



UNITED WAY
Greater Yankton

INVESTING IN HOPE



LIVING UNITED

2025.26 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

www.yanktonunitedway.org

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UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENTIAL INSIGHT

This past year challenged us, strengthened us, and ultimately moved us forward. Through significant changes, both within our organization and across the community, our Board, staff, and partners remained focused and resilient. We didn't just maintain; we adapted, prioritized, and continued to lead.

Our 23 funded partner agencies, supporting 65 programs, continued delivering critical services without pause. That consistency reflects a community deeply committed to education, financial stability, and health for all.

Our campaign theme, Invest in Hope – Live United, reminds us that every contribution of time, talent, or treasure, is an investment in people, possibilities, and a stronger community. This year, that investment was clear. More than 2,100 volunteers contributed over 35,000 hours of service, and despite a reduced goal of \$622,000, our campaign closed at \$705,000 in pledges.

Following a significant loss in funding, we focused on diversifying revenue by expanding engagement with individual donors and retirees, while securing sponsorships for internal programs. These efforts are helping ensure more campaign dollars go directly to community impact.

The Clothing Closet continues to grow in both reach and sustainability, now operating as a self-sustaining program. In addition, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library received its first full sponsorship from John and Kris DeLean, covering the full cost of books for local children and strengthening early literacy.

To our donors and supporters: thank you for investing in hope and living united. Your support drives meaningful, lasting impact across the Greater Yankton community.

Nathan Johnson
United Way of Greater Yankton, 2025/26 Board President

Guided by our values of partnership, responsiveness, integrity, and good governance, we are proud to be led by local people who are committed to our community and the mission of United Way of Greater Yankton.

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Sacred Heart School

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And to those who chose to remain anonymous.

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN HOPE & LIVING UNITED!

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP GIVING

With thousands of donors, nearly 50 local businesses hosting workplace campaign rallies, and over 50 volunteer advocates, fundraising efforts for the 2026 Community Campaign have held strong and will continue to impact thousands of lives.

TITANIUM DONORS (\$25,000+)



PLATINUM DONORS (\$10,000-\$24,999)

FNBO | Manitou | Meridian Liquids Partners, LLC | Parker Hannifin | Robert & Rita Elmen Foundation | Shur-Co. | State of South Dakota | Top Notch Inc. | Vishay Dale Electronics | Williams & Company | Yankton School District

GOLD DONORS (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Applied Engineering/The Freeman Company | Astec Industries | CorTrust Bank

SILVER DONORS (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Alliance Energy | Elk's Club | Elkhorn Valley Bank | Explorer's Credit Union | First Interstate Bank | Hubbs Agency | Jimmy John's | John A Conkling Distributing | Kalin's Indoor Comfort | Legacy Financial | Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services | Mid-American Energy | Midwest Insurance Agency | Mike Durfee State Prison | Missouri Valley Tool | Mount Marty University | Northwestern Energy | RealTruck | Riverfront Broadcasting | Sacred Heart Monastery | Sacred Heart School | SD Human Services Center | Thrivent Financial Services | Trail King | United Way of Greater Yankton | Vision Real Estate Services | Wilcockson Eye Associates | Yankton Family Dentistry | Yankton Morning Optimist Club | Yankton Seed House | Yankton Sertoma Club

BRONZE DONORS (\$500 - \$999)

Bank First | Blackburn & Stevens, Prof LLC | Caterpillar Foundation | Cornerstone Jewelry | Culver's of Yankton | Dakota Drywall & Construction | GFWC | Masaba | Mtron PTI | Olson's Pest Technicians | Polaris, Inc. | SD Division of Rehabilitation Services | South Dakota Anesthesia Services, PC | South Dakota Magazine | The Move Group | Trinity Lutheran Church | Yankton Handyman



UW Mission: To change lives and improve our community by mobilizing people and resources to drive strategic impact in education, financial stability and health.

LEADERSHIP DONORS

Bronze* \$300 - \$499 | Silver** \$500 - \$999 | Gold*** \$1,000 - \$1,999 | Platinum**** \$2,000 - \$4,999 | Titanium***** \$5,000 - \$9,999 | Tocqueville Society***** \$10,000+

Heart Club Donors

Donors as of 4/1/2026

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Midwest Insurance Agency

*** Travis & Whitney Devine

UNITED WAY'S COMMUNITY IMPACT

Together, with generous neighbors like you, here are some of the ways we are building a brighter future for everyone within the greater Yankton region!



