



# the COMMUNITY CIRCLE

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



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Nonprofits

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UW Gala  
"A Night in Full Bloom"

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## Hello 2025!

As we step into a new year, we're embracing 2025 with a spirit of momentum and purpose. **Our word for the year is Igniter** – a reflection of the passion, action, and impact that fuels our work and inspires change in our community.

In this edition, we're excited to share the highlights of the past few months, celebrate the difference we've made together, and look ahead to opportunities where you can spark even more positive change.

For the latest updates and ways to get involved, be sure to follow us on social media - @uwwashingtoncountyeast

Let's ignite 2025 together!



# Empowering Local Nonprofits: Partner Agencies Making an Impact

For January to June, we are proudly allocating **\$226,623\*** to support vital programs across our four impact areas: Youth, Health, Basic Needs, and Self-Sufficiency.

Our partner agencies are the heart of our impact, delivering essential programs and services that support individuals and families in our community. From providing food and shelter to fostering youth development, advancing health initiatives, and promoting self-sufficiency, these organizations work tirelessly to meet critical needs.

Their efforts, combined with the generosity of our donors, make it possible to build a stronger, more resilient community for all.

Youth – \$49,998

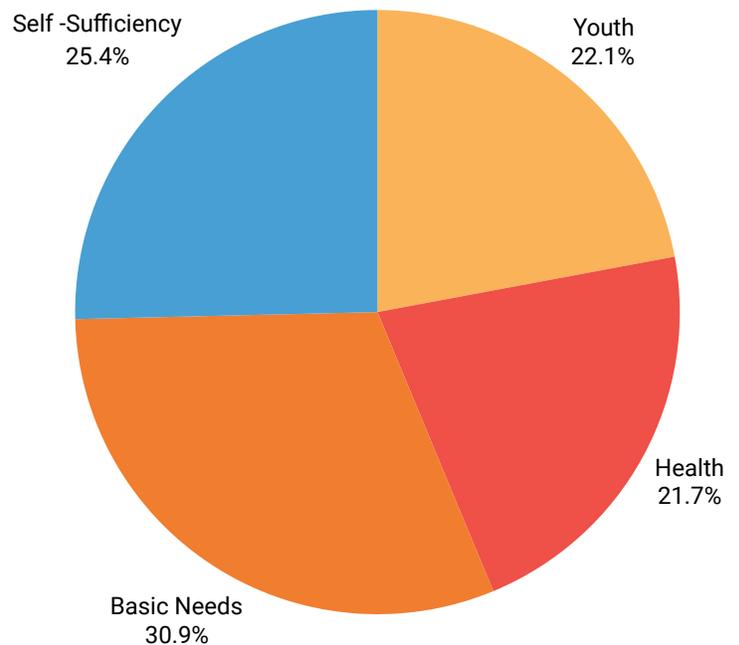
Health – \$49,125\*

Basic Needs – \$70,000

Self-Sufficiency – \$57,500

**Total \$226,623\***

\*Hope Dental payments total \$3,375 removed



## Become a Partner Agency

Are you part of a nonprofit making a difference? **Our 2025/2026 funding cycle is now open for applications!** If your organization is working to strengthen our community, we encourage you to apply.

Together, we can build a stronger, more connected community!

**Visit our website to learn  
more and to apply!**



# Welcoming New Board Leadership: Members & President

We're excited to introduce the newest members of our Board of Directors — Sharon King, Eric Hoffman, and Mike Huntley — who are bringing their passion, expertise, and leadership to United Way of Washington County-East.

Also, let's celebrate Terry Thomas on his new role as Board President. Terry's dedication, leadership, and commitment to our community make him the perfect person to guide our mission forward. We're excited for his vision and impact in the year ahead!

Serving on our board is more than a leadership role — it's an opportunity to collaborate with community leaders who are dedicated to improving lives, contribute unique skills that drive our mission forward, and bring fresh perspectives that enrich discussions and decision-making.

Our board members also gain valuable insight into the most pressing needs in our community and take an active role in providing solutions.

**Together, we unite and strengthen Washington County!**



***Pictured Left to Right***

*Nick Branjord, Brian Mueller, Bill Miller, Aaron Siegle, Eric Hoffman, Sharon King, Lori Mueller, Michael Wilhelmi, Pete Flock, Mike Huntley*

***Not Pictured***

*Terry Thomas, David Brummel, Kathy Elliott, Dr. Funk, Dr. Bijan Shayegan, Jennifer Sletten, Ted Wegleitner, Tracey Weidner*

“

**After volunteering for UWWCE, I witnessed first hand the deep impact they have in the community. The impressive leadership compelled me to find new ways to support such a dynamic team, and joining the board was a hopeful step to increase my support of this mission centered on improving the lives of our fellow community members.**

– Eric Hoffman



# Spotlight on Youth United

United Way of Washington County-East

## Youth United: Growing, Leading, and Giving Back!

This year, Youth United is bigger and better than ever, with over 20 members coming together to make a difference! Being part of Youth United means building friendships, developing leadership skills, and creating real impact in our community.

