Valentini
Executive Director
United Way of Northeastern Minnesota

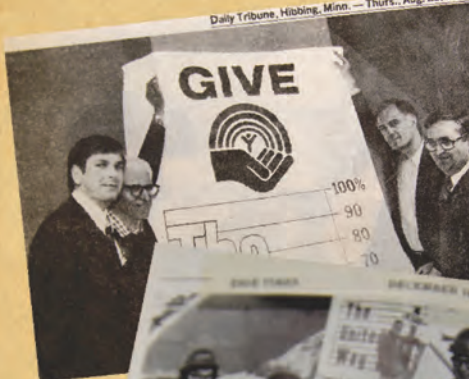
Moving Forward

Looking Back

Since 1966, United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) has been strengthening our communities and improving the lives of local individuals and families. Prior to 1966, local communities and towns had their own separate "United Ways" called Community Chests to fundraise across the region. Bringing all northeastern Minnesota communities under the UWNEMN umbrella has proven to strengthen our area, increase fundraising efforts, and support many nonprofits and critical programs.



Daily Tribune, Hibbing, Minn. — Thurs., Aug. 23, 1964—7



RANGE UNITED FUND — Attending a recent meeting of the Northeastern Minnesota United Fund campaign. From the left, seated, Don Scott, United Fund campaign chairman, and standing, U.F. and Range United Fund representatives.

UNITED FUND NEWS

Volume 1

United Fund Appeal Launched

Fall 1968

Across the Range and in Lake County, all companies, businesses, and communities are being contacted for the use of payroll deduction. Besides the employee, each community is being asked to contribute. The purpose of the campaign is to approach all small businesses, school teachers, public employees and others who would not be contacted through a major industry solicitation. Workers who contribute on the job will not be contacted at home.

There are approximately 120,000 people included in the area of the United Fund of Northeastern Minnesota. In this group are thousands of people who are not in the services that are supported through your United Fund. We so often forget what is being done for our fellow man and our community because our own lives keep us so busy. This is that once in a while when we should all take the effort to look around at what is being done. This United Fund newspaper that you are now reading gives a quick glimpse at what's happening. But it only begins to tell the story.

United Way exceeds goal, collects \$28,600

While United Way officials tend to be optimistic by nature, the success of this year's Erie UW fund-raising efforts has them smiling especially wide, because the \$28,600 employee contribution exceeded even their most optimistic projection.

percent involvement in the United Way by our employees, I believe this year's effort in which two out of every three employees participated was a significant achievement.

Labor Leaders Pledge All Out Support for U.F.



An Open Letter To The Steelworkers From President I. W. Abel

Dear Sir and Brother:

Within the next few months, United Fund and United Appeal Campaigns will again be taking place in communities throughout the United States. For many years, the members of our Union have played a major role in these drives by donating their money, time and skills.

We are particularly proud of our direct involvement as a permanent and important part of society, we, as Steelworkers, in this way assume a responsibility to shoulder a fair share of the work and cost of making our communities good places in which to live and to work.

By establishing a closer relationship with various social agencies in our communities, we not only benefit the local community but also help our own members.

The generosity of Steelworkers in giving such campaigns is what makes them successful.

Major Area Industry Solicitations U.S. Steel



Pictured is Ed Silver, Supporter of the workers at the Stevens Point, Wis., U.S. Steel plant. Mr. Silver will serve as the United Fund chairman at the Stevens Point drive. Pictured with him is Blasky-Volovich who will assist in contacting the workers at the Stevens Point drive. (Continued on page four)

Jones & Laughlin



Jones & Laughlin solicitation drive. One is being held at the McKinley mine site for the East Range operations, and one will be held on the West end, place to be determined.

Ernie Wentland, 1968 Poster Child Benefits From Your Contributions



Dr. Bayard French, President of the United Fund of Northeastern Minnesota, is pictured here with the 1968 poster child Ernie Wentland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wentland of Hibbing, Minn. Ernie, a victim of several polio attacks, has received assistance through the United Fund agencies including the United Fund of the Iron Range, the Minnesota Cerebral Palsy Association, the Cerebral Palsy Society, the Cerebral Palsy Society for Your United Fund, and the Cerebral Palsy Society.