780

hours of mentoring shared



3,064

clients successfully completed health & wellness programs

UNITED WAY PROGRAMS

United Way of Greater Yankton strives to meet emerging needs by facilitating multiple direct service programs focusing on the education, financial stability and health of our community. In 2025, our programs assisted over 1,500 households.

THE CLOTHING CLOSET

United Way's Clothing Closet offers community members who are struggling to make ends meet the opportunity to receive free, quality clothing in a dignified and welcoming space.

In 2025, 832 individuals of all ages were served through weekly distributions totaling 17,771 items of clothing. Of the 340 families served this past year, 99% are living at or below the poverty level. The success of The Clothing Closet program is attributed to the commitment of its volunteers and the generosity of our community. 65 volunteers dedicated over 455 hours to the program!



66% of families served had no dental insurance, 34% had Medicaid/SCHIP

DELTA DENTAL MOBILE PROGRAM

Each spring, the Delta Dental Mobile Program provides free care to families whose children, for a variety of reasons, do not have access to adequate dental care. Sponsored by United Way, the Delta Dental Mobile Program provides Yankton area youth, ages 0 to 21, the opportunity to receive dental care and dental education. In 2025, 38 youth were served valuing \$27,114 worth of care at no cost to families.

Each child is provided with a dental screening, a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, and a lesson on how to use them to better care for their teeth at home. Amongst those 38 children, 206 sealants were placed.

YANKTON COUNTY IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, handpicked, age-appropriate books are delivered to local children residing in Yankton County, ages birth to 5, each month at no cost to the family. United Way of Greater Yankton has been sponsoring this early childhood literacy program since its inception in 2002, with over 160,000 books delivered to 4,900+ local youth.

In 2025, John & Kris DeJean became this program's first-ever sponsor. Because of them, 552 youth participated and received 13,706 books. at no cost.



16,200 books distributed to local youth in 2025



720 hours of mentoring to local youth

BIG FRIEND LITTLE FRIEND

Big Friend Little Friend (BFLF) has been serving Yankton for over 40 years and is designed to give young people the opportunity to gain a one-to-one friendship with a positive and sincere adult mentor. Research shows that mentors can play a powerful role in providing young people with the tools to make responsible decisions such as staying engaged in school and promoting higher quality lifestyle choices.

Currently, 40 Volunteer Mentors are serving youth in all four YSD elementary schools and Yankton Middle School. 720 hours of mentoring took place during the 2025/2026 school year.



BRIDGING YANKTON

Bridging Yankton, Pathways to Hope, Help & Healing is a suicide prevention group whose mission is to increase suicide awareness by supporting local and statewide prevention efforts which provide hope, help and healing to individuals and families in our community. Formed in 2016, this coalition of local community members work in partnership with the Helpline Center and United Way to plan and host our community's annual Step Forward to Prevent Suicide Walk each September.



MYFREE TAXES

MyFreeTaxes helps people file their taxes for free while getting the assistance they need. United Way provides MyFreeTaxes in partnership with the IRS's VITA program to help filers prepare their tax returns on their own or have their return prepared for them for free.



SINGLECARE

United Way partners with SingleCare to provide access to affordable prescription medications in order to ensure greater health and financial stability to community members.



THE BIG RED BOOKSHELF

Distributes free children's books among community shelves with goals to increase book ownership & encourage parent-child learning interactions. Since its inception in 2014, over 47,500 books have been distributed throughout 17 community book shelves.



CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

60+ local companies engaged, 15,000+ basic need items donated, \$32,000+ collected to support initiatives

We create strong community partnerships with a variety of organizations to leverage services for positive impact. In designing the right partnership, we present opportunities that best fits an organization's social responsibility goals. Businesses can make a corporate gift to a specific issue, involve their team in giving, volunteering, or join in on events that support programs.

CORPORATE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES

STUFF THE BUS, School Supply Drive - Ability Building Services, Astec Industries, CorTrust Bank, Explorer's Credit Union, First Dakota National Bank, Hydro Extrusions, Manitou, Neighborhood Dental, Parker Hannifin, SD Dept. of Labor, Shur - Co, Yankton Contact Center, Vishay Dale Electronics, Yankton Medical Clinic, Yankton Morning Optimist Club (Major Sponsor), Yankton School District, Yankton Walmart

