



Sioux Empire  
**UNITED WAY**

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR IMPACT

# Message from the Board Chair

Serving as Board Chair for Sioux Empire United Way this year has been both an honor and a privilege. I continue to be inspired by a community that believes in coming together to solve challenges, support neighbors, and create lasting change. Time and again, this year reminded us of a simple truth that guides our work: United Is the Way.



One of the most meaningful accomplishments of the year was our successful Community Impact process. Through collaboration, listening, and shared insight, we worked alongside nonprofit partners and community leaders to better understand the evolving needs of our region. This collective effort ensured that our priorities reflect real challenges facing children, families, and individuals in our community—and that our resources are directed where they can make the greatest difference.

Equally impactful was the seamless transition from Community Impact into our annual campaign. This alignment speaks to the strength of our organization and the dedication of staff, volunteers, and leaders who work behind the scenes to ensure our mission moves forward with clarity and purpose. I am deeply grateful for the campaign leadership and cabinet members who worked tirelessly to rally support across the community and ultimately drive us to our goal. Their passion and commitment reflect the very best of what is possible when we come together.

Our nonprofit partners played an essential role throughout the year—not only in helping identify community needs, but also in sharing their stories, their expertise, and their impact. Their participation in our nonprofit fair was a powerful way to kick off the campaign and showcase the vital work happening every day across our region. Many also opened their doors and welcomed volunteers during our annual Day of Action, creating hands-on opportunities for our community to engage directly in meaningful service. We are stronger because of their partnership and their unwavering dedication to those they serve.

As we close out the year, I extend heartfelt thanks to our business community and our donors. Your generosity, trust, and belief in this work makes everything possible. Because of you, Sioux Empire United Way can continue to invest in programs and partnerships that strengthen our community today and for generations to come.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you for standing with us, for believing in the power of collaboration, and for showing that United Is the Way.

Kate Kotzea, Click Rain  
Sioux Empire United Way Board Chair



# Our mission is to lead, sustain, and nurture a unified, effective response to community needs.

Nearly everyone in our community benefits from the funds raised by Sioux Empire United Way, often without realizing it. Through support from over 70 programs across local nonprofits, we estimate that **1 in 3 individuals are impacted each year.**

# UNITED IS THE WAY™

## WE MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT.

### HOW WE DECIDE WHERE YOUR GIFT GOES

Sioux Empire United Way supports over 70 local programs. So how do we decide where to give?

Let's break it down, step by step.

### UNITED IS THE WAY YOUR DOLLARS DO MORE

1 in 3 people are impacted by Sioux Empire United Way.

Your dollars benefit 33 communities in Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, and Turner counties.



### 1. NONPROFITS APPLY FOR SUPPORT BY SHOWING:



- A need for their program benefiting children, vulnerable adults, or people in crisis
- Measurable results that will make an impact on those served and our community
- A need for financial support to create that impact



### 2. VOLUNTEERS REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS.



**60+**  
volunteers



**1000+**  
hours



**6**  
months



### 3. IT'S DECISION TIME! FUNDING DECISIONS GO THROUGH 3 LEVELS OF REVIEW.

Volunteer teams review and meet with each nonprofit.

Team leaders review preliminary decisions.

A final recommendation is approved  
by our board of directors.



Sioux Empire  
**UNITED WAY**

# Who We Impact

Sioux Empire United Way is committed to making a lasting impact on children, vulnerable adults, and people in crisis. By focusing on these key areas, we ensure that those most in need receive the support and resources necessary to overcome challenges and build a better future. Our work is centered around strengthening our community by addressing the unique needs of these populations, creating lasting change and opportunities for all to thrive.



## CHILDREN

We mobilize resources to support programs that help children grow up safe, healthy, and ready to succeed—strengthening the systems that surround them during their most formative years.



## VULNERABLE ADULTS

We invest in community partners that provide critical support for vulnerable adults, helping reduce barriers and promote stability, independence, and connection.



## PEOPLE IN CRISIS

We support programs that deliver immediate, life-stabilizing services—helping individuals and families navigate emergencies and begin the path toward stability.



# Investing in Children



Sioux Empire United Way invests in our community's youth by providing quality early childhood education, safe spaces for school-age youth, and accessible mental health care through schools. Investing in children means investing in our community's future.