Contribution, and the contribution of your co-workers, bring help to children in need. In presenting the current poster child Ernie Wentland with a very strong bond made available through an anonymous donor, Dr. French indicated a child will be selected annually for the United Fund of Northeastern Minnesota poster child. Selection of the poster child was made through the voluntary efforts of a group of United Fund agency representatives. Persons interested in supporting the name of a child whom they feel would make an appropriate United Fund poster child are urged to contact the office of the United Fund of Northeastern Minnesota in Eveleth, according to Dr. French. It is necessary the child reside in Northeastern Minnesota and be receiving assistance through one or more United Fund Agency.

What About That RED CROSS ???



Service Territory

In 1970, 1971 and 1972 the Board of Directors of the United Ways of Virginia, Ely, Eveleth and Tower-Soudan voted unanimously to become affiliated with UWNEMN. It was their opinion that this eliminated the need for additional offices, lowered administrative costs, would preserve leadership, and strengthened the budgeting function, communications, and the overall regional Board of Directors.

In 1995, UWNEMN saw a need to diversify fundraising to reach three areas across the region: the Iron Range, the Northshore (Lake and Cook Counties) and Koochiching County. Because of the diversity of needs in the regions, the Board of Directors put into place advisory boards for the Northshore and Koochiching County, working with the UWNEMN Executive Director to oversee their own fundraising and fund distribution processes. Funds raised remained in the region from which it came. This proved to be immediately successful, as funding increased dramatically in those areas with this change.

In 2007, UWNEMN took on the territory of Hibbing after the Hibbing United Way Board of Directors made the difficult decision to close their doors and dissolve the organization. Several Hibbing United Way Board members joined the UWNEMN Board to facilitate a smooth transition and represent Hibbing community needs. This has proven to be a cost saving measure for the United Way partner agencies and eliminated duplication of services.

In another effort to be more efficient UWNEMN relinquished the Northshore Area to the United Way of Greater Duluth in 2009.



Leadership

UWNEMN has had three Executive Directors over the past 50 years. John Seltz served in the role from inception to 1969. When Seltz relocated, Jim Olson assumed the role and remained Executive Director until 1995, when he retired and current Executive Director, Shelley Valentini took over. In Valentini's tenure, UWNEMN's campaign has increased from \$350,000 annually to a high of \$1.8 million.

Mining Industry

UWNEMN has been a constant for our communities in times of economic highs and lows. The employees of the mining companies and the companies themselves have been UWNEMN's biggest supporters. During mining downturns and industry-wide layoffs, UWNEMN has been a beacon in the darkness for those struggling to make ends meet. The closure of LTV in 2001 with 1,400 employees losing their jobs put the region in a panic. People lost what they had worked so hard for – their way of providing for their families was gone just like that and the future was so uncertain.

UWNEMN was there with crisis funding, helping displaced employees buy groceries, pay bills and support their families. Similarly, UWNEMN currently has the LIVE UNITED Crisis Fund available for displaced mining company employees impacted by the current economic downturn.

Employees Donate Over \$12,700 To United Way Drive

Hibbing Taconite's employees again increased the total number of dollars donated to the United Way. The results of the 1981 campaign were announced recently by drive co-chairmen Bob Rootes and Steve Zeitler who reported collections of \$12,747. This total reflects a 15 per cent increase over last year's donations. Of the 1,244 employees contacted, 52 per cent responded to the 1981 needs of the United Way. These employees averaged \$19.40 per contribution.

"Again this year we are seeing more and more employees taking advantage of the payroll deduction plan for making their contribution," explained co-chairman Rootes. "This is really a sensible and painless way of contributing a few dollars monthly and in the end, the employee has made a substantial contribution."

This year, Pickands Mather & Co. properties, including Hibbing Taconite,

Erie and Research Lab employees, together with corporate gifts totaled approximately \$80,200. The total goal for the 1981 United Way of Northeastern Minnesota fund-raising drive is \$520,000.

"Like last year's United Way campaign, we were not only able to increase the total dollar amount," noted co-chairman Zeitler, "but the number of employees realizing the importance of supporting the United Way also increased." The United Way supports over fifty agencies working in northern St. Louis County and Itasca, Cook and Lake Counties.

In a recent letter to volunteer solicitors, General Manager Bruce Stunkard thanked the group for their efforts and congratulated them for a successful campaign. Echoing Mr. Stunkard's comments, the co-chairmen added, the hard work of each volunteer.



United Way co-chairmen, Steve Zeitler (left) and Bob Rootes (center), present the Hibbing Taconite employee contribution check totaling over \$12,700 to United Way Executive Director, Jim Olson.