Recently, our group spent time at Cimarron Youth Center, where they connected with students by creating heartfelt cards, playing piano, and building meaningful relationships. Moments like these remind us why youth-led service is so powerful!

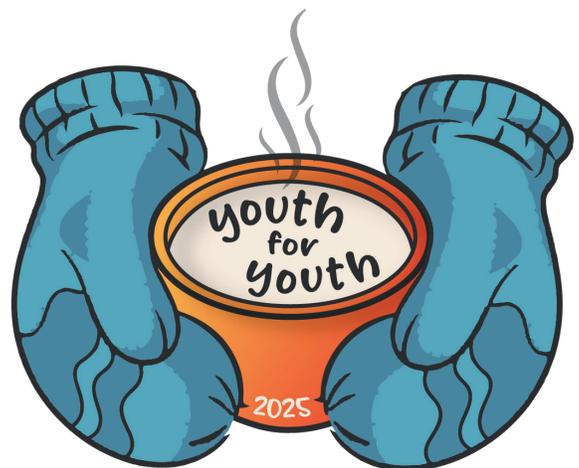
Now, Youth United **invites YOU** to their upcoming event:

**Youth for Youth**  
**Tuesday, March 4 | 5pm - 7pm**  
**Stillwater Area High School**

Join us for a cozy gathering featuring warm soup, fresh bread, and delicious desserts! Enjoy an evening of silent auctions, exciting raffles, and a fun play area for kids — all while supporting local youth programs in Washington County.

This is your chance to be part of something bigger. Everyone is welcome — see you there!

Get tickets via QR code or at the door:  
Adults \$10 | Kids 12 & Under \$5



**Bring a pair of mittens or gloves to donate to St. Andrews Resource Center and help keep our community warm this season!**





## *A Night in Full Bloom*

### You're Invited!

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate 76 years of impact and community support at the United Way Gala – A Night in Full Bloom!

Join us on **Friday, April 11, 2025**, at **Inwood Oaks** in Oakdale for the premier gala of the season. This elegant evening will feature a plated dinner, entertainment, live and silent auctions, exciting games, and multiple ways to support the United Way of Washington County-East. Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to our mission, this is your chance to connect, celebrate, and make a difference.

Tickets are on sale now! Don't miss this inspiring night dedicated to strengthening lives and transforming communities for generations to come.

**Buy Tickets Here**



### Make an even bigger impact

Partner with us as a Gala Sponsor to showcase your commitment to our community while enjoying exclusive benefits and recognition at this high-profile event.

#### Sponsorship opportunities are available now!

Contact Kelly Stenerson at [kelly.stenerson@uwwce.org](mailto:kelly.stenerson@uwwce.org) to learn more. Let's come together for a night of celebration and impact – we can't wait to see you there!

*thank you*

TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS



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LAKE ELMO BANK  
A TRADITION OF SERVICE

# Celebrating \$30K in Giving!

Tim Safe of Pathfinder Insurance Brokers has been a dedicated partner for 6.5 years, contributing an incredible \$28,000 to local area nonprofits in the St. Croix Valley. This quarter, we are excited to reach a major milestone – bridging over \$30,000 in total contributions!

Recently, Tim and our Executive Director, Kristin Kroll, sat down to discuss the impact of United Way and how to participate in Pathfinder Insurance's Referral Give-Back Program. Watch the full conversation online to learn more about how referrals are making a difference in our community!



*get involved*

join the **Stuff the Bus** Committee!

Looking for a way to make a difference in your community? United Way's Stuff the Bus initiative helps ease the financial burden of purchasing school supplies, ensuring that every student starts the year prepared and confident. By providing essential supplies, we're not just filling backpacks – we're building a stronger community and giving students the tools they need to succeed.

**We need your help!** Join our Stuff the Bus Committee and be part of the team that makes this impact possible. Whether you help organize supply drives, coordinate donations, or spread the word, your efforts will directly improve the lives of students and families in need.



Sign up today and help us make a difference  
one backpack at a time.

Email Erin at [erin.mcquay@uwwce.org](mailto:erin.mcquay@uwwce.org)



# 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.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION 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 of  
Washington County-East**

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