

Investing In Hope



LIVING UNITED



2024.25 Community Impact Report

www.yanktonunitedway.org

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www.yanktonunitedway.org

UNITED WAY LEADERSHIP

Presidential Insight

In a year of transition for United Way of Greater Yankton, I was proud to serve as president of the Board. Looking back, the Board and staff were able to maintain status quo without missing a beat. The Greater Yankton community saw some major changes throughout the year. Witnessing the resiliency of the 23 funded partner agencies and 65 programs to continue providing services has been inspiring. It is a testament to our community's dedication to the education, financial stability and health for all. Thank you to all on the front lines who dedicate their lives to providing these crucial needs.

To our donors and supporters; thank you for Investing in Hope and Living United by contributing to our 2025 campaign, which raised \$605,000 for the Community Impact Fund. We look forward to sharing these gifts to help increase the level of impact made possible by the agencies listed throughout this report.

One significant accomplishment I would like to highlight is the relocation of The Clothing Closet to our Community Impact Center at 920 Broadway Ave. This will allow our team to operate more efficiently, while being able to serve more people in need.

Thank you again for your support, and we look forward to working with you in 2025-2026!

Monte Gulick
United Way of Greater Yankton, 2024/25 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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Past President
Dr. Marcus Long
Mount Marty University

Vice President
Natalie Kleensang
RealTruck

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Justin Schramm - Applied Engineering/Freeman Co

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Betsy Semmler - Resource Development Director

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* Sydney Samudzi
* Brandon Wagner

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 2023 Community Campaign have held strong and will continue to impact thousands of lives.



Platinum Donors (\$10,000-\$24,999)

Astec Industries | Parker Hannifin | Robert & Rita Elmen Foundation | Shur-Co. | Top Notch Inc. | Vishay Dale Electronics | Williams & Company | Yankton School District

Gold Donors (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Applied Engineering/The Freeman Company | CorTrust Bank | Elkhorn Valley Bank | Mount Marty University | Roy'zzz Premium Cannabis

Silver Donors (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Alliance Energy | Dakota Drywall & Construction | Explorer's Credit Union | First Interstate Bank | Hydro Extrusions | Jimmy John's | John A Conkling Distributing | Kalin's Indoor Comfort | Legacy Financial | Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services | Meridian Liquids Partners, LLC | Midwest Insurance Agency | Nebraska Medicine | Northwestern Energy | Olson's Pest Technicians | Riverfront Broadcasting | Sacred Heart Monastery | SD Department of Labor | SD Human Services Center | The Move Group | Trail King | United Way of Greater Yankton | Vision Real Estate Services | Wilcockson Eye Associates | Yankton Family Dentistry | Yankton Morning Optimist Club | Yankton Sertoma Club

Bronze (\$500 - \$999)

Culver's of Yankton | Harms Oil Company | MidAmerican Energy | Mtron PTI | Runza | SD Division of Rehabilitation Services | South Dakota Anesthesia Services, PC | Yankton Rotary Club



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+

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Donors as of 4/1/2025

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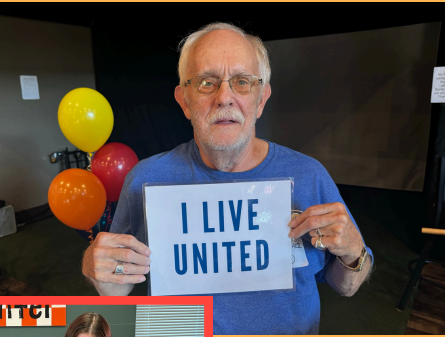
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The Move Group
*** Stacy & Jim Schramm
Trail King
* Kevin Bloch
* Josey Lucht
* Jacki Smith

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!



12,199

hours of tutoring or mentoring shared



3,113

clients successfully completed health & wellness programs



9,420

books distributed to local youth at no cost

704

scholarships awarded to local youth to participate in activities



4,062

youth provided opportunities to succeed

3,402

volunteers shared their time & talents

579

seniors engaged in supportive services



57,650

hours of volunteer service gifted to community

97.6%

of youth reported positive behavior changes through services provided

26,671

Greater Yankton community members provided with services



941

households stabilized through services provided

75,518

Rides to Work, School & Medical Appointments

UNITED WAY PROGRAMS



The Clothing Closet

United Way's The 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 2024, **685 individuals of all ages** were served through weekly distributions totaling **11,791 items of clothing**. Of the 320 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. **30 volunteers dedicated over 272 hours** to the program!



79% of families served had no dental insurance, 21% 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 2024, **38 youth were served valuing \$42,006 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 it's inception in 2002, with over 147,000 books delivered to 4,400+ local youth.

In 2024, 563 youth participated and received over 7,000 books.

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 2024, our programs assisted over 1,500 households.



