

# WHAT DO YOU FIGHT FOR?



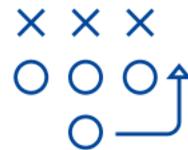
# WE LEAD THE FIGHT

for the health, education, financial stability, and basic needs of every person in Mower County. We're facing new challenges, but we're up for it. United Way was built for this. Can we count on you to join us?



## UNITE

We bring together businesses, nonprofits, elected officials, and individuals like you.



## STRATEGIZE

Together, we develop new, sound strategies to take on Mower County's toughest challenges.



## TACKLE

We mobilize our community to implement solutions that create change.



## EVALUATE

We measure data-driven results to ensure progress.

**EQUITY**

**WE  
FIGHT  
FOR**

# UNITED WAY OF MOWER COUNTY STRIVES TO BE A MODEL OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN ALL ASPECTS OF OUR WORK.

We seek to represent and advocate for the many people who proudly make up our community. We employ and promote individuals, recruit volunteers, and partner with programs that inclusively support the diversity of our local community.

We believe that every Mower County community member, donor, volunteer, advocate, and employee must have equal access to addressing community issues. We recognize that we have the role, responsibility, and opportunity to partner across organizations throughout the community to close equity gaps.



# NONPROFITS

WE  
FIGHT  
FOR

As a leader in Mower County's nonprofit community, United Way provides more than funding to local nonprofits. We work to provide resources, to create a collaborative community, and to ensure our local nonprofit organizations have what they need to thrive.



## PROGRAM FUNDING

The dollars you donate to United Way is invested into 38 programs in Mower County that align with the community goals in education, income, health, and basic needs.



## COLLABORATION

United Way brings together 24 nonprofits and multiple elected officials, community leaders, and more to collaborate and solve our community's toughest challenges. We get everyone working together.



Get Connected • Get Help™

## FREE 24/7 LIVE REFERRAL SERVICE

211, a free 24/7 helpline connects those in need to essential services including food, shelter, and more.

This resource is free to anyone, anytime, by calling 211, visiting 211.org, or downloading the 211 smartphone app.

211 assisted almost 500 individuals in Mower County through 2020.



## GET CONNECTED

Get Connected is United Way of Mower County's volunteer website to connect local nonprofits with individuals and organizations seeking volunteer opportunities.

In 2020, more than 900 volunteer opportunities were filled, creating \$202,115 in impact value.

To find or share a volunteer opportunity, visit us online at:

[UWMOWER.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.uwmower.org/volunteer)

# UNITED WE FIGHT

## EARLY GRADE READING

**35%** of students achieve reading standards in Austin, MN.

\*MN Department of Education

Children who cannot read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade are **4 times** less likely to graduate from high school.

\*Annie E. Casey Foundation

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

**77%** of Mower County high school students graduate on time.

\*Minnesota Compass

All residents of Minnesota need, at minimum, a high school education. Very few jobs exist for people who do not graduate from high school. However, the loss is not just theirs; to compete economically, our state needs workers with skills beyond high school. Lack of a high school diploma puts an individual at greater risk for poor health, lower lifetime earnings, unemployment and welfare, and prison.

# UNITED WE WIN

**70** students had boosted reading proficiency thanks to the assistance of MN Reading Corps.



**117** children participated in educational after school programs with LIFE Mower County, and Girl Scouts River Valleys.

\*Made possible by your support and United Way funding.

# UNITED WE FIGHT

## CHILDCARE



At an average of **\$8,164 per year**, Child care is **15%** of the average Mower County resident's yearly income.

\*Childcare Aware of MN

## INCOME DISPARITIES

The yearly cost of living for a family with one child is \$47,084, however, 46% of Mower County household make less than \$50,000, with 22% making less than \$25,000.

\*MN Compass



# UNITED WE WIN



**58** students were awarded scholarships to continue their education by attending Mower County schools.



**13** parents were provided with child care scholarships in partnership with Apple Lane Community Child Care Center.



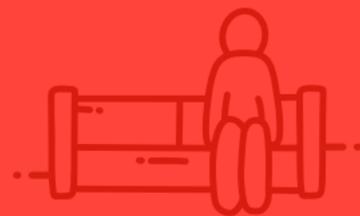
**45** individual increased their financial literacy skills by utilizing IMS's Financial Coaching Program.

\*Made possible by your support and United Way funding.

# UNITED WE FIGHT

**18%** of children ages 6-14 are eligible for regular dental checkups in Mower County through utilizing insurance.

\*MN Department of Health



**8%**

of Mower County residents under the age of 65 are without health insurance. This ranks Mower County 70th of 87 Minnesota Counties.

\*MN Compass

# UNITED WE WIN



**820**

children received dental treatment at low or no cost with the help of Children's Dental Health Services.

**982**



individuals were served through physical and mental health care services.

\*Made possible by your support and United Way funding.

## UNITED WE FIGHT



4,025

Mower County residence were reported to have utilized Minnesota's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in 2018.

*\*US Census Bureau*



41% of renting households are reported as cost-burdened.

*\*MN Compass*

A household is considered housing cost-burdened when 30 percent or more of its monthly gross income is dedicated to housing. People whose housing costs exceed this threshold of affordability are likely to struggle to pay for other basic needs, forcing difficult trade-offs

## UNITED WE WIN



5,169

individuals received food support through the Salvation Army's Community Meals, and Semcac's Senior Nutrition program.



1,146

seniors were assisted with benefit applications with help of Mower County Senior Center's Senior Advocacy and Chore Programs.

*\*Made possible by your support and United Way funding.*



## Success

"Charles was first helped using United Way funds with back rent after losing his job due to COVID-19. He was working at another job in the meantime but was still unable to get caught up. The family lost their daycare and were unable to find new daycare for their children. Charles's wife had to stay home instead of working causing the family to lose more income yet. United Way funds helped the family get current on rent.

Charles had his hours cut at his new job after being there 2 months. He was still working but the family was getting behind in rent again. Semcac staff found this out during a case management call which is part of the follow up in our housing program. Staff referred Charles to our Energy Assistance Program to help with his utility bill and our COVID 19 grant to help with back rent. Staff helped him complete the applications for both the grants. The family was then caught up on their rent again. During case management, Charles was also referred to another job in town which offered considerably more pay, steady hours, and good benefits. His old job had no benefits.

Thanks to United Way assistance including follow up case management, Charles family was informed of another way to get their rent caught up a second time with COVID 19 funds. He is now able to keep the rent paid on his own and the family has many new benefits thanks to his new found employment."

*- The Salvation Army of Austin, MN*

# I'M FIGHTING FOR MOWER COUNTY



# JOIN THE FIGHT

Your generosity allows us to **respond** to current needs, **recover** together, **rebuild** the foundation to grow a strong and healthy economy, and **reimagine** our community's future. A better future for each of us.

Give to United Way of Mower County through your workplace campaign or online at [uwmower.org/donate](http://uwmower.org/donate).

The money that's raised here, stays here.

Trust that we will direct your gift to quality programs that address the most pressing local needs.

You can count on us to keep you up-to-date on the impact of your donation.

## Give to United Way

Make a pledge through your workplace campaign or give online at [uwmower.org/donate](http://uwmower.org/donate).