USX Corp. Contributes \$40,000 To United Way



Recently elected United Way board members serving for a three year term include (Seated L-R) George Lenik, Erie Mining Company, Hoyt Lakes and Barry Barbeau, Culbert Realty, Virginia. (Standing L-R) Gene Knekelberg, First Bank, Virginia, Tom Pender, Iron Range Labor Assembly, Britt and Tom Lyden, Minnesota Power, Eveleth.

UNITED FUND OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA, Inc.



Focus on Community Impact

To be directly responsive to community needs, UWNEMN shifted gears in 2005 when an area-wide meth use crisis was recognized. UWNEMN was at the forefront of this issue, responding to the unmet need for information, awareness and use prevention. UWNEMN assembled a panel of experts and former meth users and traveled across northeastern Minnesota for the next year, educating the public on the dangers of meth use, as well as methods of recovery. This work shifted the organization's goals from not only funding area agencies, but also moving the organization toward "Community Impact" – identifying unmet needs in our communities and creating programs to positively impact those needs.

The Good360 program (then called Gifts in Kind) was established next. Through partnerships with Bed Bath and Beyond, Home Depot and Tuesday Morning stores, UWNEMN receives unsold products to give out to those in their region who have experienced a house fire or crisis.

In 2008, the UWNEMN Board researched community needs and the need for improved early literacy programming surfaced. UWNEMN chose to partner with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free books to children from birth to age five that are delivered to children's homes on a monthly basis.

The following year, UWNEMN determined there was a need for children's preventative and restorative dental services. The number one factor contributing to school absenteeism was tooth decay. UWNEMN partnered with Children's Dental Services to provide Smiles Across Minnesota within our local schools for uninsured or under-insured children. At the time, 45% of children in our schools were eligible. In addition, there was a growing shortage of dentists in our region due to retirements and newly certified dentists were not relocating to our area.

In 2010, UWNEMN's Buddy Backpack program was piloted in the Mesabi East school district, with 33 children enrolled, receiving meal kits each weekend. The program has evolved and expanded across UWNEMN's service territory, with all districts participating.

In 2013, the shortage of child care availability surfaced as an emerging issue. UWNEMN decided to get involved by first conducting a needs assessment to gauge the area needs. The results showed that finding a child care arrangement that has all the features that are important is either "very hard" or "somewhat hard" for the majority of families surveyed. Families indicated that the lack of flexible scheduling and lack of quality child care as their top difficulties. An alarming 50% of surveyed families stated the lack of child care affects their decision to continue living in UWNEMN's service territory. UWNEMN responded by creating the Bright Beginnings initiative to provide financial incentives for physical expansion of child care facilities in order to create openings for additional children, provided incentives for providers to achieve quality rating through Parent Aware and hosting free, localized trainings for area providers.

UWNEMN's newest initiative, United for Veterans, began in 2014 after staff and volunteers were continually told about issues facing local veterans. After a needs assessment was completed and showed critical service gaps for veterans and their families in the region, the initiative was formed. United for Veterans is led by UWNEMN staff and a group of local veterans and service members.



CELEBRATING
50
Years
1966/2016

**United
Way**
United Way of NE MN

Helping Children Succeed

When children thrive, communities can thrive. By ensuring that every child in our community has the opportunity to reach his or her potential, we are building a strong future for our region. This means babies born healthy, kids who read proficiently by 3rd grade and teens who graduate from high school ready for college and careers. These are the kids that grown up in communities where people are educated, employed and housed.

