

Morrison County United Way Newsletter



April 2025 - Vol. 5, Issue 1

Morrison County United Way

LIVE UNITED®

2025 - UNITED IS THE WAY

Executive Director, Meghann Boser

In late 2024 the United Ways of Minnesota became United for ALICE. ALICE stands for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed. These are people in our community that are employed but barely making enough to make ends meet - they are one emergency away from financial hardship and living paycheck to paycheck. The state average for ALICE is 26%. Morrison County is 27%. Thanks to a grant from Sourcewell, we are thankful to be able to share this information in the community. If you would like to learn more about our United for ALICE efforts, please reach out.



In January, thanks to a nomination by Board Member Jake Nelson, we were awarded the "Spirit of the Silver Lining" award. We were one of only 2 organizations in Minnesota. The award of \$5,000 will help fund our Tools for School program this year!



In 2024, MCUW invested nearly \$30,000 in the Imagination Library books that were sent to children in our service area, nearly \$10,000 in Tools for School items and \$20,000 in non-profits. We anticipate those numbers to be similar for 2025! That's \$60,000 - top communities served include Bowlus, Hillman, Little Falls, Motley, Pierz, Randall, Royalton, Staples, Swanville and Upsala. We also provided the Imagination Library to the Browerville/Eagle Bend area as of 2023.

Launching in April 2025, the Little Falls Chamber of Commerce has created a Morrison County Volunteer Network page. We are excited to be a part of this connecting page and encourage you to check it out at

www.littlefallsmnchamber.com/resources/mcvn



It's amazing to see what we can do when we LIVE UNITED.

MEET OUR PRESIDENT

MCUW Board President Bonnie Bachan



This April, Bonnie Bachan starts her one year term as President. Bonnie has been involved with MCUW for the last 4 years. "I became involved with the organization through my employer, Morrison County. I am thankful for the "referral" of sorts because I have worked with some amazing and dedicated people during my time on the Board.

I was only aware of 1 program prior to joining the Board and that was the Imagination Library. Little did I know how much time and effort this Board puts in to help so many community members through several programs. I am passionate about helping those in need in our community and that's why MCUW has been a great fit.

I have been a part of the finance committee as well as having served as the Secretary for a few years. I am also a part of the campaign, Bunny Bingo, and our Sweethearts Dinner .

I am looking forward to this year serving as President."

2025 NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

Your dollars make a difference in our community! Each year we provide grant money to non-profits serving our area.

This year we have 10 non-profits that we will support with **\$20,750** in funds:

- **Education:** Central Minnesota Foster Grandparents, Kinship of Morrison County, Hands of Hope, Girl Scouts of MN and WI Lakes and Pines (Pierz Program), Boys and Girls Club of Little Falls
- **Health:** LSS Senior Meals, Morrison County Chaplaincy
- **Income:** Employment Enterprises, Labor of Love, Helping Hands 365



Morrison County United Way

2025 Board Members

Past Presidents:

TJ Hoheisel and Brad Vold

Vice President:

BreeAnn Rakow

Treasurer:

Brenda Vaverek

Directors:

Jake Nelson, Maryrose Knutson, Grace Heschke, Kathy Rutz and Dr. Kristine Wehrkamp

EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

- April 12th: Bunny Bingo at the Falls Ballroom 10am-2pm
- June 29th: Ball Drop at the MC Fair 2pm
- August 6th: Visit our Booth at the Green Fair located on the lawn at the Franciscan Sister's building
- September 26th: Carbles at the Sobieski Community Center 6pm

SPEAKING EVENTS

What us to talk about MCUW at your event?

Call Meghann to arrange a date and time:

320-632-5102

Morrison County United Way

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www.unitedwayofmc.org

Find us on Facebook:



@UnitedWayMorrisonCounty

UNITED in PURPOSE