

# 2023



## Annual Meeting

**United Way of South  
Wood & Adams Counties**

**United  
Way**





**Brian Hanson, 2023 Board President**

Thank you for your support of the United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties (UWSWAC) in 2023. My role as President of the Board of Directors provided a unique perspective of the actual work being done to fulfill our mission:

*“United we change and strengthen lives by investing in our community.”*

2023 was my sixth year as a UWSWAC Board Member, and I am thankful for all that I have learned about how the organization functions throughout each year. Understanding how UWSWAC is viewed from the perspectives of donors, partner programs and the community as a whole is perhaps even more important. The processes used are designed to ensure that the maximum amount of support is allocated to programs that provide significant and immediate benefits to community members.

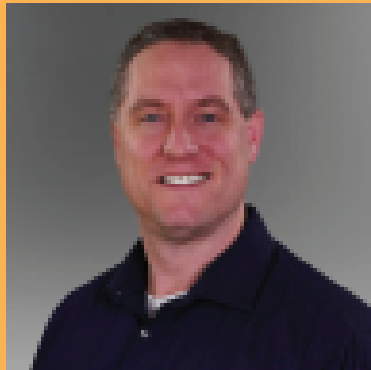
As I reflect on this past year I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for all of your efforts to support UWSWAC in 2023, especially: to our Staff, THANK YOU! Our CEO, Tari Jahns, combines a wealth of experience and connections with a true passion and commitment to serve the community and lead her staff. While small in number, each member of the staff uses their skill sets to help the organization achieve its goals year after year.

To our Board of Directors, THANK YOU! This is an experienced group with diverse perspectives, who collaborate effectively in making decisions that benefit the community. A special thanks to Board Member Brian Dewitt who also served as the Campaign Chair this year, presenting the United Way message to many people and organizations during our annual fundraising appeal.

To our Donors, THANK YOU! As our finance group works through the budget for the coming year, the amount of funds to raise is significant, and imposing. Yet, each year you are UNITED in your support to ensure funds are available to support the programs. At our recent “Thank You and Recognition Celebration” the list of donors (people and organizations) was impressive, including one couple who has supported the United Way for over 70 years!

To our Volunteers, THANK YOU! Individually, many of our volunteer tasks seem pretty simple and easy. Through the collective efforts of many volunteers, the amount of work done in support of our programs and initiatives is simply amazing. Thank you for caring and sharing your time and skills.

In closing, I encourage you to continue supporting the UWSWAC in 2024 and beyond! THANK YOU!



**Brian Dewitt, 2023 Campaign Chair - ERCO Worldwide**

Now that the 2023 Campaign has come to a close, I've had a chance to sit back and reflect on the amazing experience of being the United Way Campaign Chair. I'm thankful for getting the chance to see a little deeper into the organizations the United Way Campaign helps, and to witness firsthand the incredible generosity in our community.

For starters, I'd like to thank the businesses that sponsored the campaign sweepstakes, Aspirus Health, Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics, NextHome Partners, Prevail Bank and Williams Plumbing and Heating. Without your generosity, the campaign would not be as successful as it is! I'd also like to give a big, warm thank you to all of the people, businesses and organizations that contributed to this year's campaign. It's because of your caring and generosity that our community continues to be a great place to live. It was really nice to be invited back into some of the area businesses to do presentations that we hadn't been to in a while. Here's to getting back to a more normal cadence after the tough previous couple of years for everyone! Finally, thank you to all of the staff and volunteers of the United Way of South Wood and Adams Counties. Without your dedication and hardwork all

throughout the year, none of this would be possible.

It definitely makes me proud to be a resident in our area, and to know how many people turn out and show up for those less fortunate. Thanks again to everyone involved and here's to a new year filled with hope and potential!



**Tari Jahns, CEO**

In 2023 our impact in the community experienced growth that can only happen when we have committed and caring stakeholders. From volunteers to donors to partner programs to coalitions and initiatives the work on our Plan for Community Well-Being impacted thousands of people. We continued our focus on ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) Families and their success in the community. The great majority of our programming directly benefits ALICE households and we continue to look at how we can impact quality of life moving forward. United Way also provided needed services like 211 and the Volunteer Center, connecting people in the community with whatever they may need.

