



# ANNUAL REPORT

SIoux EMPIRE UNITED WAY | 2024



Sioux Empire United Way



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# 2024 Board of Directors

**BOARD CHAIR** Kate Kotzea, Click Rain

**FIRST VICE-CHAIR** Tolcha Mesele

**SECOND VICE-CHAIR** Joel Sylvester, Five Star Call Centers

**SECRETARY/TREASURER** Angie Hillestad, Eide Bailly, LLP

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** Lisa Romkema, Sioux Empire United Way

**PAST CHAIR** Randy Knecht, Journey Group

**CAMPAIGN DIVISION CHAIR** Kim Burma, Midco

**CAMPAIGN DIVISION VICE CHAIR** Paul Hanson

**COMMUNITY IMPACT DIVISION CHAIR** Adrienne McKeown, Harrisburg Community Foundation &  
Harrisburg Baseball Association

**COMMUNITY IMPACT DIVISION VICE CHAIR** Julia Disburg, First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard

**MARKETING DIVISION CHAIR** Jamie Hegge, Lawrence & Schiller

## **Members**

Wayne Baumberger, Diamond Mowers

Miles Beacom, First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard

Jeremy Bill, Bestow Life Insurance

Tim Blotske, Wells Fargo

Luke Carr, Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith

Sandy Dieleman, Avera@Home

Corey Heaton, Wells Fargo

Kelly Hefti, Sanford Health

Matt Hocks, Sanford Health

Sarah Hogg, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls

Anna Jankord, Viaflex

Brenda Kibbe, Community Volunteer

Kira Kimball, Marsh McLennan Agency

Angela Lammers, Cetera Services

Mark Millage, Furniture Mart USA

Bob Mundt, Sioux Falls Development Foundation

Monie Siemonsma, Siemonsma Electric

Dr. Jane Stavem, Sioux Falls School District

Vicki Stewart, Employment Disability Resources

Mike Townsend, KELOLAND Media Group

Julie Waage, RAS

# Message from Board Chair

As Chair of the Sioux Empire United Way Board of Directors, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the incredible generosity and dedication of this community. The Sioux Empire is a truly special place—not just because of its strength and resilience, but because of the people who continue to step up, year after year, to support their neighbors.

This past year has been a shining example of that generosity in action. Our 2025 Campaign Kickoff Week brought the community together through shared experiences—whether it was enjoying a cup of coffee, supporting local nonprofits, or celebrating at the SEUW Brew launch party. We also hosted the first ever Day of Action and saw a record number of volunteer events and hours logged through Volunteer United, demonstrating the deep commitment people have to making a difference.

At a recent board meeting, we reflected on what keeps so many of us involved with Sioux Empire United Way. The answer was clear: impact. Whether it's through financial gifts, volunteer hours, or leadership, this organization has immense impact on the community. Volunteers who began lending a hand decades ago are still finding new ways to serve. Businesses rally their employees to give back. Families make giving a tradition. Through it all, Sioux Empire United Way ensures every contribution is put to work where it's needed most.

This impact is driven by our dedicated volunteers—those leading workplace campaigns, guiding the Community Impact process, and ensuring resources reach those in need. Their commitment, along with the leadership of our staff and board, strengthens our organization and sustains critical services for our community. I'm continually inspired by their passion for making a difference.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to continue stepping up—whether through giving, volunteering, or advocating—to help sustain this vital work. Your support ensures that the programs making a difference today will be here for those who need them tomorrow.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible community. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected Sioux Empire.



Kate Kotzea, Click Rain  
Sioux Empire United Way Board Chair







# WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

## CHILDREN

Sioux Empire United Way prioritizes the investment in our community's youth by facilitating access to high-quality early childhood education and ensuring a secure environment for school-age children during non-school hours. Mental health care is also a key focus, with services accessible to students through their schools. Supporting children today is an investment in our community's tomorrow. Here are some examples of how your contribution to Sioux Empire United Way benefits children:

- In 2024, Avera Foundation Fire and Burn Prevention Program served over 6,000 children in the Sioux Empire, providing education on burn prevention, smoke alarms, home escape plans, cooking safety, healthy eating, and overall wellness to children ages 3 to 10.
- The Sioux Falls School District's Refugee and Immigrant Academic Achievement Resource Program supports refugee and immigrant families as they adjust to a new culture and language. Liaisons assist with registrations, orientations, and home visits, ensuring a smooth transition into the education system. In 2024, the program served over 3,000 individuals, providing more than 16,000 hours of support.
- The mission of the Toy Lending Library is to foster learning and development in children ages 0 to 5 by providing enriching play experiences. In 2024, they checked out 8,298 boxes, sparking creativity and exploration to further support their mission.

