



Summer Wrap Up 2025

the COMMUNITY CIRCLE

Quarterly newsletter brought to you by United Way of Washington County-East



What's Inside?

What a great catch!

Fish United 2025 Report

The bus was stuffed!

Stuff the Bus 2025 Report

6th Grade Ready?

You R You 2025 Report

YOU Made this possible!

Thank you to our volunteers

New Faces!

Welcome our newest
board members

Plan your Fall Bucket List

Upcoming events

And so much more!

Let's look at our Fall Bucket List

As the crisp air and golden hours roll in, we can't help but feel incredibly grateful for all the ways you've joined us in making a difference this year. From reeling in success at Fish United 2025 presented by Reflections, to filling backpacks through Stuff the Bus, and empowering young girls at You R You – your generosity and spirit have made each event shine!

Together, we've raised funds, gathered supplies, welcomed new leaders, and built unforgettable memories.

Now we turn the page into Fall, our bucket list is brimming with opportunities to connect, give back, and celebrate. Will you join us? From Leadership Breakfast, Townie Tuesday, United Way Week, there's something for everyone!

Be sure to follow us on our social channels to stay informed on all things United Way!



Still reeling in the joy!

Fish United presented by Reflections

It's hard to believe three months have already passed since Fish United 2025, presented by Reflections. We're still feeling the joy and gratitude from this record-breaking event that brought more boats to the water than ever before and reminded us that Fish United is about far more than fishing – it's about community, generosity, and showing up for one another....(with a little competition involved).

Because of YOU – our anglers, sponsors, donors, and supporters – **we raised over \$25,000** to fund critical programs through local agencies making a difference right here at home.

We also want to take a moment to recognize the **incredible committee who worked tirelessly behind the scenes** long before Minnesota's fishing opener to make this event possible: Mike Polehna, Ryan Benson, Nick Dahl, Chad Rogness, Matt Weiss, Pete Flock, Sara Jespersen, Jon Weaver, Steve Haumersen, and Lukas Reuteman. **Their dedication and energy are the heartbeat of Fish United, turning a tournament into a true community celebration.**



[View Full Photo Gallery](#)

Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors

Reflections

**DAHL WOOD
FLOORING**

 **CORVAL GROUP**

POLARIS
Think Outside

FIRST STATE
BANK AND TRUST

Walleye Willy's
BAIT


STRIKER


LAKE ELMO BANK
A TRADITION OF SERVICE


**TITAN
EXTERIORS**
Roofing • Siding • Gutters • Windows


COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
THE NYBERG GROUP


SECURITY STATE
BANK OF MARINE


EST. 1953
MUSOLF'S
WOOD FLOORING
ENSURING CHARACTER


Mabel's
ICE CREAM & COFFEE


GSC
GEORGE SIEGFRIED
CONSTRUCTION CO.


**THE
BOAT
DOCTOR**


MAD COPPER
EST. 1979


FIT
REAL ESTATE



Hesley Jensen Post 491
Bayport, Minnesota
Est. 1922
**AMERICAN
LEGION**

Together, we STUFFED THE BUS!

This year's Stuff the Bus program was a **tremendous success** – and it's all thanks to you, our community. Together, we collected enough school supplies to stuff **808 backpacks, supporting 360 unique families** as they prepared for the school year.

We are especially proud that UWWCE took the full lead on this year's program, coordinating every aspect of collection, organization, and distribution. With your support, we were able to make a direct and lasting impact for students across Washington County.

Over 126 individuals, representing 29 volunteer groups, gave their time and energy to help sort, organize, and pack supplies. We are so grateful to all of them, this was truly a team effort. With the help of 26 collection sites across Washington County, we came together to ensure that every child started school with the tools they needed to succeed.

“Volunteering for Stuff the Bus has been the highlight of my summer. I will be back every year to help United Way as this has been the best experience!

– Ivy
General Public Volunteer



Our Incredible Volunteer Groups included:

- Individual General Public Volunteers
- UWWCE Board Members
- Partnership Plan
- Noon Rotary
- First Resource Bank
- Washington County Public Works Department
- Dean Schlaak and Thomas DeGree Edina Realty
- Eckberg Lammers Law Firm
- Market & Johnson
- Alumni from Leadership in the Valley
- The Staff of UWWCE



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A special thank-you goes to our sponsors, whose generosity made this program possible. Their partnership provided the resources and support needed to purchase supplies, coordinate logistics, and expand our reach. We are proud to stand alongside these community-minded businesses and organizations in support of local families.

Finally, we want to recognize our incredible intern, Emilia, a senior at St. Catherine University majoring in Public Health and Public Policy. Emilia brought energy, organization, and heart to every step of Stuff the Bus. Passionate about serving her community through nonprofit work, she played a key role in coordinating volunteers, managing logistics, and ensuring families received the support they needed. We are grateful for her leadership and dedication in making this year's program such a success.