169 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. **420 hours of mentoring took place during the 2024/2025 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 August.**



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 it's inception in 2014, **over 45,000 books** have been distributed throughout 17 community book shelves.



9,420 books distributed to local youth in 2024



CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

50+ local companies engaged

5,000+ basic need items donated

\$23,000+ 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 for United Way - Ability Building Services, American Foods Group, CorTrust Bank, SD Department of Labor, Explorer's Credit Union, First Dakota National Bank, Manitou, Neighborhood Dental, Parker Hannifin, Shur - Co, Vishay Dale Electronics, Yankton Medical Clinic, Yankton Morning Optimist Club (Major Sponsor), Yankton Walmart

STEP FORWARD TO PREVENT SUICIDE WALK, Fundraiser for Helpline Center & UW Venture Grants - Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Beta Sigma Phi, CorTrust Bank, Edward Jones - Stacy Hubert, Explorer's Credit Union, First Dakota National Bank, FNBO, The Fox Stop, Jimmy John's, Kennedy Pier Loftus & Reynolds, LLP, Kiwanis Club, Kopetsky's Ace Hardware, Larson Carpet, Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health, MWH Lawyers, Mexico Viejo, M.T. & R.C. Smith Insurance, Neighborhood Dental, Olson Pest Technicians, Quality Health Clinic, Sacred Heart Monastery, SD Department of Revenue, Stockman's Livestock, Stringers, The Move Group, Thrivent Financial, Vishay, Vision Care Associates, Vision Insurance Group, Yaggie's, Yankton Family Dentistry, Yankton Handyman, Hy-Vee, Yankton School District, Yankton Sertoma Club

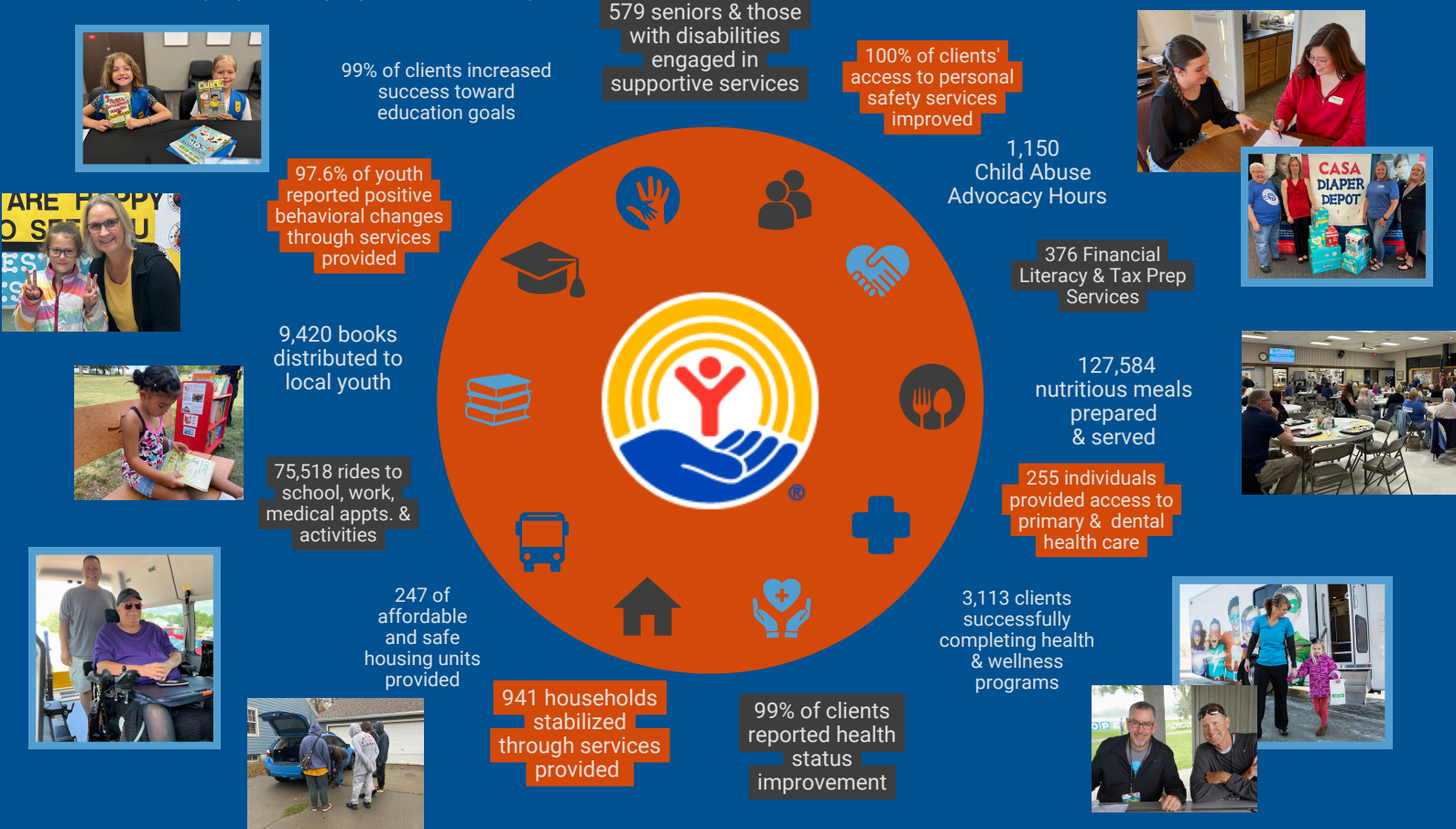
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE, Cereal Drive for Yankton Contact Center and Yankton Food for Thought - Yankton Rotary, Mike & Dr. Mary Lee Villanueva, Retired Senior Volunteers Program

