



the COMMUNITY CIRCLE

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



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The past three months have been full of energy and impact!

In February, Youth United hosted their inspiring **Youth for Youth event**, formerly Empty Bowls, empowering young voices to lead change. March and April focused on **grant funding applications** and planning next steps to expand our work. We closed out the season with the **UW Gala – A Night In Full Bloom**, a beautiful evening celebrating community and connection.

Now, as we look ahead to summer, we're energized by the possibilities! From Fish United, Stuff the Bus, to You R You, there's a lot in the works – and we want you to be a part of it. Whether you're volunteering, donating, or simply spreading the word, your involvement makes a difference.

Let's keep the momentum going – **summer starts now!**
Give us a follow to stay up to date on all things UWWCE



Youth for Youth Event: A Heartwarming Success!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the Youth for Youth event (formerly Empty Bowls) hosted by our incredible Youth United members at your local United Way!

Your generosity and support helped them raise an amazing \$2,920 for youth programs in Washington County!

We are beyond grateful to those who contributed to the meal – whether it was soups, breads, or desserts. Your generosity made this event truly special!



A huge round of applause to our Youth United members who worked hard to gather silent auction and raffle donations! And to our generous donors – thank you for making a difference!

We couldn't have done it without you – thank you for supporting youth programs in our community!

Stay tuned for more updates and events from Youth United!



Thank to our 2025 Donors





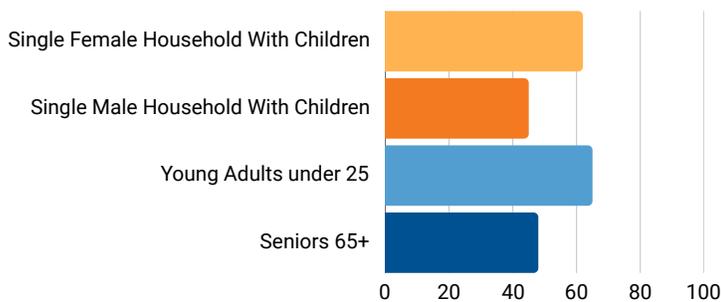
Get Connected. Get Help.™



Because of You, ALICE Has Hope

In 2024, 926 individuals in Washington County reached out to 211 for help – making 869 calls and sending 57 texts – **resulting in 1,346 unique requests and 1,261 referrals to local agencies.** The top needs? Housing, utilities, income assistance, legal support, and mental health services – all urgent indicators of the challenges faced by families living on the edge.

Many of these individuals are ALICE – *Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed*. These are our neighbors who work hard yet struggle to afford life’s most basic necessities. In Washington County alone the following categories fall below the ALICE threshold, often forced to make impossible choices: paying rent or securing childcare, affording medication or fixing a car.



But thanks to your support, ALICE is not alone. Through 31 local programs funded by United Way of Washington County-East, your donations help bridge the gap for those most in need – connecting them to emergency shelter, rental assistance, food support, financial counseling, and mental health services.

These programs partner closely with the top agencies receiving 211 referrals, including:

- Washington County Community Services
- Salvation Army Twin Cities
- Valley Outreach
- Community Action Partnership
- Solid Ground

ensuring help is not just available, but accessible.

Visit 211.org to learn more or share this resource with someone in need. Because of you, ALICE can do more than survive – they have a chance to thrive.

211 is more than a number it's a lifeline.





Help shape the future of Washington County

After our recent grant funding application period closed, we received requests from 18 agencies and 33 programs totaling over \$680,000.

Now, we are ready to invest in the most pressing needs right here in our community – and we need your help.

Join us for our 2025 Community Investment Panel and help ensure that local funding reaches the programs making the biggest impact.

As a volunteer, you will:

- Serve on a panel focused on Youth, Health, Basic Needs, or Self-Sufficiency
- Review grant applications from local nonprofits
- Use community data to guide funding decisions
- Attend two in-person meetings (dinner provided!)
- Visit local agencies that are changing lives

Important Meeting Dates

Tuesday, May 13 and Tuesday, June 17
5:30pm - 8pm
Andersen Corporation
5909 Omaha Avenue North, Oak Park Heights, MN

Be part of a community-led effort to create lasting change. **Your voice matters, sign up by Monday, May 5th.** Click the button below to fill out the webform below and we will be in touch! Please email Kristin at kristin.kroll@uwwce.org if you have any questions.



“

I love being part of the Community Investment process! Despite having lived and worked in the service area for years, several of the organizations supported by the United Way are new to me. I can't imagine a better introduction than a site visit that includes meeting key staff.

