

IMPACT SPOTLIGHT: BASIC NEEDS

If education, financial stability, and health are the pillars of a good quality of life, then basic needs are most certainly the foundation. Without the basic necessities of life (i.e. food, shelter, safety, and equal access), kids struggle to focus in school, adults aren't able to be at work consistently, and reaching everyone's full potential is impossible. Together, we strive to stabilize lives in Mower County by helping seniors remain independent, providing crisis childcare, legal support, safe child visitation, rent assistance, transitional housing, food, and more to ensure basic needs are being met.

UNITED WAY OF MOWER COUNTY INITIATIVES & COLLABORATIONS

COATS FOR KIDS



- United Way coordinates an annual winter outerwear drive to ensure children from families who can't afford winter wear stay warm
- We work closely with local schools and success coaches to fill requests for those in need
- Last year, 251 children received coats

BACKPACK PROGRAM



- The Backpack Program provides a reliable weekend food source for students who experience food insecurities at home
- Last year, the United Way Women's Leadership Initiative and partner agencies provided families with more than 14,000 meals

RESOURCE HELPLINE

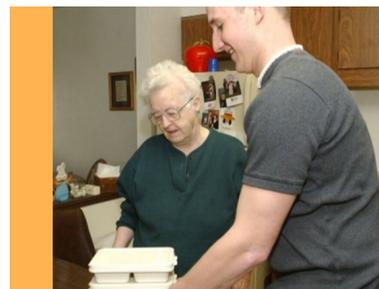


- Individuals looking for services in Mower County can dial 2-1-1 twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week
- Calls are fielded by representatives who have locally updated resource lists and information
- Referrals are key to ensure everyone has equal access to services and no one slips through the cracks

PERSONAL CARE



- Personal Care Closets have been established at area schools to provide personal care items that can't be found at food shelves (shampoo, soap, underwear, socks, toothbrushes, etc.) to local children
- Students and their families can access the personal care closets as needed



UNITED WAY OF MOWER COUNTY PARTNER AGENCIES & PROGRAMS



- Hot Lunch Program (Apple Lane Childcare Center)
- Advocacy & Support (LIFE Mower County)
- Children's Sexual Abuse Prevention (Crime Victims RC)
- Rural Immigration Project (Immigrant Law Center)
- Advocacy (Mower Co. for the Handicapped)
- Crisis Nursery (Parenting Resource Center)
- Advocacy (Mower County Seniors)
- Chore Program (Mower County Seniors)
- Senior Nutrition, Housing Payment
- Assistance, Source Information & Referral (Semcac)
- Seibel Family Visitation & Exchange (PRC)
- Government Benefits (SMRLS)
- Backpack Program; Emergency Lodging; Rent/Utility Assistance; Community Meals (Salvation Army)

IMPACT IN ACTION: ILCM DOESN'T JUST MAKE A DIFFERENCE, IT CHANGES LIVES

Before coming to the United States, Di Kay and his family never had a place to truly call home. Being refugees from a war-torn country made moving the only option to keep his family safe. The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota helped them obtain citizenship and they now have a safe place to live, learn, and work. They also have a place to call home and a sense of belonging in the United States. Di Kay's three children spent the vast majority of their lives as Burmese refugees in Thailand. Now, they can call themselves citizens of the United States of America. Because of support from the United Way of Mower County, we were able to support Di Kay's entire family every step of the way. This is just one of many stories that highlight's ILCM's commitment to the community, relationship with the United Way, the resilience of our clients, and the dedication of our staff."



IMPACT IN ACTION: AGENCIES GO THE EXTRA MILE SO ALL CLIENTS CAN SUCCEED

"Henry came to the Semcac office seeking help with an eviction notice. He owed \$550 for the month of May. Henry normally works 40 hours per week and his bills are paid on time, but his workplace was unusually slow in April leaving him with less hours and not enough income to make rent and utility payments. With help from the United Way's housing grant, Semcac was able to pay the \$550 Henry owed to prevent an eviction. Semcac staff also helped Henry apply for the Energy Assistance Program during his housing appointment, which assisted with the utilities arrears. Lastly, Henry was given GED information and he eagerly signed up for fall classes."