YANKTON TOYS FOR KIDS, ADOPT A FAMILY - Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Ability Building Services, Yankton Transit, First Dakota National Bank, Yankton Fire Auxiliary, Hydro Extrusions, Great Plains Processing, FNBO, Williams & Company, Willcockson Eye Associates, Elkhorn Valley Bank, Cottonwood & Shipwreck Bar, JR's Oasis, First Chiropractic Center, First Interstate Bank, Shur - Co, Vishay Dale Electronics, SD Department of Revenue, L & M Radiator, Truxedo, The Center, Lincoln Elementary School Staff, Heartland Psychological Services, Trinity Lutheran Youth Group, Yankton Job Service Office & Court Services Support Staff, Neighborhood Dental, Yankton County 4 - H, Explorer's Credit Union, Yankton Girl Scouts, CorTrust Bank, Vision Real Estate



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 donors 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.



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

Connecting Kids Youth Scholarships
EmBe - Girls on the Run
Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons
Sioux Council Boy Scouts
Yankton Area Ice Association
Yankton Baseball Association
Yankton Youth Soccer Association

Art Education Grants
Yankton Area Arts,
Yankton County
Historical Society

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Boys & Girls Club of Yankton
Assistance Program
The Center
Tax Assistance Program, Meals on
Wheels, Food Commodities Program
LSS Center for Financial Resources
Financial Counseling &
Budgeting Classes

Pathways Shelter for Homeless
Emergency Shelter, Homeless Prevention,
Rapid Rehousing,
Security Deposit Program
United Way of Greater Yankton
Toys for Kids Adopt a Family,
Homes for the Holiday Bed Program,
The Clothing Closet,
MyFreeTaxes

East River Legal Services
Housing
River City Domestic Violence Center
Emergency Shelter
Yankton Food for Thought
Weekend Sack Packs,
School Food Pantry
Yankton Transit
Transportation Services

HEALTH & SAFETY

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
River City Family Connections
24 Hour Crisis Hotline, 30 Days to
Success, Community Education &
Outreach, Victim Center Services

East River Legal Services
Family Law
Servant Hearts Clinic
Clinic Care Services
Southeast CASA
Child Advocacy
United Way of Greater Yankton
Delta Dental Mobile Program,
Greater Yankton COAD, SEDS RSVP

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. 2024 Venture Grants were awarded to: Habitat for Humanity - Seed Money for Neighborhood Revitalization; Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health - Mental Health Initiative for CORE; Lutheran Social Services - Delivery Enhancement & Mental Health Initiative for MRT expansion; RTEC - Seed Money for Online Classes; Yankton Area Mental Wellness - Mental Health Initiative for YAMWI conference; Yankton Area Arts - Seed Money & Mental Health Initiative for 3 Strings; Yankton Contact Center - Delivery Enhancement for translation services (ILA device); Yankton Transit - Delivery Enhancement & Mental Health Initiative to equip busses for Veteran needs.

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.



13,001 hours
of service
performed by
RSVP
volunteers

Southeast SD RSVP

The Southeast SD Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) matches adults 55+ with volunteer opportunities, utilizing their talents, expertise, and life-long experiences to address critical community needs. Sponsored by United Way, Southeast South Dakota RSVP is an AmeriCorp Senior program, providing opportunities to volunteer within Yankton, Clay, Bon Homme, and Davison counties.

RSVP had 120 active volunteers in 2024, sharing their time with over 46 local nonprofit organizations, all focusing on healthy futures, education and health.

RSVP Volunteers also led a variety of community engagements efforts including a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast sponsored by Elk Horn Valley Bank, assembly of First Aid Kits to help those transitioning into permanent housing, and MLK Day of Service projects which included a Cereal Drive in partnership with Yankton Rotary to benefit local food pantries.