Women United (WU) continues to create lasting change, focusing on early-grade learning and literacy with a very dedicated membership. WU invests in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program in south Wood County providing a free book monthly to every child under the age of five who signs up. Reading mentors volunteer regularly at Grant, Humke, Mead, Port Edwards and Washington Elementary Schools, working with K-3rd students on reading and giving them another trusted adult to connect with. WU also provided seven classroom grants in 2023.

Special thanks and appreciation go out to our staff and Board of Directors who are all working hard to advance our mission. Together we are changing lives and helping our community thrive. I look forward to the impact we will make in 2024!

**OUR MISSION: UNITED WE CHANGE AND STRENGTHEN  
LIVES BY INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

## **2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

### **WELCOME**

Brian Hanson - 2023 Board President

### **2023 HIGHLIGHTS**

Tari Jahns - United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties' CEO

### **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING DIRECTORS**

Lynn Knight - Nekoosa Public Schools  
Keith Wilkes - NextHome Partners

### **APPROVAL OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

### **ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT - Dale Bikowski  
VICE PRESIDENT - Brian Dewitt  
SECRETARY - Heather Gehrt  
TREASURER - Nathan Quinnell

### **NOMINATION & ELECTION OF INCOMING DIRECTORS**

#### **Three Year Terms Ending in 2027:**

Daryl Castona - Domtar  
Heather Gehrt - Wood County  
Greg Hartjes - Econ Electric  
Jada McDougall - WestRock  
Brian Slinkman - NextHome Partners  
Emily Weiler - Paper City Savings Association

### **RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING PRESIDENT**

### **CLOSING**

Dale Bikowski - 2024 Board President

# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

**\$107,000**

invested in local EDUCATION programs

**\$72,700**

invested in local FINANCIAL STABILITY programs

**\$145,350**

invested in local HEALTH programs

**\$158,650**

invested in local SAFETY NET SERVICES programs

**\$590,313\***

**2023  
TOTAL  
CAMPAIGN  
VALUE**

**4,725 BOOKS**

Were Mailed to Children in South Wood County Through Women United and Dolly Parton Imagination Library



**4,382 CALLS**

Were answered by our local 211 Contact Center

**TOP NEEDS OF 2023**

1. Housing & Shelter
2. Mental Health & Addiction
3. Employment & Income

**90 LOCAL STUDENTS**

participated in the Finance & Investment Challenge Bowl event, hosted by the Financial Stability Coalition

**\$66,454 WERE SAVED**

on prescription cost by residents using SingleCare in 2023

**155 CALLS**

Were answered by our local 211 Contact Center for mental health resources

**383 CALLS**

Were answered by our local 211 Contact Center for Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline



**22,925lbs**

of food were leveraged by the South Wood County Hunger Coalition for low-income seniors through the monthly Senior Stockbox Program

**\$65,837**

New Dollars Were Raised In Our \$1,000 Sweepstakes! Thank You To This Year's Sponsors!



**United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties**

\*at time of print

UNITED WAY OF SOUTH WOOD & ADAMS COUNTIES

# 20 OPPORTUNITIES 24 TO ENGAGE WITH US

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS!**

## **SPONSOR A CHILD IN IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

Visit [uwsvac.org](http://uwsvac.org) and click on "Women United" Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth until the age of 5 in south Wood County. You can sponsor a child for only \$30 per year!

## **POWER OF THE PURSE**

March 12, 2024, 5:00pm

Bullseye Golf Club

Event will feature a silent purse auction, raffle, hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and networking.

## **GREAT BOOK GIVEAWAY**

June 10 - 14, 2024

We will be giving away FREE children's books during the 13th annual Great Book Giveaway. Volunteers will read books to children at several locations. Afterward each child can select a book to keep.

## **UNITED WE CAN**

June 18, 2024, 10am - 4pm Construction;

Rafter Game at 6:35pm

Witter Field

Local organizations will sponsor and construct sculptures made of non-perishable food items. The sculptures will be on display during the Rafters game at 6:35pm. Afterward, all food items are distributed to area food programs. Community donations accepted.