Partner Agencies

Arrowhead Center

- Adolescent Nutrition and Life Skills

Boys & Girls Club of the Northland

- Youth Mentoring Program

Camp Chicagami

- Camping for At Risk and Disabled Youth

Ely Community Resources

- Youth Mentoring Program/Positive Youth Activities

Foster Grandparent Program

- Mentoring Program for Elementary School Children

Hibbing Kinship Mentoring Program

- Youth Mentoring Program

Range Mental Health Center – Adapt Preventative

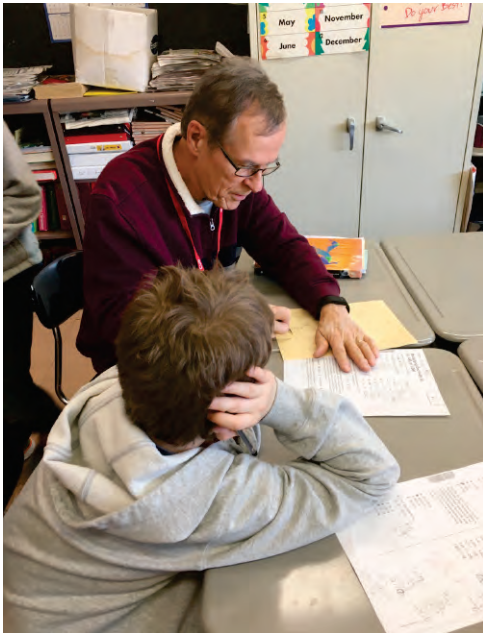
- In-School Support Services for At Risk Youth

Volunteers In Education (VinE)

- Tutoring For At Risk Youth and Educational Programming

Voyageur Area Boy Scouts

- Building Character and Leadership Skills through Scouting



2,407

area youth participated in quality out of school programs.

Why This Matters:

Right now, nearly one in three Minnesota third graders is failing to reach basic levels of literacy. Research has shown that students who don't read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school.

604

youth from 8 area schools received tutoring services.

Why This Matters:

Every \$1 invested in out-of-school-time programs results in a \$10.51 return with the benefits of improved school performance, reduced crime and welfare costs, and increased wages.

580

youth ages 6-18 at risk of a mental health diagnosis were provided case management and interventions services in a school based setting.

Why This Matters:

In Minnesota, 9% of school age children and 5% of preschool children have a serious emotional disturbance. The overwhelming majority of children with mental health disorders, however fail to be identified and lack access to treatment and supports.

Educating individuals to make healthy choices is important, but is not enough to combat the environmental conditions and limitations that often determine an individual's health. United Way of Northeastern MN is building healthier, more resilient communities by supporting access to quality health care and integrating health into early childhood development. We believe that by empowering individuals and families to live their healthiest lives, we can strengthen our overall communities.

Partner Agencies

Care Partners

- Financial Support for Individuals with Cancer

East Range DAC

- Independence for the Disabled

Fairview Range Home Care & Hospice

- Support for Those with Terminal Illness and Their Families

Floodwood Services & Training

- Independence for the Disabled

Mesabi Family YMCA

- Supporting Healthy Lifestyles

Northwoods Partners

- Support for Homebound, Ill, Elderly & Their Caregivers

Project Care Free Clinic

- Medical Services for Under-insured and Uninsured

Range Respite

- Education for Caregivers

The ARC Range Chapter

- Advocacy For the Disabled and Their Families

**Empowering
Healthy Lives**



441

uninsured or underinsured individuals received free medical care and advocacy.

Why This Matters:

As healthcare premiums continue to rise many working individuals are either not offered health insurance or unable to afford premiums and associated costs.

10,000+

hours of respite care, memory care, and patient/caregiver education was provided to support our senior's ability to stay in their homes.

Why This Matters:

As our local population ages the need for support services to keep seniors in their home increases. The average monthly cost for a nursing home stay in Minnesota is \$7,000.

309

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

Why This Matters:

According to the American Cancer Society, the leading cause of bankruptcy in the US is being diagnosed with a serious medical condition – the number one condition is cancer.

Stabilizing Families and Individuals

Crisis, hunger and homelessness can happen anytime to virtually anyone. Every day in our region, people are faced with difficult choices and unforeseen circumstances. For some, those choices include deciding whether to pay for food or the mortgage, medical care/medicine or utilities. For others, it's where to begin starting over after the devastating loss caused by a house fire. At the heart of our work is ensuring the safety net, providing urgent or basic care services to support our neighbors when they are going through crises.

Partner Agencies

Advocates For Family Peace

- Domestic Abuse Intervention & Education

American Red Cross - Northland Chapter

- Disaster/Emergency Services

Elder Services Network

- Senior Services

Food Shelves Area Wide

- Food Distribution

Habitat for Humanity - North St. Louis County

- Affordable Housing Program

LSS Family Resource Center

- Safe Shelter for Children in Family Crisis

Range Mental Health Center-

Homeless Youth Program

- Locating and Providing Outreach to Homeless Youth

Range Transitional Housing

- Transitional Housing

Salvation Army Hibbing & Virginia

- Food & Emergency Services

Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank

- Food Distribution

Sexual Assault Program

of Northern St. Louis County

- Sexual Assault Intervention and Education

Support Within Reach

- Sexual Assault Intervention and Education in Itasca County

Twelfth Step House

- In-Patient Chemical Dependency Program

United Way 211

- Information & Referral



68

families received direct assistance after losing their home or apartment to fires this past year.