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: Lisa Schmitz, Department of Social Services; Crystal Gemar, Southeast CASA; Jeremy Hoeck, Yankton Community Library; Cassie Nagel, River City Domestic Violence Center; Shiela Steffen, Systems of Care; Preston Crissey, Yankton County Sheriff's Office; Terra Bender, 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 hosts quarterly meetings 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.



500 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 2024, 130 families including 285 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. 76 local businesses, organizations, groups and/or families participated in 2024, helping over 215 local youth, the most ever enrolled! Thank you, Yankton!

Homes for the Holiday Bed Program

For 30 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, 21 frames and mattresses were donated and delivered to 13 referred families in 2024.



181 local youth
provided with
school supplies

Stuff the Bus

In partnership with Walmart & Yankton Morning Optimist Club, Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive equipped 181 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.

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!



57,650 hours of service gifted

46 local nonprofits impacted

2,513 volunteers shared their time & talents

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

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 (2024-25)

Steve Zimmerman, Avera
Neva Tirrel, ZoeCare
Diane Houdek, Southeast CASA
Crickett and the Stoddards, Avera
Veronica Trezona, Market @ Meridian
Cathy Orton, The Center
Bridging Yankton Committee, Bridging Yankton
Harvest Halloween Committee, Harvest Halloween
100 Women of Yankton Steering Committee, 100 Women of Yankton
Dave Spencer, Yankton Morning Optimist Club
Mount Marty Students, Mount Marty University
Yankton Basketball Incorporate Board, Hansen-Haas Tournament
Dawn Henseler, The Center
Yankton Skywarn, Yankton County Emergency Management
Karen Schoenfelder, Discovery Church

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. 2024's award was presented to a community member who demonstrates a strong, dedicated and healing spirit, **Jill Kuori**.

At United Way of Greater Yankton's "The Clothing Closet", Jill volunteers regularly on Monday evenings during distribution, helping clients find the critical items they need. Jill also ensures individuals and families who are limited in speaking English feel welcomed in the space by translating the programs' processes and procedures into Spanish.

According to United Way's Program Coordinator Amanda Hanson, "She brightens every person's day with her kindness and warm smile. We appreciate Jill's dedication to our mission and are so grateful for her service." Jill Kouri also has dedicated many hours to ensuring our youth have a bright and fun filled high school prom, by volunteering for many years as a Yankton Post Prom Party committee member. According to committee chairperson, Holly Wintz, "Jill has been such an attribute to the YHS Post Prom Party Committee. When Jill was in charge, you never had to worry if things were being taken care of or if they would get done. They always were completely planned out, organized and on budget!"



Heartland Humane Society, Executive Director Kerry Feilmeier shares that, "Jill has volunteered both in shelter and as a foster family, providing quality care to animals in our community."

It's been a joy as a nonprofit to watch her children go and be a part of their childhood experiences, from watching them as young youth in a shelter helping socialize animals to having their help as young adults working with foster kittens and supporting their mom. Jill is an asset to Yankton and the Heartland Humane Society community."

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
Kim Auch - Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Nathan Johnson – Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Tim Schwasinger – Avera Sacred Heart Hospital
Trina Adermann – Astec Industries
Carisa Cuka - Astec Industries
Julie Hartley - Astec Industries
Brittany Orr – City of Yankton
Joleen Woods – Cortrust Bank
Taylor Reining – Elkhorn Valley Bank
Alissa Bartling – Explorers Credit Union
Kelsey Tramp - Explorers Credit Union
Jackie Abel – First Dakota National Bank
Bridget Benson – First Dakota National Bank
Chris Fathke – FNBO
Alexis Heine – First Interstate Bank
Kimberly Burwitz – Hydro Extrusions
Maureen Guthrie – Kalin's Indoor Comfort
Andrea Tramp – Kalin's Indoor Comfort
Katie Schlimgen – L & M Radiator
Molly Bergendahl – Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services

Kyla Hayes - 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
Angie Bowen – RealTruck
Laura Jorgenson – Vishay Dale Electronics
Trista Buehlmann – Vishay Dale Electronics
Hailey Schelling – Willcockson Eye Associates
Beth Youngblom – Williams & Company
Michelle Folkers – Williams & Company
Ann Ryken – Yankton Medical Clinic
Dr. Heather Olson – 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 Kindie, Randi Kindie, Jenessa Kniffen, Jill Kouri, Jennifer Kudera, Laura Larson, and Amber Ness

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
First Dakota National Bank



ADVOCATE
Marc Bies & Doug Pesicka



VOLUNTEER
Heart Club Committee



The 2025 "Invest In Hope - Live United" Community Campaign raised \$605,000 thanks to the outstanding generosity of over 1,000 donors, 51 volunteers, and 45 Workplace Campaigns. Thank you, Yankton!