*"Sometimes, it's easy to forget that for some families, something as simple as having the right clothing for the season or knowing how to navigate the school system can be overwhelming. But those small actions of transporting a child to a meeting, providing access to resources, or simply being there to listen make all the difference."*

*-Sioux Falls School District School Home Liaison*



# WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

## VULNERABLE ADULTS

Sioux Empire United Way is dedicated to supporting vulnerable adults in maintaining their independence and staying connected to their community.

- Active Generations' Day Break program offers social and health services for adults in need of supervised care in a safe, supportive environment during the day. In 2024, the program provided over 72,000 hours of service, ensuring meaningful, supervised experiences for participants while giving caregivers the freedom to remain in the workforce or manage their daily responsibilities.
- Project CAR's Health Care Rides program provided over 6,000 rides in 2024, ensuring individuals in the Sioux Empire could access critical medical appointments. The program focuses on assisting those facing transportation barriers, helping them reach essential healthcare services and activities that support their well-being. Offering no-cost rides, Health Care Rides serves seniors and individuals with financial limitations, ensuring they receive the care they need.
- DakotAbilities' Meaningful Day services offer engaging social and recreational opportunities as an innovative alternative to traditional programs. Last year, the program delivered 159,853 hours of service to 135 individuals.

*"It's never just a ride with Project CAR. It's about preserving self-worth and dignity through relationship-based transportation."*

*-Shelly, Project CAR Health Care Rides ride recipient*



# WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

## PEOPLE IN CRISIS

In times of uncertainty, at-risk populations need a place to turn. Stable housing, access to food, and mental health services are all made possible through your support of Sioux Empire United Way.

- Sanford Health's Child's Voice Family Advocates support children and families as part of a multidisciplinary response to potential child maltreatment. They provide immediate crisis intervention and risk assessments while connecting families with treatment and essential services—including protective orders, housing, public assistance, domestic violence intervention, transportation, financial aid, interpreter services, and more. In 2024, they served 246 families.
- The Suicide and Crisis Support Helpline at Helpline Center operates a 24-hour crisis line (988), conducts suicide prevention trainings, and provides support services to families and friends grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. In 2024, they managed over 1,800 calls, offering crucial support and resources to individuals experiencing extreme crisis.
- Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety provides a secure emergency residence, immediate crisis intervention, and access to a 24/7 crisis hotline. They collaborate with law enforcement, emergency room trauma teams, and court advocacy resources to offer comprehensive support. In 2024, they assisted 1,142 individuals in crisis.

*"Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety gave me the support I needed to start over. Despite language barriers and fear, my case manager and interpreters helped me secure childcare and housing. Today, my children and I celebrate the holidays in a safe, stable home—a fresh start we never thought possible."*

*-Mary, Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety client*





# YOUR GIFT IN ACTION

## SURVIVORS JOINING FOR HOPE | LOST&FOUND

Grief is unpredictable—something Charity never expected to face so soon. When her brother Andrew died by suicide, her family was overwhelmed with emotions and financial stress. Unsure how to manage funeral costs, they struggled with the reality of their loss.

At first, asking for help felt uncomfortable. A friend of Charity's introduced her to Lost&Found, a nonprofit supported by Sioux Empire United Way. Reaching out seemed daunting. However, after learning the cost of arrangements, she applied for a grant. To her surprise, within 45 minutes, Lost&Found responded with care and sensitivity, making the process easy and respectful.

Later that day, they called back—her family had been approved for the grant. The weight lifted instantly. The financial burden was lessened, allowing them to focus on grieving and healing together. Lost&Found took care of so much, ensuring they didn't have to navigate the logistics alone.

Beyond financial aid, Lost&Found continued to check in, offering mental health resources, including 988, Helpline Center's Suicide and Crisis Support. Each message was a reminder that someone cared, making an immense difference in their healing process.

Charity urges others facing loss to seek support. "It's hard to ask for help, but organizations like Lost&Found are here to guide you. You're not alone."