Why This Matters:

One in four households will have a reported fire in their lifetime.

1,819,114

pounds of food were delivered to our local food shelves for distribution to families and individuals.

Why This Matters:

52% of people receiving food assistance in our region are employed, however 67% are living on less than \$1,000 a month.

490

sexual violence survivors were provided advocacy services. Nearly 40% of the above clients were children ages 0-17 an increase of 7% from the previous year.

Why This Matters:

Sexual assault is one of the most under-reported crimes with 60% of cases still unreported. One in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually violated by age 18.

UWNEMN DIRECT PROGRAMMING MAKES A POSITIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Throughout our region, a child care crisis has been growing for several years. Providers have been getting out of the in-home family child care business at a disturbing rate, and while data makes it appear that growth in child care centers is picking up, that is not the case in St. Louis County. With the shortage of child care throughout our service area, many families are having to choose to leave the workforce or relocate outside the Iron Range. Reasons for child care providers leaving the business are understandable, as most struggle to make a living in a profession that offers few to no benefits.



Through the Bright Beginnings initiative, United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (UWNEMN) is working to increase the child care capacity in our region. We continue to educate local employers, lawmakers and community members about the child care issues in the region in hopes of creating innovative solutions through community partnerships. To date, four area child care providers have expanded to offer a total of 44 additional spots. Quality child care providers can offer structure, thoughtful curriculum and opportunities that prepare children for school. Up to 90% of brain development happens by age five making the early years a critical time to have children in stimulating early learning settings. Twenty-one area providers have been rated by the state rating system, Parent Aware. Incentive grants made possible through the UWNEMN helped to offset the cost of the rating process. In addition, free local trainings have been offered to providers to lessen the burden of cost and travel to keep up with licensing.

200+ EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS SERVED
THROUGH FREE LOCAL TRAININGS

**INCREASED
CHILDCARE
CAPACITY BY:**

20
INFANTS

19
TODDLERS

5
PRE-SCHOOLERS

**PARENT AWARE RATED PROVIDERS INCREASED
FROM ZERO TO 21**

4
1 STAR
★

11
2 STAR
★★

5
3 STAR
★★★

3
4 STAR
★★★★



United Way
of Northeastern Minnesota's

BUDDY BACKPACKS



Poverty levels continue to rise throughout our service territories, with more than 47% of our children qualifying for free or reduced lunch. Teachers and school nurses have shared many stories of children returning to school Monday after a weekend without enough to eat. Some complain of stomach cramps, headaches and dizziness while others have decrease attention span or lack enthusiasm to learn because they are concentrating on their hunger more than learning. While during the school week these children rely on the free or reduced breakfast and lunch programs, the same cannot be said for weekends and school breaks.



THANKS TO YOU
672
FOOD INSECURE
CHILDREN WERE
PROVIDED BACKPACKS
FULL OF FOOD EACH
WEEKEND THEY WENT
HOME FROM SCHOOL



United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's **Buddy Backpack program** provides food-insecure children with a backpack filled with nutritious, nonperishable, child-friendly meal kits each weekend break from school. Children most at risk of weekend hunger are identified by school staff and then enrolled in the program. School staff reported that the program is very valuable for enrolled children, helping them improve their health and wellbeing, academic performance, energy level, classroom behavior and self-esteem while making them feel cared for and relieved.

718

VOLUNTEERS

35

SCHOOLS and HEAD START SITES

672

CHILDREN

23,520

MEAL KITS



Many individuals and families on the Iron Range experience devastating losses due to house and apartment fires. Others experience homelessness due to unforeseen circumstances or escape domestic violence and start over with nothing.

While United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's funded partner organizations help secure safe, comfortable shelter for families and individuals in transition, facing an emergency situation or experiencing hardship, UWNEMN is able to lend a hand and provide the comforts of home by giving household goods to those who need them. Good360 is a program that establishes a partnership between nonprofits like UWNEMN and corporate businesses who donate their unsold product to be distributed to people in need. UWNEMN is currently partnered with and Bed Bath & Beyond in Duluth and Eagan, Tuesday Morning in St. Cloud and Home Depot in Duluth. Essential products such as bedding, pillows, towels and other home goods are picked up and transported to the Iron Range by UWNEMN volunteers. The products are then distributed to people in need in our service territory based on a referral system.