– Deb Smith
First Resource Bank

What a night to remember – And it's all thanks to YOU!

We are still glowing from the magic of our recent gala – *A Night in Bloom* – and it's all because of our incredible community.

Together, we raised over \$215,000 to fuel life-changing programs across Washington County, supporting our key impact areas: youth, health, basic needs, and self-sufficiency.

To our generous sponsors, inspiring guests, hardworking volunteers, and dedicated Gala Committee – **thank you**. You didn't just make the night beautiful – you made it meaningful.

Your support reaches far beyond the ballroom. It helps ALICE families (*Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed*) move from simply getting by to truly thriving. Because of you, one unforgettable evening has sparked a season of growth.



A Night in Full Bloom

A special thank-you to Nicole Larie Photography for capturing the elegance and emotion of the evening. Click below to view our full gallery.

Password: UWWCE2025



Together, we blossom – rooted in purpose, thriving in unity.



thank you

TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS



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Xcel Energy™



**ROYAL
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UNION.**

**FIRST STATE
BANK AND TRUST**

Blaze™
CREDIT UNION



**KATHY & JACK
ELLIOTT**



Adding Value to Everything We Do

- Wendy Gimpel – *Champagne Pour*
- Galowitz•Olson & 350 Degrees Bakery – *Table Treats*
- Canvas Health – *Photo Booth*
- Goldwood Kennels – *Washroom Amenities & Dog Bags*
- Valley Agencies – *Giving Moment*
- Budget Blinds of Stillwater/Lake Elmo – *Giving Moment*
- Animal Voice Advocacy – *Florals*
- The Daily Grind Espresso Cafe – *Florals*
- Studio Louise Flowers – *Event Floral Design*
- Clover Point Designs – *Floral Planters*
- Nicole Larie Photography – *Event Photographer*
- Heritage Printing – *Printed Programs*
- St. Croix Chocolates – *Specialty Chocolates*

Fish United presented by Reflections

Join us for our 4th Annual One-Day Fishing Tournament on the St. Croix!

Fishing starting at 6:30am till 2:00pm launching at the Bayport 4th Ave Launch, with the option for kids to Fish from the Bridge (*Kids only 15 & Under*). Every kids gets a prize & a t-shirt! After fishing join us for the wrap up celebration starting at 3:00pm at Bayport American Legion with raffle prizes, food, short program, and top five prize awards!

You don't want to miss some of these incredible raffle prizes including Youth Lifetime Fishing License sponsored by the Mad Capper, Striker Rain Suit, gift cards, Rapala tackle boxes, **and much more!**

Important Information:

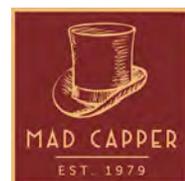
- Ages 12 & Under in boat Free!
- Boat must have 1 person 18 years+
- Check-In at 4th Ave - Bayport
- At least ONE person from a boat needs to attend the Rules & Regulations Meeting Friday, May 30th at 6:30pm, Bayport Legion



Entry includes a Striker WaveBreak long sleeve sun shirt for each angler and dinner the day of the tournament.

Your FISH United Director is Kelly, if you have further questions please contact her at - kelly.stenerson@uwwce.org

Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors





Get Involved with Us!

Mark your calendar, send us an email, and get ready for a fun UWWCE Summer!

Stuff the Bus – July/August

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. If you have a group of 5-10 people who would like to fill backpacks in July, please email today to get on the schedule.



For more information or questions contact Erin at erin.mcquay@uwwce.org



Women's Summer Soiree – July 16

Join us from 6pm - 8pm for an inspiring evening designed to connect and empower women. Limited to 50 guests, this intimate gathering near Stillwater will feature music, wine, cocktails, light bites, and a special swag bag – all in support of mental wellness for women and girls

You R You One-Day Retreat – August 13

Our 2nd Annual one-day retreat for girls and those who identify as female who are heading into 6th grade. Participate in hands-on activities, small group discussions, and empowering moments that build self-esteem, spark new friendships, and give you simple tools for mental wellness.

Where: Hidden Pines Ranch
When: August 13, 2025
Time: 9:00am - 2:30pm

United Way of Washington County-East

You R You



Join our Campaign Committee

Being our largest revenue opportunity there are several ways for you, a community member, to get involved and support local!

For more information or questions contact Kelly at Kelly.stenerson@uwwce.org



your LOCAL United Way

We strive for a vibrant and equitable community.



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.

DONATE TODAY



**United Way of
Washington County-East**

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- www.uwwce.org