STEP FORWARD TO PREVENT SUICIDE WALK, Fundraiser for Helpline Center & UW Venture Grants - Astec Industries, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Bauman & Borowski Family Dentistry, Beta Sigma Phi, CorTrust Bank, Edward Jones - Stacy Hubert, Elwood Family Dentistry, Explorer's Credit Union, First Dakota National Bank, FNBO, Jimmy John's, Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds, LLP, Kopetsky's Ace Hardware, Larson Carpet, MWH Lawyers, Mead Lumber, Missouri Valley Tool, M.T. & R.C. Smith Insurance, Muddy Mo's Coffee House, Neighborhood Dental, Northwestern Energy, Olson Pest Technicians, Parker Hannifin, Red Hydrant Inn & Playground, Sacred Heart Monastery, Shur-Co, Slumberland Furniture/Larry's Heating & Cooling, The Move Group, Thrivent Financial, Trinity Lutheran Church, Vishay, Vision Care Associates, Yaggie's, Yankton Handyman, Hy-Vee, Yankton Medical Clinic, Yankton Morning Optimist Club, Yankton School District, Yankton Sertoma Club

DIAPER DRIVE, benefiting Southeast CASA's Diaper Depot, Yankton Contact Center and ZoeCare - First Interstate Bank, Shur-Co, UCC Church held internal drives. Between them and the general community, over 9,000 diapers were donated!

YANKTON TOYS FOR KIDS, ADOPT A FAMILY - Ability Building Services, Astec Industries, Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Christ Episcopal Church, CorTrust Bank, Cottonwood Shipwreck Bar, Court Services Support Staff, Day & Zimmerman, Elkhorn Valley Bank, Explorers Credit Union, First Chiropractic Center, First Dakota National Bank, First Interstate Bank, FNBO, Great Plains Processing, Heartland Psychological Services, Holiday Inn Express, Hydro Extrusions, L&M Radiator, Mount Marty University, Neighborhood Dental, Olson Pest Technicians, Real Truck, Riverview Reformed Church, Sacred Heart School, SD Dept. of Labor, SD Dept. of Revenue, SD Dept. of Social Services, Shur-Co, Stay Golden Jewelry, The Center, Vishay, Williams & Co., Willcockson Eye Associates, Yankton Clovers 4H Club, Yankton Fire Dept. Auxiliary



COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

United Way's Community Impact Fund - belongs to the community and we are committed to being good stewards by being both effective and efficient with every donor's dollar. United Way seeks to partner with the most efficient, effective and innovative human service providers in the greater Yankton community. Any 501c3 human service organization seeking funding must demonstrate the ability to operate programs in a manner consistent with the highest standards of quality, which shall include compliance with United Way management and financial requirements. Collectively we measure outcomes of funded programs to gauge success and impact.

Our investment procedures, funding priorities, and impact goals reflect current needs and the importance of investing into measurable programs that drive both short term and long term community success.



UNITED WAY FUNDED PARTNERS & PROGRAMS

EDUCATION Boys & Girls Club of Yankton Academic Success, Power Up, Teen Programs Cornerstone Career Center English as a Second Language, Adult Education Courses United Way of Greater Yankton Big Friend Little Friend, Born Learning Trail, SPARK, The Big Red Bookshelf, Yankton County Imagination Library, Stuff the Bus School Supply Distribution	Waypost Family Visitation Center Art Education Grants Yankton Area Arts, Yankton County Historical Society	Boys & Girls Club of Yankton Assistance Program The Center Tax Assistance Program, Meals on Wheels, Food Commodities Program Habitat for Humanity Home Repair & Veteran's Build Homeownership Yankton Contact Center Emergency Assistance, Food Pantry, Rep Payee Yankton Food for Thought Weekend Sack Packs, School Food Pantry
FINANCIAL STABILITY	Boys & Girls Club of Yankton Teen Court & Youth Diversion, Healthy Snacks & Meals The Center Congregate Dining, SHINE-Prescription Assistance, Senior Programming, Wellness Workshop, Dental Services, Alzheimer's Support Group	Connections Social Events Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Yankton County Drug & DUI Court Waypost 24 Hour Crisis Hotline, 30 Days to Success, Community Education & Outreach, Victim Center Services
HEALTH & SAFETY	United Way Venture Grants offer local human service agencies an opportunity to seek funds for immediate and creative responses to the most pressing human needs in our community. The three types of Venture Grants are Seed Money, Delivery Enhancement & Mental Health Initiatives. Due to loss of funding with the 2025 campaign, the UW Board voted to cancel the May 2025 Venture Grants, and only distribute Mental Health Initiative funds in the November 2025 round, based on what was raised through the Bridging Yankton event. Anew Haven of Hope was the sole Venture Grant applicant in November 2025, and the Board honored their request at \$5,000.	