## **CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Coming August 2024

During our training you will have the opportunity to learn about programs, coalitions and initiatives that we support to change the lives of those who struggle in our community. This experience will help you run an even more successful workplace campaign.

## **LUNCH BY THE RIVER**

August 1, 2024, 11:30am - 1:00pm

Veteran's Memorial Park

Stuff the School Bus

Donate school supplies that will be distributed to students in need.

## **2024 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN**

September 1, 2024 - October 31, 2024

Make an investment by donating through your company's workplace campaign or give as an individual. You could win \$1,000!

## **DAY OF CARING**

October 26, 2024, 8:00am

Grand Rapids Lion's Club

We will be raking yards for our local elderly and disabled neighbors, and collecting personal essential items for Acorn Apartments.

**United Way of South  
Wood & Adams Counties**



351 Oak Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

715-421-0390

[uwsvac.org](http://uwsvac.org)

# 2024 Partner Programs Coalitions & Initiatives



KEY: AC = Adams County SWC = South Wood County

## EDUCATION

**Early Years - Goal: Children are ready to learn by start of school.**

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (SWC)
- Provider Recruitment/Retention: Childcaring, Inc. – Partner Program (SWC)

**Youth Success - Goal: Youth have access to mentors, role models and enrichments outside of the school day in a safe environment which enhances: personal growth, character development and academic achievement.**

- Before, After, and Summer School Programs: Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area - Partner Program (SWC)
- Community Learning Center – After School Programs: Adams-Friendship Area School District - Partner Program (AC)
- Great Book Giveaway (AC & SWC)
- Learning for Life Reading Mentor Program (SWC)
- Leadership Experience: Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes - Partner Program (AC & SWC)
- Scouting Program: Samoset Council Boy Scouts of America – Partner Program (AC & SWC)
- Stuff the Bus (SWC)

## INCOME

**Financial Stability - Goal: Community members learn skills to become financially independent.**

- ALICE Report (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) (AC & SWC)
- EnTouch Wireless (AC & SWC)
- Finance and Investment Challenge Bowl (SWC)
- Good Start Grants: Childcaring, Inc.- Partner Program (SWC)
- MyFreeTaxes (AC & SWC)

**Your United Way donation will support all of these programs in 2024.  
For more information visit [uwsac.org](http://uwsac.org)**

## HEALTH

**Supportive Community Health Services - Goal: Improving quality of life for a specific population with an identified need.**

- Adams County Transportation Today: Faith in Action – Partner Program (AC)
- Aspirus Dental Clinic – Partner Program (SWC)
- Association for All Handicapped Citizens – Partner Program (SWC)
- Career Closet of Wisconsin Rapids, Inc. – Partner Program (SWC)
- Dementia Help Guide (SWC)
- Faith in Action: Adams County – Partner Program (AC)
- Help Guide (AC & SWC)
- Kaj Siab or Project Happiness: Hmong American Center – Partner Program (SWC)
- Membership For All: South Wood County YMCA – Partner Program (AC & SWC)
- Nekoosa Senior Citizens Club – Partner Program (SWC)
- Opportunity for Hope, Access for All: Opportunity Development Center, Inc.– Partner Program (SWC)
- Park Place Adult Day Services – Partner Program (SWC)
- Rudolph Senior Citizens – Partner Program (SWC)
- SingleCare Prescription Discount Card (AC & SWC)
- Volunteer Center (AC & SWC)