- **Feeding South Dakota's Backpack Program** helps ensure children have access to food outside of school. In 2025, the program served 4,662 individuals with backpacks filled with food throughout the Sioux Empire, helping ensure kids had meals on weekends and during school breaks.
- **Lutheran Social Services In-School Mentoring** connects students with caring adult mentors to build trust and confidence. In 2025, 1,277 students were matched with mentors.
- **The Sioux Falls School District's Access for All** program provides safe, educational after-school care and summer enrichment for students. In 2025, the program served 2,221 students, delivering more than 21,900 hours of care.

“ As soon as the bags arrived, one student ran to the door to say thank you. He shared that he had been waiting all day to make sure he received a bag so he could help his family at home. ”

Volunteer

FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA

# Reaching Vulnerable Adults



Sioux Empire United Way is committed to helping vulnerable adults maintain their independence and stay connected to their community. By providing essential resources and support, we empower individuals to navigate challenges and live fulfilling lives, all while fostering a strong sense of belonging.

- **Active Generations' Nutrition Services and Meals on Wheels** helps older adults stay nourished and connected. In 2025, the program served more than 281,000 meals, supporting health, independence, and well-being.
- **Augustana University's FRIENDSLINK** creates inclusive social and recreational opportunities for students of differing abilities. In 2025, the program served 122 individuals, fostering connection, friendship, and community engagement.
- In 2025, **DakotAbilities** delivered over 175,000 hours of service to 138 individuals through its **Meaningful Day** program providing engaging social and recreational opportunities as an innovative alternative to traditional programs.



Seeing him so genuinely happy reassures me that he is in a place where he is known, valued, and respected.

Cory



GUARDIAN OF PARTICIPANT AT DAKOTABILITIES

# Helping People in Crisis



In times of uncertainty, at-risk populations struggle to find the resources they need. Sioux Empire United Way is here to help. Your support provides stable housing, access to food, and vital mental health services to those in need. These essential services empower individuals and families to overcome challenges and build a stronger future.

- **Solace's (Compass Center) Victim Advocacy** program supports individuals impacted by violence through crisis response, advocacy, and connection to resources. In 2025, the program served over 500 individuals.
- **St. Francis House** provides safe shelter and supportive services for individuals experiencing homelessness. In 2025, the program served 640 individuals, offering stability, dignity, and a path forward.
- **Emily's Hope** works to eliminate the stigma of substance use disorder through awareness, education, and prevention, while also removing financial barriers to treatment and recovery. In 2025, their Lifeline Initiative distributed over 28,000 Naloxone (NARCAN) doses throughout the community, ensuring lifesaving overdose-reversal tools were readily available to help prevent overdoses and save lives.

“ Because of the St. Francis House and everyone here, I am able to have a roof over my head and they continue to help me stay clean and sober from drugs. ”

David

ST. FRANCIS HOUSE RESIDENT

# Impact In Action



Adrienne McKeown has been a dedicated Sioux Empire United Way donor and volunteer for more than 25 years. In October 2020, her family experienced a profound loss when Adrienne’s mother passed away from COVID-19.

Three years later, that loss resurfaced in a new way. After a difficult family moment, Adrienne’s daughter began struggling with grief she had been carrying since her grandmother’s death. One day, her 17-year-old shared, “Mom, I feel like I need to talk to somebody. I feel like I need some counseling.” Adrienne wanted to help—but wasn’t sure where to start.

Adrienne remembered a program she had reviewed years earlier while serving on Sioux Empire United Way’s Community Impact team. **Sad Isn’t Bad** stood out to her as a family-centered grief support program, designed to bring children and caregivers together as they navigate loss. With that in mind, Adrienne reached out and took the first step.

Sad Isn’t Bad provides guided activities, group discussion, and peer support that help children and families process grief in a safe, compassionate environment. Even Adrienne’s 9-year-old son found comfort in connecting with others, sharing, “It felt so good to tell other people how sad I was.”

Seeing her children begin to open up and share what they had been carrying deeply moved Adrienne—not only as a mom, but as a longtime United Way supporter. **“It really moved me as a mom and as a United Way donor—to want to make sure this program continues for other families who need it,”** she shares.

Through Sad Isn’t Bad, families like Adrienne’s are reminded that they are not alone and that healing happens when a community comes together.