VOLUNTEER YANKTON



13,330 hours of service performed by Volunteer Yankton



In 2025, United Way's partnership with the AmeriCorps RSVP program ended due to loss of grant funding. **Volunteer Yankton** emerged as a stronger volunteer program, enabling our volunteer insurance and benefits to reach volunteers ages 16+, rather than only 55+. The loss of funding led to the removal of United Way's Volunteer Coordinator position. While unfortunate, we are learning how to best offer services with our three remaining team members.

Volunteer Yankton had 317 **active volunteers** in 2025, sharing their time with over **46 local nonprofit organizations**, all focusing on financial stability, education and health.

Volunteers were appreciated at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in April. Elkhorn Valley Bank generously sponsored this event, and we were hosted by our friends at The Center.



On average, 40 community members attend monthly



SPARK

SPARK - Connections for Community - is a United Way led coalition of representatives from a variety of human service organizations, whose goal is to connect community leaders and volunteers, while gaining knowledge and understanding of community needs.

SPARK shares information and looks for opportunities to solve community problems by hosting monthly SPARK Community Conversations and a variety of educational opportunities.

SPARK Executive Committee Members: Jeana Austin, DSS; Crystal Gemar & Rylee Hinze, Southeast CASA; Jeremy Hoeck, Yankton Community Library; Tiffany Hoover, Boys & Girls Club; Anna Meredith, Waypost; Danelle Pennock, Heartland Psychological Services; Shiela Steffen, Systems of Care, Chris Meier, Yankton County Sheriff's Office; Katlyn Wolfram, Ability Building Services; Amanda Hanson, United Way of Greater Yankton

GREATER YANKTON COAD



A community and its citizens are unquestionably better served if a **Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)** is in place for planning and education long before a disaster strikes.

United Way Plans to restart quarterly meetings in 2026 of the Greater Yankton COAD to coordinate long term recovery planning, provide training and exercises to understand COAD roles, and provide a conduit for communications and networking between members. Examples include a simulate of an EF3-EF4 tornado path and an orientation from Yankton County Emergency Management on the statewide credentialing and inventory system.

Efforts will continue to fully develop the COAD staffing pattern and develop plans and preparations to be ready to respond to incidents as they arise.



550 youth enrolled in holiday programs

YANKTON TOYS FOR KIDS & ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM

In partnership with **Lisa Ryken** and her team of elves, Yankton Toys for Kids helps bring joy to local children by providing gifts and clothing during the holidays. All gifts are donated through community drop off locations and distributed at the Yankton Toys for Kids headquarters. **In 2025, 250 youth were enrolled.**

TFK Adopt a Family allows businesses, community members and organizations to provide local families with food, necessity items and gifts during the holiday season. **111 local businesses, organizations, groups and/or families participated in 2025, helping 278 local youth**, the most ever enrolled! Thank you, Yankton!

STUFF THE BUS



383 local youth provided with school supplies

In partnership with **Walmart & Yankton Morning Optimist Club**, Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive equipped 383 local youth with school supplies needed for a successful year. Supplies were distributed, along with new backpacks, thanks to support from American Foods Group and Yankton Contact Center.



HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAY BED PROGRAM

For 31 years, Slumberland has been helping kids get the restful sleep they require by giving new beds to those in need. Thanks to **Slumberland of Yankton and the Knights of Columbus**, **22 frames and mattresses** were donated and delivered to 15 referred families in 2025.

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Every day within our community, people develop lasting solutions to local issues. Whether delivering meals to homebound seniors, collecting school supplies, or tutoring school students, it's through the efforts of ordinary people that we can do extraordinary things!



35,745 hours of service gifted

46 local nonprofits impacted

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

2,101 volunteers shared their time & talents

For over two decades, United Way has recognized outstanding volunteers within the community through our Volunteer of the Month Award. Volunteers are nominated by their peers for their dedication to service and helping those throughout the greater Yankton community. Recipients are also nominees for the annual Pam Kettering Spirit of Volunteerism Award.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH (2025-26)

- Karen Schoenfelder**, Discovery Church
- Michelle Kral**, UW Programs
- Steph Serk**, The Clothing Closet
- Jean Prater**, Yankton Nonprofits
- Bruce Myers**, Waypost
- Missouri Valley Critical Incident Stress Management Team**, Yankton County Emergency Management
- Nick Severson**, Yankton Nonprofits
- Adopt A Family & Toys for Kids Volunteers**, United Way
- Sarah & Ryan Thoms**, Yankton Area Ice Association
- Friends of the Yankton Community Library**, Yankton Library
- Vicki Swenson**, The Center



PAM KETTERING SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

Every year, the Pam Kettering Spirit of Volunteerism Award is presented to one of our outstanding Volunteers of the Month. 2025's award was presented to a community member who demonstrates a strong, dedicated and caring spirit, **Dave Spencer**.

