



Sioux Empire  
**UNITED WAY**

# **2026** **ANNUAL** **CAMPAIGN**



# 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.**

# How We Work

Our Community Impact process focuses on addressing local needs by investing in programs that create lasting change. We assess community priorities, collaborate with local partners, and use data-driven decisions to allocate funds to programs that impact children, vulnerable adults, and people in crisis. Dollars raised go to support 33 communities in Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, and Turner counties, serving an estimated 1 in 3 people in the Sioux Empire.



## 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



## VOLUNTEERS REVIEW THE APPLICATIONS.

Over six months, 60+ volunteers dedicate 1,000+ hours to making funding decisions for Sioux Empire United Way. They review applications, tour nonprofit facilities, and carefully vet programs to ensure donor dollars are invested where they will have the greatest impact.



## FUNDING DECISIONS AND FUNDRAISING GOAL SET.

Funding decisions follow a three-step review process. Volunteer teams meet with nonprofits to assess their programs, team leaders review the preliminary decisions, and the Sioux Empire United Way Board of Directors approves a final recommendation. This process determines the campaign fundraising goal.



# 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.



## 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.

# Who We Impact



## 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.



# Who We Impact



## 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.

# 2026 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

## Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire

- Childcare

## Call to Freedom

- Continuum of Care Model

## 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
- Sioux Empire Smiles

## 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

## 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
- 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

## Project CAR

- Health Care Rides

## 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

## Scouting America, Sioux Council

- Juvenile Diversion
- Scouting
- ScoutReach

## Sioux Falls Area CASA Program

## Sioux Falls Hope Coalition

## Sioux Falls School District

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

## Southeast Technical College Foundation

- Access & Workforce Opportunity

## St. Francis House

## The Community Outreach

- General Assistance and Education

## The Compass Center

- Counseling Services
- Victim Advocacy

## The Foster Network

## The Legacy Foundation

- Owen's Outfitters

## Toy Lending Library of SD

## USD Scottish Rite

## Children's Clinic for Speech and Language Disorders

## Volunteers of America, Dakotas

- Axis180
- Counseling Services

# Why United Way?

Participating in the Sioux Empire United Way Campaign is not only good for the community but also benefits your business. It strengthens employee engagement by aligning company values with opportunities to make a difference.



## IMPACT

United Way ensures that funds are directed to programs with proven outcomes, offering transparency, insights, and impactful stories.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Employees gain access to volunteer opportunities at local nonprofits, building stronger community ties and experiencing the impact firsthand.



## BRAND LIFT

Showcase your corporate social responsibility in the Heart Club Book, align with a trusted nonprofit, and promote your partnership to strengthen your brand.



## EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT & CULTURE

Foster team building and satisfaction through volunteer opportunities and a consistent tradition of giving that aligns with company values.





# How You Can Make a Difference

Your leadership plays a crucial role in the success of your organization's Employee Giving Campaign. By actively supporting the campaign, you can inspire your team, drive participation, and demonstrate your commitment to creating a stronger, more vibrant community. Here are six impactful ways you can help lead the charge and make a difference.

1

## Lead by Example

Make a personal contribution to kick-start the campaign and encourage employee participation.

2

## Communicate Impact

Clearly articulate how employee donations support local communities and create lasting change.

3

## Encourage Involvement

Motivate leadership and teams to engage in volunteering and fundraising opportunities.

4

## Host Campaign Events

Show support by hosting or attending campaign-related events, creating visibility, and excitement.

5

## Recognize Contributions Collaborate with SEUW

Acknowledge and celebrate employee involvement to reinforce a culture of giving.

6

Work closely with United Way to align campaign goals, ensuring that company efforts are well-supported and impactful.



# 2025/2026 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 Call Centers

**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, Bestow Life Insurance

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, Viaflex

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)