# 2025 Funded Programs

## Active Generations

- CAREgivers
- The Céilí Cottage Adult Day Services
- Day Break Adult Day Services
- Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels
- Workers on Wheels

## Atlas Academy

### 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

## Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety

- Bright Start Nurse Home Visitation Program
- Crisis Shelter & Crisis Intervention

## Connecting Kids

### DakotAbilities

- Meaningful Day

## Delta Dental of SD Foundation

- Delta Dental Mobile Program

## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

### East River Legal Services

- Family Law

## EmBe

- Childcare

## Emily's Hope

- Emily's Hope Lifeline Initiative
- Substance Use Prevention Education Curriculum

## Family Connection

- Children's Connection

## Family Service, Inc.

- Counseling

## Feeding South Dakota

- Backpack Program

## 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 Literacy

### Ready to Start

- Locations in Harrisburg, 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

- Y-Club

## Sioux Falls Hope Coalition

### Sioux Falls School District

- Access for All / Community Learning Centers
- Preschool Opportunities Program
- Refugee and Immigrant Academic Achievement Resources

## Sioux Falls Thrive

### St. Francis House

### The Community Outreach

- Crisis Care

## Solace (The Compass Center)

- Counseling Services
- Victim Advocacy

## Toy Lending Library of SD

### USD Scottish Rite

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

## Volunteers of America, Dakotas

- Axis180
- Counseling Services

# Financial Statement

**Sioux Empire United Way, Inc**  
**Unaudited Statements of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2025 and 2024**

	2025	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash - unrestricted & restricted	\$ 1,351,608	\$ 1,557,577
Promises to give, net	615,081	405,368
Promises to give, net - restricted for campaigns	6,436,384	4,974,386
Investments	4,248,307	3,715,628
Prepaid expenses	5,988	-
	12,657,368	10,652,959
Property and equipment, net	39,570	16,910
Other assets		
Beneficial interest in Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation (SFACF)	1,600,032	1,428,393
Operating lease asset	14,846	231,716
	1,614,878	1,660,109
	14,311,816	12,329,978
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 46,657	\$ 11,123
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	83,859	30,172
Agency allocations payable	40,314	94,419
Current portion of operating lease liability	19,977	50,799
	190,807	186,513
Long-term liabilities		
Operating lease liability, less current portion	-	189,533
	190,807	376,046
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions		
Unappropriated	1,644,721	933,207
Appropriated	2,407,217	2,474,552
With donor restrictions	10,069,071	8,546,173
	14,121,009	11,953,932
	\$ 14,311,816	\$ 12,329,978

The financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2025 have been prepared by management on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These statements are unaudited.

# 2025 Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is comprised of dedicated community leaders who bring a wealth of experience and a shared passion for creating positive change. They provide strategic guidance and leadership, ensuring that Sioux Empire United Way continues to effectively address local needs and drive impactful solutions.

**BOARD CHAIR** Kate Kotzea, Click Rain

**FIRST VICE-CHAIR** Joel Sylvester, Five Star Solutions

**SECOND VICE-CHAIR** Angie Hillestad, Eide Bailly, LLP

**SECRETARY/TREASURER** Corey Heaton, Wells Fargo

**PAST CHAIR** Brenda Kibbe, Community Volunteer

**CAMPAIGN DIVISION CHAIR** Tony Nour, First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard

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

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

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

**CAMPAIGN DIVISION PAST CHAIR** Kim Burma, Midco

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

## MEMBERS

Wayne Baumberger, Diamond Mowers

Miles Beacom, First PREMIER Bank/PREMIER Bankcard

Jeremy Bill, Kuvare

Tim Blotske, Wells Fargo

Luke Carr, Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith

Sandy Dieleman, Avera@Home

Allie Hartzler, City of Sioux Falls

Matt Hocks, Sanford Health

Sarah Hogg, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls

Anna Jankord, Greater Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Frank Kern, Smithfield Foods

Kira Kimball, Marsh McLennan Agency

Mark Millage, Furniture Mart USA

Bob Mundt, Sioux Falls Development Foundation

Dr. Jamie Nold, Sioux Falls School District

Thomas Otten, Avera McKennan

Monie Siemonsma, Siemonsma Electric

Vicki Stewart, Employment Disability Resources

Julie Waage, RAS

# SEUW Staff

Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to drive Sioux Empire United Way's mission forward. With a small team, we are empowered by the hundreds of volunteers who support us throughout the year in countless ways. Their commitment amplifies our efforts, allowing us to make a greater impact across the community.



**Lisa Romkema**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Christina Riss**  
Chief Operations Officer



**Rachael Alwin**  
Director of Strategic Philanthropy



**Courtney Fordahl**  
Marketing & Campaign Specialist



**Carmen Kock**  
Finance & Database Director



**Taryn Latza**  
Campaign Director



**Katie Popowski**  
Marketing Director



**Lisa Stark**  
Community Impact Director



**Peggy Whitney**  
Administrative Specialist



**THANKS FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT**

[SEUW.ORG](http://SEUW.ORG)