153

**CHILDREN 186 ADULTS SERVED
A 22% INCREASE OVER 2015**

\$139,817

**WORTH OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS HAVE BEEN
DISTRIBUTED TO INDIVIDUALS AND
FAMILIES IN NEED**



Providing the gift of early literacy is the best investment we can make for our children and our communities

United Way of Northeastern MN partners with the Dolly Parton Foundation to provide children age birth to five with a free book in the mail each month to spark their love for reading. This partnership provides children throughout our service territory the possibility to build a home library of 60 books before they enter kindergarten!

As parents are a child's first teacher, Imagination Library gives them a fun and easy way to get involved with their child's early education. Studies show that 97% of parents surveyed reported that the program has encouraged them to read more to and with their children.

In 2015, UWNEMN started "Wild About Reading", which are 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.



6,623

CHILDREN ENROLLED

**9
YEARS**

219,967

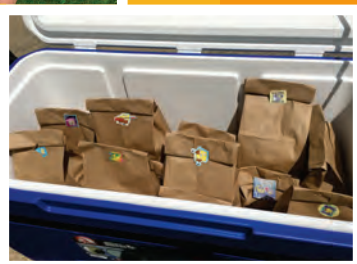
BOOKS DELIVERED

800

ATTENDEES AT 3 "WILD ABOUT READING" EVENTS



With over 672 children in United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's service territory enrolled in the Buddy Backpack program this school year, the UWNEMN Board and staff recognized the need for a summer food program. School districts have also expressed a need for such a program in the summer when the Buddy Backpack program is unavailable.



UWNEMN teamed up with the Range Center, Chisholm Food Shelf and Chisholm Public Library to pilot the Meet Up and Chow Down program in Chisholm during the summer of 2016. Free lunch was provided Monday through Thursday from 12:30-1:30 at the Chisholm Kiwanis Park for kids ages one to 18 ALL SUMMER! Meet Up and Chow Down is sponsored by the Summer Food Service Program of the Minnesota Department of Education and the USDA.

1,187

SUMMER MEALS WERE SERVED TO CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY OF CHISHOLM





Tooth decay is the most common infectious disease among children and continues to be the number one unmet disease in the country. Nationally, more than 51 million school hours are lost each year to tooth decay which is largely preventable with access to preventative oral health care.



United Way Northeastern Minnesota supports Smiles Across Minnesota, a school-based preventative and restorative oral health program that provides dental care for uninsured and underinsured children in the UWNEMN's service territory. The program provides dental hygienists who perform teeth cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants within the schools using a mobile dental unit. In addition, a dentist provides restorative care to children when the need arises. During the 2015-2016 school year, oral health care was provided to 1,350 students over the course of 103 dates of service. Preventative measures, such as oral health education, teeth cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatments have a lasting impact on children's health, academic success and overall well-being. Filling a cavity for a child can eliminate pain and infection, allowing a child to concentrate on what's most important – their education.



LAST YEAR, ORAL HEALTH CARE WAS PROVIDED TO

1,350 STUDENTS OVER THE COURSE OF **103** DATES OF SERVICE



Since the 2001 terrorist attacks, about 2.8 million men and women have served in the U.S. military. The unemployment rate among post-9/11 veterans ages 18-24 is double the national average. Almost 1 in 3 post-9/11 veterans have a service connected disability, PTSD occurs in 1 out of 5 veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and an average of 22 veterans per day commit suicide. Combine those statistics with the hardships of re-acclimating to civilian life and it's clear that we as a nation need to support our veterans.

United for Veterans is the military initiative created by United Way of Northeastern Minnesota's. The initiative is led by UWNEMN staff and a group of local veterans and service members whose mission 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." The initiative helps with the challenges veterans face and works with partners to align existing services and create solutions where there are gaps in support.

Since the inception of this initiative, United for Veterans has provided:

- Over \$15,000 in individual support to local veterans who have found themselves facing crisis and financial hardship and have been referred by local veteran service providers.
- We have partnered with a local therapist to offer free, confidential therapy to local veterans and their families.
- A veterans resource center was developed on the Hibbing Community College campus which provides space for on campus veterans to convene, study and access the veteran resource officer for assistance with military benefits.
- Multiple grants have been disbursed to local veteran service organizations.
- Free local retreats have been hosted.
- Over 6,000 Military Connections Directories were printed and distributed to provide veterans information on support services available in Northeastern Minnesota.