Because of you – our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and partners – students across Washington County are starting the year prepared, confident, and ready to learn. **Thank you for helping us Stuff the Bus!**



Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors



Hesley Jensen Post 491
Bayport, Minnesota
Est. 1922

**AMERICAN
LEGION**



Rotary
Club of Stillwater
Noon Club

The Partnership Plan
The Educational Fund for
Stillwater Area Public Schools



Boutwells Landing



Stillwater Sunrise
Rotary
Club



Kwik Trip



STILLWATER
MODERN DENTISTRY

This is You R You

Three years ago, You R You started with a simple but powerful question: **How can we help youth in our community tackle mental health challenges?** Data showed that 6th grade is a pivotal time in a young person's life – a point where confidence, friendships, and self-image can set the tone for years to come. **One of our board members suggested, "Why not host a retreat?" And from that idea, You R You was born.**

This year, we were thrilled to host our second annual retreat, welcoming **81 girls for a full day of friendship, confidence, and self-discovery.** Thanks to our core session leaders from Tubman, The Emily Program, and FamilyMeans, along with the dedication of **35 volunteers** and **16 teen guides**, the day was filled with opportunities to connect, reflect, and shine. A special thank you goes to Kelly at Hidden Pines Ranch for generously donating the beautiful space that made this retreat possible.



The heart of this program lies with the women of Women United, whose vision, dedication, and passion have made You R You what it is today. **We are especially excited to welcome new members:** Jenny Siegle, Tanya Casavant, and Krista Skjold-Robbins, and to recognize the leadership of our Women United Chair, Holly Corbid. We're also deeply grateful to our returning second-year members – Deb Smith, Anne Bunkers, Kristin Rehkamp, and Julie Grecian – whose continued commitment helps this program grow and thrive.

“—
Attending the day helped
heal parts of the inner 6th
grader in me.

– Mai Chee Lee
UWWCE Staff



You  You

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From yoga and friendship bracelets to Shine Strong, Unlock the Power of You, vision boards, and more – the day was filled with opportunities to create, reflect, and shine in a tech-free, empowering space. Every girl who left this year’s retreat walked away with more confidence, more connection, and more belief in herself. **That impact is the heart of Women United – and it’s only possible when women like you step forward to be part of it.**

If you’ve ever wondered how you can make a difference, this is your invitation: **join Women United.** Together, we can continue to grow You R You and build a brighter future for our community.



 **Join Women United**



Thank you to our 2025 Partners





welcome new BOARD MEMBERS



Caitlyn Willis

Executive Director of Elementary Education
Stillwater Area Schools



Mandee Rae

District Director of Retail Operations
Cub Foods



Ben Sobieski

Co-Owner
Heritage Embroidery & Design

We're thrilled to share some exciting news!

Our Board of Directors is growing with three incredible leaders who bring deep commitment, experience, and heart for our community. Please join us in giving a warm welcome to:

- **Mandee Rae Puente, District Director of Retail Operations at Cub Foods**, whose leadership and connection to families and neighborhoods will help us continue building strong community partnerships.
- **Ben Sobieski, Co-Owner of Heritage Embroidery**, who brings both entrepreneurial spirit and a passion for supporting local organizations.
- **Caitlyn Willis, Executive Director of Elementary Education at Stillwater Area Public Schools**, whose dedication to youth, education, and equity will guide our vision for supporting the next generation.

We are also delighted to share that **Eric Hoffman of Datastream Connexion** has stepped into the role of **Board Secretary**, bringing both expertise and enthusiasm for helping us grow.

As we welcome these new leaders, we also want to extend our **heartfelt gratitude** to two incredible board members whose terms have recently ended. **Bill Miller** dedicated two years of service, and **Jennifer Sletten** an inspiring eight years. Their leadership, insight, and commitment have made a lasting impact on our organization, and we are deeply thankful for all they've given to strengthen our community.

Learn more about our entire Board of Directors by clicking the logo below!



Our Annual Campaign is HERE!

Our Annual Campaign is our largest revenue opportunity – and it's what makes our work possible. Together, we can continue funding local nonprofit partners and leading initiatives that advance equity while addressing our community's most pressing needs.

Over the coming weeks, **there are so many ways for you to get involved, connect with neighbors, and support local.** Whether you show up at an event, give, or volunteer your time, your participation makes a real difference. Below are some of our upcoming events:

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible Campaign Committee members, whose leadership and dedication keep this effort rooted in community:

Ed Nelsen, Jaculin Sparling, Jen McCormick, Deb Smith, Tim Safe, Erin Hilton, Aimee Pelletier, and Cody Kroening.

Together, we're building a stronger, more connected community – and we're so glad you're a part of it.



1

Leadership Breakfast
September 17
8am - 9:30am

Join a room full of impactful community members for a celebration with inspiring speakers and a chance to learn how you can help meet local needs – big or small.

 [TICKETS HERE](#)



2

Townie Tuesday
September 30
5pm - 8pm

Join us for a night at Lift Bridge Brewery and raise money for a cause! Proceeds directly impact those in our community – **Buy a drink and make a difference!**

 [RSVP HERE](#)



3

United Way Week
October 6 - 12

Join us for a week of spreading awareness, fundraising, and community fun – all leading up to the can't miss Harvest Fest! **Learn about the unique ways you can give back!**

 [LEARN MORE](#)



WE ARE YOUR LOCAL UNITED WAY

MISSION

Through trusted relationships, generated resources, and effectively distributed funds we will unite and strengthen our community.

VISION

Create new ways to develop an empathetic and engaged community and generate abundant resources to meet or exceed our local community needs.




DEI STATEMENT

We are dedicated to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in all we do. We strive for a vibrant and equitable community.

DONATE TODAY



UNITED WAY
Washington
County-East

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