Programs like Survivors Joining For Hope wouldn't be possible without donor support of Sioux Empire United Way. Charity's message to them is simple: "Your support lifts the financial burden so families can focus on healing. It truly makes a difference." Thanks to their generosity, families facing unimaginable loss have the resources to grieve with dignity and support.





# 2024 Funded Programs

## **Active Generations**

- Caregiver Case Management
- The Céilí Cottage Adult Day Services
- Day Break Adult Day Services
- Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels
- Workers on Wheels

## **Augustana University**

- FRIENDSLink

## **Avera McKennan Children's Programs**

- Avera Family Wellness Program
- Fire & Burn Prevention Program
- Success by 6

## **Boy Scouts of America, Sioux Council**

- Juvenile Diversion
- Scouting
- ScoutReach

## **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire**

- Childcare
- The Teen Program
- K-5 Program

## **Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety**

- Bright Start Nurse Home Visitation Program
- Crisis Intervention
- Crisis Shelter for Domestic Violence

## **The Community Outreach**

- Crisis Care
- Genesis

## **The Compass Center**

- Counseling Services
- Education & Prevention
- Victim Advocacy

## **Connecting Kids**

## **DakotAbilities**

- Meaningful Day

## **Delta Dental**

- Mobile Dental Program

## **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

## **Family Connection**

- Children's Connection

## **Family Service Inc.**

- Counseling

## **Furniture Mission of SD**

## **Helpline Center**

- 211 Community Resources
- Network of Care
- Outreach Support Services
- Suicide & Crisis Support
- Volunteer Connections

## **HorsePower**

## **Inter-Lakes Community**

## **Action Partnership**

- Child Development Center
- Heartland House

## **KIDSTOP**

## **Lost&Found**

- Survivors Joining for Hope

## **Lutheran Social Services of SD**

- After School & Summer Program
- Arise Youth Center
- Behavioral Health Services
- Better Together
- Center for Financial Resources
- Community Mentoring
- Family Violence Project
- Here4Youth
- High School Mentoring
- In School Mentoring
- Multi-Cultural Center
- PATH
- Re-Entry Services

## **Project Car**

- Health Care Rides

## **REACH**

## **Ready to Start**

- Locations in Harrisburg, Lennox, McCook Central, Sioux Falls and Tea Area School Districts

## **Sad Isn't Bad**

## **Sanford Children's**

- Child's Voice Family Advocate
- CHILD Services Success by 6

## **Save a Life/Community AEDs**

## **Sioux Falls Area CASA Program**

## **Sioux Falls Family YMCA**

- Middle School After School

## **Sioux Falls Hope Coalition**

## **Sioux Falls School District**

- Access for All
- Preschool Opportunities Program
- Refugee and Immigrant Academic Achievement Resources

## **Sioux Falls Thrive**

## **St. Francis House**

## **Toy Lending Library of SD**

## **USD Scottish Rite**

## **Children's Clinic for Speech and Language Disorders**

## **Volunteers of America, Dakotas**

- Axis 180
- Counseling Services
- Look Up & Hope

# Financial Statement

## Sioux Empire United Way, Inc Statements of Financial Position December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash	200	252,634
Cash - restricted for campaigns	1,294,152	1,539,048
Total Cash	1,294,352	1,791,682
Promises to give, net	725,736	394,549
Promises to give, net - restricted for campaigns	5,298,967	4,869,133
Investments	3,715,628	3,522,735
Prepaid expenses	0	2,000
Total current assets	11,034,683	10,580,099
Property and equipment, net	23,737	15,482
Other assets		
Beneficial interest in Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation	1,428,393	1,337,274
Operating lease asset	231,716	281,827
Total other assets	1,660,109	1,619,101
Total assets	12,718,529	12,214,682
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	11,123	16,774
Accrued expenses	30,172	40,232
Grants payable	105	105
Agency allocation payable	301,544	226,793
Current portion of operating lease liability	50,799	46,709
Total current liabilities	393,743	330,613
Long-term liabilities		
Operating lease liability	240,332	287,041
Less: current portion of operating lease liability	(50,799)	(46,709)
Net long-term liabilities	189,533	240,332
Total liabilities	583,276	570,945
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Unappropriated	1,153,993	1,112,647
Appropriated	2,437,561	2,422,801
With donor restrictions	8,543,699	8,108,289
Total net assets	12,135,253	11,643,737
Total liabilities and net assets	12,718,529	12,214,682

The financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2024 have been prepared by management on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These statements are unaudited.



**Sioux Empire United Way**

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