**UNITED FOR VETERANS
HAS PROVIDED OVER**

\$15,000

**IN INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT
TO LOCAL VETERANS**

**UNITED FOR VETERANS
HAS PROVIDED OVER**

6,000

**MILITARY CONNECTIONS
DIRECTORIES**

UNITED WAY OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2016 AND 2015

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 324,884	\$ 422,630
Cash - Deposits Held for Others	26,593	18,769
Investments	424,286	417,091
Contributions Receivable, Less Allowance for Uncollectibles of \$25,000 and \$200,000 for 2016 and 2015, Respectively	659,566	749,365
Prepaid Expenses	1,204	18,579
Equipment, Net	27,047	31,818
Funds Held by Foundation	1,130,762	1,225,746
	<u>1,130,762</u>	<u>1,225,746</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,594,342</u>	<u>\$ 2,883,998</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Allocation and Designations Payable	\$ 559,347	\$ 873,951
Deposits Held for Others	26,593	18,769
Accounts Payable	16,947	17,628
Capital Lease Payable	6,397	8,252
Total Liabilities	<u>609,284</u>	<u>918,600</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted - Designated:		
Equipment	20,650	23,566
Funds Held by Foundation	1,134,662	1,225,746
Unrestricted - Undesignated	769,806	716,086
Temporarily Restricted	59,940	-
Total Net Assets	<u>1,985,058</u>	<u>1,965,398</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,594,342</u>	<u>\$ 2,883,998</u>

UNITED WAY OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 2016 AND 2015

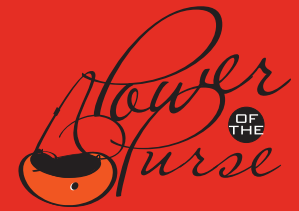
	2016	2015
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
PROGRAM SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Gross Campaign Results	\$ 924,763	\$ 1,365,749
Less: Donor Designations	(16,544)	(19,754)
Less: Provision for Uncollected Accounts	(49,799)	(194,270)
Net Campaign Revenue	<u>858,420</u>	<u>1,151,725</u>
Contribution and Grant Income	106,250	-
Initiative Contributions	114,442	77,633
Gifts in Kind - Good 360	139,817	106,802
Special Events	232,559	261,434
Total Public Support	<u>1,451,488</u>	<u>1,597,594</u>
Interest Income	3,519	2,865
Change in Funds Held by Foundation	(45,115)	65,265
Total Revenue	<u>1,409,892</u>	<u>1,665,724</u>
ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENSES		
Allocations and Program Services:		
Gross Allocations to Agencies for Programs	528,686	926,901
Less: Donor Designations	(16,544)	(19,754)
Net Allocations Awarded	<u>512,142</u>	<u>907,147</u>
Initiative Distributions	324,539	235,889
Gifts in Kind Distributions	144,962	111,435
Program Services	282,381	275,655
Total Allocations and Program Services	<u>1,264,024</u>	<u>1,530,126</u>
Supporting Services:		
Management and General	66,443	64,860
Fundraising	119,705	113,853
Total Allocations and Expenses	<u>1,450,172</u>	<u>1,708,839</u>
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(40,280)	(43,115)
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Initiative Contributions	<u>59,940</u>	<u>-</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	19,660	(43,115)
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	<u>1,965,398</u>	<u>2,008,513</u>
End of Year	<u>\$ 1,985,058</u>	<u>\$ 1,965,398</u>

Get Involved!

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota raises additional funds for our initiatives during the year by holding special events throughout our region. Many people volunteer, participate, or just stop by and watch the fun! Last year, in total, our events brought in more than \$173,000. Highlights from these events are listed below.



This fabulous food showcase event takes place every April at the Range Recreation Civic Center in Eveleth. Local restaurants and food businesses present their best menu offerings in the categories of appetizer, entrée and dessert to a packed house. All proceeds benefit the Buddy Backpack Program.



Over 200 women gather each January to raise funds and awareness for the Smiles Across Minnesota dental program supported locally by UWNEMN. Attendees enjoy a fabulous night out complete with eclectic food, wine tasting, live and silent auctions, and exciting raffles.