## SAFETY NET SERVICES

**Emergency Shelter - Goal: Community members have access to shelter.**

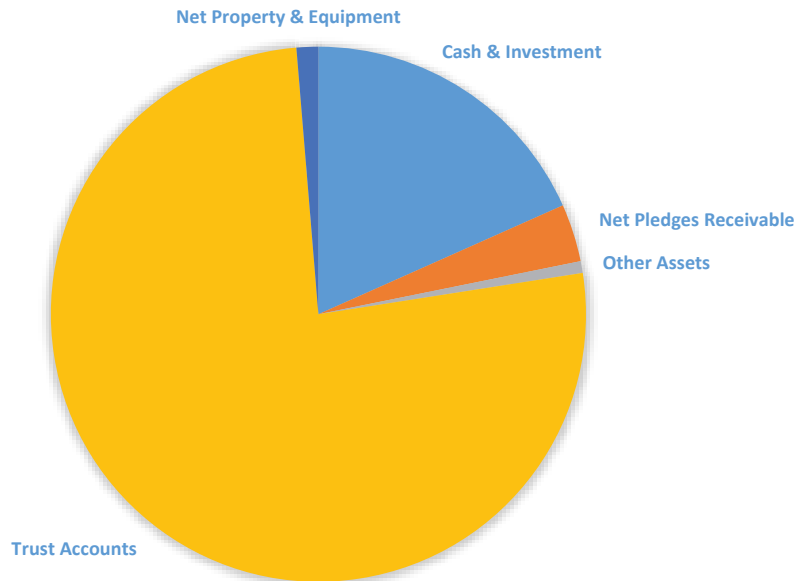
- 2-1-1 (AC & SWC)
- Emergency Housing Assistance Program: North Central Community Action Program – Partner Program (SWC)
- Emergency Rental Assistance: Central Wisconsin Community Action Council – Partner Program (AC)
- Shelter Services: The Family Center – Partner Program (SWC)

**Food - Goal: Community members have access to food.**

- 2-1-1 (AC & SWC)
- Backpack for Kids: Nekoosa School District – Partner Program (SWC)
- Family Backpacks: FOCUS – Partner Program (SWC)
- Food Pantry: Central Wisconsin Community Action Council – Partner Program (AC)
- Food Pantry: FOCUS – Partner Program (SWC)
- Neighborhood Meals: FOCUS – Partner Program (SWC)

# 2023 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023 ASSETS



	2023*	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash & Investments	1,110,376	1,123,487
Net Pledges Receivable	211,294	204,435
Other Assets	42,966	23,936
Trust Accounts	4,612,629	3,918,275
Net Property & Equipment	79,568	74,666
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,056,833</b>	<b>5,344,799</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
Allocations Payable	-	-
Other Current Liabilities	8,849	20,251
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>8,849</b>	<b>20,251</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	2,699,253	2,699,253
Temporarily Restricted	3,348,731	2,625,295
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>6,047,984</b>	<b>5,324,548</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>6,056,833</b>	<b>5,344,799</b>

[\*2023 unaudited]

## 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Brian Hanson,  
Community Member  
Vice President Dale Bikowski,  
Sentry  
Secretary Lynn Knight,  
Nekoosa Public Schools  
Treasurer Nathan Quinnell,  
Prevail Bank

Craig Broeren,  
Wisconsin Rapids Public  
Schools  
Daryl Castona,  
Domtar  
Jason Deitz,  
WoodTrust Bank  
Brian Dewitt,  
ERCO Worldwide  
Jessica Fox,  
Aspirus Health  
Heather Gehrt,  
Wood County  
Greg Hartjes,  
ECON Electric  
Justin Huebner,  
Solarus  
Shawn Johnston,  
Mead Witter Foundation  
Jada McDougall,  
WestRock  
Shelly Mondeik,  
Mid-State Technical  
College  
Julanne Ranek-Stoltz,  
Community Member  
Keith Wilkes,  
NextHome Partners  
Shalina Wollschlager,  
WestRock

## UNITED WAY OF SOUTH WOOD & ADAMS COUNTIES STAFF

Tari Jahns  
CEO  
Stefanie Drexler  
Office Operations Director  
Ben Eberlein  
Community Engagement Director  
Amy Fluno  
2-1-1 Director  
Lynn McGrath  
2-1-1 Resource Specialist  
Taylor Miller  
Marketing Director

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
**uwsvac.org**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR:**  
LEADERSHIP GIVERS  
LOYAL CONTRIBUTORS  
COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE PARTNERS  
WOMEN UNITED  
2023 CAMPAIGN AWARDS  
SMALL BUSINESS CIRCLE  
UNITED FOREVER GUILD

Stay connected year-round on social media:



351 Oak Street, Wisconsin Rapids | 715-421-0390 | [uwsvac.org](http://uwsvac.org)



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