He was recognized for his involvement with the Yankton Morning Optimist Club, Trinity Lutheran Church, and the local hockey programs. He has been an active member of the Yankton Morning Optimist Club since moving to Yankton 30 years ago. He served as president over 20 years ago and is now wrapping up another year as president of the Club.

We all know that collaboration is key to a healthy community. This individual spearheaded the formation of the Combined Service Club meetings held quarterly at Mount Marty University, joining the Sertoma, Rotary, Lions, and Optimist Clubs together 4 times per year. He has been instrumental in implementing the Optimist's Santa's Workshop during the Christmas season, as well as organizing volunteers for the Yankton Area Ice Association's open skate sessions. Speaking of ice skating, he was also instrumental in establishing the indoor skating rink and the local hockey programs.



At Trinity Lutheran Church, he serves as a member of the long-range planning committee, provides transportation to and from church to those with mobility issues, serves as an usher, and even plays his trumpet on occasion for special music. Over the past decade he has also served as president of the church council during two separate terms.

Dave was nominated for Volunteer of the month by Tom Stotz. Tom said, "Dave is an outstanding advocate for the Yankton Morning Optimists, the Yankton community, Mount Marty University, and of course, the Nebraska Cornhuskers!"

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN



Campaign Coordinators

Campaign Coordinators are volunteers who help bring the work of United Way to life - in boardrooms and break rooms, at luncheons and leadership meetings, in conversations with colleagues and with campaign activities of all kinds! Thank you to the following volunteers for their service to the greater Yankton community!

- Taylor Fogarty** – Applied Engineering / Freeman Company
- Nathan Johnson** – Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
- Heather Puck** - Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
- Tim Schwasinger** – Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
- Trina Adermann** – Astec Industries
- Carisa Cuka** - Astec Industries
- Julie Hartley** - Astec Industries
- Julie O'Bryan** - Astec Industries
- Brittany Orr** – City of Yankton
- Joleen Woods** – Cortrust Bank
- Nicole Bakke** – Elkhorn Valley Bank
- Alissa Bartling** – Explorers Credit Union
- Kelsey Tramp** - Explorers Credit Union
- Jackie Abel** – First Dakota National Bank
- Kortney Loecker** – FNBO
- Alexis Heine** – First Interstate Bank
- Maureen Guthrie** – Kalin's Indoor Comfort
- Andrea Tramp** – Kalin's Indoor Comfort
- Katie Schlimgen** – L & M Radiator
- Julie Washburn**– Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services

- Justin Norling** – Manitou Equipment of Americas
- Lance Palecek** – Mid American Energy
- Terry Stull** – Mount Marty University
- Katelyn Duffy** – Northwestern Energy
- Michelle Kaul** – Parker Hannifin
- George Lundgren** – Parker Hannifin
- Lori Cowman** – Planning & Development District III
- Brook Thurman**– SD Human Services Center
- Kellie Cameron** – Shur-Co.
- Lisa & Robert Standen** – Shur-Co.
- Jacki Smith** – Trail King
- Laura Jorgenson** – Vishay Dale Electronics
- Trista Buehlmann** – Vishay Dale Electronics
- Beth Youngblom** – Williams & Company
- Ann Ryken** – Yankton Medical Clinic
- Matt Decker** – Yankton School District

HEART CLUB COMMITTEE

Thank you to an amazing group of volunteers who devote their energy and passion for helping our community towards the success of the annual Community Campaign and Leadership Giving. United Way's Heart Club Committee is the heartbeat of a successful fundraising drive and we are extremely grateful for their dedication.

- Alison Anderson, Whitney Devine, Erica Garvey, Lacey Kindle, Randi Kindle, Jenessa Kniffen, Jill Kouri, Jennifer Kudera, Laura Larson, and Amber Ness**

IN KIND SPONSORS & DONORS

Our 2026 Community Campaign drive would not be possible without the assistance and in kind support of many local marketing organizations, vendors and community helpers. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership!

- Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Riverfront Broadcasting, VVI & Jeff Reynolds, Hanson Briggs Specialty Advertising, The Boathouse, Paul Maynell, Bruce Viau, Yankton Hy-Vee, & James Dean Acoustic**

BIG THANKS COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN AWARDS

Each year, we at United Way honor a loyal donor, an advocate, and a volunteer with BIG THANKS AWARDS for continuously going above and beyond to ensure the success of United Way's Community Campaign, our programs and our funded partner agencies.

GIVE
Shur-Co.



ADVOCATE
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan



VOLUNTEER
Jackie Abel & Bridget Benson