Motorcycle enthusiasts joined together in July of 2016 for the 19th and final 240-mile ride and scenic tour of the Iron Range. All proceeds benefited the Imagination Library Program.



Each August this extreme 5K mud run challenge held at Giants Ridge brings close to 1,000 participants together to complete 19 daunting obstacles and terrain to raise money for UWNEMN's United for Veteran's initiative.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

Every March, UWNEMN honors local companies, donors, volunteers and partner non-profits as they celebrate the champions of the campaign season and announce final campaign results.



UNITED WAY FUNSPIEL

Our annual curling bonspiel is held every February at the Range Recreation and Civic Center in Eveleth. Participants enjoy a full day that included breakfast, lunch, dinner, a silent auction and raffles. Proceeds from this event benefit the Imagination Library program.

United Way Funded

Partner Agencies in Koochiching County

- American Red Cross
- Falls Hunger Coalition
- Friends Against Abuse
- Fairview Home Care & Hospice
- Koochiching Aging Options
- Koochiching Senior Center
- Salvation Army

POWER OF THE PURSE



More than 150 women gather every November at the AmericInn in International Falls to raise funds and awareness for the UWNEMN's efforts in Koochiching County. Women in attendance enjoyed food, friendship, wine tasting, a live and silent auction and exciting raffles and games.

FAMILY FUN COLOR RUN-WALK 5K



This annual run/walk fundraiser kicks off the UWNEMN campaign season in September with colorful fun for the whole family. Last year over 200 people participated in the race.

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

948 CHILDREN SERVED

27,612 BOOKS DELIVERED

BUDDY BACKPACKS

138 CHILDREN SERVED

4,830 MEAL KITS

4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SMILES ACROSS MINNESOTA

31 CHILDREN SERVED

3 SERVICE DATES

4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS RECEIVED OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Planning For The Future

Bringing Hope for Many More Years to Come

Since 1966, United Way of Northeastern Minnesota has been partnering with friends and neighbors to build a legacy of giving in our communities. When investing in our region through UWNEMN, 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 as to how to make the most meaningful impact with her gift, created the “Forever Fund”, endowment to help strengthen families and care for our own in a more permanent way. All gifts to the endowment will remain intact “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 intact. Funds are working NOW to strengthen our communities!

To date, our current endowment value is \$1,209,252 (reference financials on page 17). We encourage individuals to create a better life for everyone, not just today but well into the future in Northeastern Minnesota by taking the following steps:

- Name United Way of Northeastern Minnesota as a beneficiary in your will
- Make an outright gift of cash or appreciated stock or real estate
- Name United Way of Northeastern Minnesota as the beneficiary of a retirement plan
- Name United Way of Northeastern Minnesota as the beneficiary of an existing or new life insurance policy
- Benefit from a split interest gift
- Make a gift through a Charitable Gift Annuity and receive payments for life

Donors who make a planned gift of any kind will be recognized as members of our Legacy Society. Through your gift, you will change lives for the better and make a positive difference in our region FOREVER. In addition, your example will inspire others to do likewise.

**IN 1998, LONG-TIME RESIDENT
KATHERINE “KATIE” WARE LEFT OUR
ORGANIZATION A GENEROUS GIFT OF**

\$411,000

**GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO
CREATE THE “FOREVER FUND”**



STAFF

Shelley Valentini
Executive Director

Erin Shay
Community Impact & Engagement Director

Elizabeth Kelly
Development & Special Events Director

Charanna Conger
Community Resource Manager

Gail Rice
Bookkeeper

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017 OFFICERS

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Hibbing Taconite

Randy Babiracki
Lakehead Constructors

Jonathan Holmes
ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine

Andrea Whiting, 1st Vice President
Community Member

Adam Benes
Architectural Resources

Frank LaMusga
Hibbing Taconite UWS Local 2705

Stacy Hart, 2nd Vice President
Range Center

Eric Clement
Minnesota Power

Lora Lastovich
Delta Air Lines

Tony Zupancich, Treasurer
Delta Air Lines

JJ Day
G-Men Environmental Services

Jen Nelson
United Taconite

Mark Bakk, Executive Board
Lake Country Power

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Twin Metals Minnesota

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Hibbing Taconite

Kim Holman
United Taconite Local 6860

Jeff Walters
Hibbing Taconite USW Local 2705

CHANGING THE ODDS



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