



# NEED IS EVERYWHERE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Missouri Slope Areawide United Way

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

I remember at our last luncheon asking the ND Department of Health Director about something called “the coronavirus”. It was January 2020. No one was yet talking about it. I was concerned - concerned for the health and well-being of our homeless shelter residents with numerous underlying health conditions living in two small congregate rooms; concerned for so many kids whose only safe place is school; concerned for our seniors who rely on meals and socialization provided by our amazing senior centers, concerned for single parents who may lose jobs due to childcare issues; concerned for our agencies who rely on the strong support from our United Way workplace campaigns. Concerned for the health of my young son.

It’s been a hard two years for many of us in many different ways, but most of all for people living in poverty. Through it all, we were there to rise to the challenges, quickly adapt to meet the every-changing needs, and literally save lives. That’s what you’ve done by supporting our United Way. Never before have we relied so heavily on you, and guess what? You were there for us, like you’ve always been.

So, it is with deep gratitude that I thank you on behalf of our board, our partners, and especially the 40,000+ people positively impacted each year by your support. Thank you for being a catalyst for change, even when times are tough. We sure do look forward to the year ahead!

My very best,

Jena M. Gullo

## ENDING HUNGER

A total of **2,637,820 meals** were provided to local individuals in need.

**139,038 meals** were provided through the United Way Backpack Program to end weekend hunger.

**74,657 adults and children** were provided access to affordable options for a nutritious diet.

## BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Right here in Bismarck-Mandan **1 in 5 children live in poverty** and **450 students** in Bismarck and Mandan Public Schools are homeless.

In many cases, issues of addiction, domestic violence, and mental health contribute to the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Without stability, support, and a warm, safe shelter, kids don’t have a foundation for success.

**103 struggling, low-income families** received life-changing case management and mentorship.

Together with our partners, **35,282 nights of shelter** were provided to families and individuals with nowhere to go.



*“When we get the necessities, the basics, it helps us get going back on track again. It doesn’t matter who you are or that you have a good safety net, it could happen to you.”*

*– Kourt Madden, a former UW Shelter client now successfully living in his own apartment.*



## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

A child is 90% more likely to remain a poor reader at the end of fourth grade if they are a poor reader at the end of the first grade. By providing the resources a child needs to get ahead at a young age, UW is able to level the playing field for children in the community.

**44,156 books were mailed** to 3,680 local children through our Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

**107 children were provided with mental health services** that reduced the quantity and intensity of their mental health symptoms.

**118 children, 90% of the children in Head Start & Early Intervention,** started school developmentally on track in terms of literacy, and social, emotional, and intellectual skills.

## LEADING HAPPY ACTIVE LIVES

**146,725 meals** were delivered to help seniors stay in their homes.

**1,375 second graders** completed the Safety Around Water program.

**43 cancers survivors** were helped to get back on their feet through the Livestrong Program.

## DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

MSA United Way's Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails a brand new, age-appropriate book to enrolled children every month from birth until five years of age, creating a home library of up to 60 books and instilling a love of books and reading from an early age.

The program is funded locally by individual donations from parents, other community members and corporate gifts. A gift of only \$25 sponsors a child for one year.

## CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY

23-year-old Jennifer arrived at United Way's shelter distraught and discouraged. She did not have a stable upbringing and was without a supportive family at home. More than anything, she wanted to live independently. With the help of United Way and its partners, Jennifer was linked with behavioral health services, is now employed, and lives on her own. She plans to attend college next year.

This year, United Way provided emergency shelter to 75 men, women, and children each night. The need has increased substantially since United Way was asked to fill the emergency shelter gap in 2017.

In July 2021, United Way and Community Works of North Dakota broke ground on a permanent emergency shelter for the region. With strong partnerships, the goal is to address physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs to create a pathway out of poverty.

Service providers will collaborate to offer life skills and job training, domestic violence advocacy, assistance obtaining ID's, transportation to the YMCA, Bible studies and many more services to end the cycle of homelessness together.

*Roger, a homeless veteran with significant heart complications has been unable to secure stable employment or housing for several years. By working with a caseworker, he's been able to qualify for housing assistance and is moving into his own apartment.*





## WOMEN UNITED

Women United (WU) is a group of philanthropic leaders dedicated to making a lasting difference in the Bismarck-Mandan community. Through WU, women volunteer, network, and develop professionally while advancing the common good in education, income, and health. WU events include the Little Black Dress, Community Baby Shower, Adopt-A-Classroom, Parents United, and other programs designed to drive lasting impact in the community.

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Many remember United Way in their planned giving to leave a legacy for years to come. They experience the joy that comes from giving to a charity that puts into action our values and priorities.

Gifts of \$5,000+ to United Way's permanent endowment fund qualify for the 40% ND Tax Credit. Making a leadership gift to the endowment fund is an opportunity to give back to this community in a way that will matter as much 50 years from now as it does today.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Sponsor a weekend of the UW Backpack Program
- Serve a meal at the UW Emergency Homeless Shelter
- Join Women United
- Pull a team together for the Little Black Dress campaign
- Host a workplace campaign or join our Campaign Cabinet
- Sign-up for a Day of Caring Project
- Review applications and make investment recommendations
- Check out [www.VolunteerBisMan.com](http://www.VolunteerBisMan.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>ONLINE AUCTION</b> April 25-29, 2022	<b>WOMEN UNITED SOCIAL</b> MAY 5, 2022
<b>STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE</b> MAY 14, 2022	<b>COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER</b> JUNE 21, 2022
<b>DAY OF CARING</b> August 10, 2022	<b>LITTLE BLACK DRESS</b> SEPT. 19-22, 2022
<b>LBD CELEBRATION</b> SEPT 22, 2022	<b>COINS FOR A CAUSE</b> SEPT.- OCT., 2022

## TOP 20 INVESTORS

1. MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.
2. TOM & FRANCES LEACH FOUNDATION
3. SCHEELS
4. BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
5. NATIONAL INFORMATION SOLUTIONS COOPERATIVE (NISC)
6. DOOSAN BOBCAT
7. EIDE BAILLY
8. BISMARCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
9. BRAVERA BANK
10. SANFORD HEALTH
11. BNC NATIONAL BANK
12. BNI COAL
13. BETTER HOMES & GARDENS REAL ESTATE - ALLIANCE GROUP
14. UNIVERSITY OF MARY
15. LEGACY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16. BARTLETT & WEST, INC.
17. CAPITAL CREDIT UNION
18. DAKOTA EYE INSTITUTE
19. WESTERN STEEL & PLUMBING
20. UPS

### PREMIER SPONSORS



### PRESENTING SPONSORS



[WWW.MSAUNITEDWAY.ORG](http://WWW.MSAUNITEDWAY.ORG)