UWMC INITIATIVES

UNITED WAY
Mower County

Success by Six (Preschool Scholarships & Transportation)

- Preschool tuition assistance and transportation for families dealing with cost and transportation barriers.
- 200+ preschoolers receive scholarships and/or transportation annually.

Backpack Program (Food)

- Weekend, holiday, and summer food for students who receive free and reduced-price lunches.
- 1,000+ K-12 students receive food bags weekly.

Success Closet (Winter Wear and Personal Care)

- Clothing, winter gear, and personal care items distributed to community members and families in need.
- 700+ individuals receive Success Closet items annually.

2-1-1 (Resource Helpline)

- Free and confidential health and human services referrals provided via phone 24/7.
- 450+ annual service requests for Mower County residents that benefit from a nearly 100% referral rate.

Get Connected (Volunteer Center)

- Online volunteer platform connecting those who need help with those who can help through service.
- Over 121,700 volunteer hours logged by community members since 2018 ($4M+ impact value).

Hometown Food Security Project (Community Coalition)

- Collaboration between Hormel Foods, United Way, and other community organizations with the mission to eliminate hunger in Mower County.
- Engaging dozens of partners, mobilizing thousands of pounds of food and hundreds of volunteers, and connecting countless community members to invaluable resources.

United for A.L.I.C.E (Data Center)

- A.L.I.C.E. stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed–households that earn above the poverty level but still struggle to afford basic needs like housing, childcare, food, and transportation.
- United Way supports A.L.I.C.E. families by investing in programs and partnerships that promote financial stability, access to resources, and long-term resilience.

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IMPACT AREAS & FUNDED PARTNERS

By focusing on four key building blocks - education, financial stability, health, and basic needs - we are ensuring that families have what they need to thrive in Mower County. United Way support offers a 'full-circle' effect for the communities we serve. A strong economy depends on the good health of its citizens. Healthy people are better able to work and secure higher levels of education, which contributes to personal wealth and regional prosperity. When basic needs are met, we all prosper.

2026 United Way Funded Organizations & Programs

Healthy Community

Organization	Program	Description
Adams Area Ambulance Service	Ambulance Service	Training & Equipment
Childrens' Dental Health Services	Happy Healthy Teeth	Preventative & Restorative Dental Care
Comprehensive Human Services Foundation (IMS)	Mental Health	Community Mental Health
Crime Victims Resource Center	Victim Services	Support for Victims of Crime & Abuse
LIFE Mower County	Special Olympics	Activities for People with Disabilities
Nexus-Gerard Family Healing	Community Mental Health	Community Mental Health
Recovery Is Happening	Peer-Powered Pathways	Substance Abuse Peer Support
WagonWheel's HUB	Equine Therapeutic Riding	Activities for People with Disabilities & Youth

Education & Youth Opportunity

Organization	Program	Description
Austin Aspires	Cradle to Career Programming	Activities & Education for Youth
Austin Aspires	Career Quest	Career Exploration for Youth
LIFE Mower County	Autism Friendly Austin Initiative	Community Education & Autism Camps
LIFE Mower County	Our Place Recreation Center	Activities for People with Disabilities
Parenting Resource Center	Partnering with Parents	Parent Education
ServeMinnesota	Reading Corps	Third Grade Reading Intervention
The Read Seed	Imagination Library	Early Childhood Literacy
Northern Star Scouting	Austin Scoutreach	Activities & Education for Youth

Financial Security

Organization	Program	Description
Apple Lane Childcare Center	Child Care Scholarships	Financial Assistance for Child Care
Cedar Valley Services	Community and Supported Employment	Job Placement for People with Disabilities
Cedar Valley Services	Competitive Employment	Job Placement for People with Disabilities
Wee Learning Center	Child Care Scholarships	Financial Assistance for Child Care
Workforce Development	Workforce Success	Employment Support

Basic Needs & Community Resiliency

Organization	Program	Description
Comunidades Latinos Unidas En Servicio	Canasta Familiar	Food Distribution
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota	Rural Immigration Project	Advocacy & Education for Immigrants
LIFE Mower County	Advocacy & Family Support	Advocacy & Education for People with Disabilities
Mower Council for the Handicapped	Advocacy	Advocacy & Education for People with Disabilities
Mower County Seniors	Advocacy	Advocacy & Education for Seniors
Mower County Seniors	Chore Program	Senior Housekeeping
Mower County Seniors	Transportation	Medical & Personal Transportation
Parenting Resource Center	Seibel Family Center	Supervised Custody Exchanges
Parenting Resource Center	Welcome Center	Advocacy & Education for Multicultural Groups
Rachel's Hope	Parenting with Purpose	Advocacy & Education for Parents
Semcac	Housing Payment Assistance	Financial Assistance for Housing
Semcac	Senior Nutrition	Congregate Meals
The Salvation Army	Community Nutrition	Congregate Meals & Food Shelf
The Salvation Army	Emergency Housing	Financial Assistance for Housing
YMCA of Austin	Youth/Teen Center	Activities for Youth