

# Morrison County United Way Newsletter



April 2026 - Vol. 6, Issue 1

## MCUW - 2026!

Executive Director, Meghann Boser

Recently United Ways have updated their logo and their branding. Our new slogan is "United is the Way". We have updated our colors and given the organization a fresh clean new look!

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%. The total population of poverty level and ALICE in Morrison County is 39%. That means about 4 out of every 10 households are struggling to make ends meet. We also realized that ALICE is who we have always tried to serve, we just have the data now. Thanks to the Pierz School District, Little Falls School District, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Great River Regional Library, the team at the Upsala bank, and Sourcewell (among many others) for helping us share information about ALICE and create empathy for ALICE in our community.

In 2025, we lost former board member William "Bill" Garber. Bill was active in bringing the Imagination Library to Morrison County in 2002. We were one of the first United Ways to partner with the Dollywood Foundation. We are grateful for the donations we received in Bill's memory. Those donations will help support the program in 2026. Thank you to Bill's friends, family and the Little Falls Exchange Club honoring Bill's legacy.

Each year, 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! That's \$60,000 - top communities served include Bowlus, Hillman, Little Falls, Motley, Pierz, Randall, Royalton, Staples, Swanville and Upsala. We also provide the Imagination Library to the Browerville/Eagle Bend area since December 2023. Thank you to our donors for making this happen including our United 365 donors. Visit our website for a complete list:

<https://www.unitedwayofmc.org/unity365>



# United is the Way

# MEET OUR PRESIDENT

MCUW Board President BreeAnn Rakow



This April, BreeAnn Rakow starts her one year term as President. BreeAnn is the Human Resources Manager at Lakeshirts serving the Little Falls, St. Cloud and New York facilities.

“I became involved with the Morrison County United Way through a previous work connection and former board member, Brad Vold.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity, as giving back is something I deeply value.

My husband and I are both from Little Falls, where we have raised our two children. Volunteering, supporting others, and strengthening our community are core values that I am truly passionate about. Being able to share my time and talents alongside like-minded individuals is both meaningful and rewarding.

## BUNNY BINGO

We had so much fun at Bunny Bingo on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Falls Ballroom. Thanks to everyone that helped make it a great day! Special shout out to the Falls Ballroom, Minnesota Power, and Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen. **Save the date: Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2027.**



BUNNY BINGO 2026

## CARBLES 2025



## 2026 Board Members

**Past President:**

**Bonnie Bachan**

**Vice President:**

**Matthew Zimmerman**

**Treasurer:**

**Brenda Vaverek**

**Directors:**

**Carmen, Backowski, Jake Nelson, Kathy Rutz, Samantha Froelich, Melanie Lintner, Desarae Cusey**

## EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

- June 28<sup>th</sup>: Ball Drop at the MC Fair 2pm - **\$5 raffle tickets on sale now, call 320-632-5102**
- August 5<sup>th</sup>: Visit our Booth at the Green Fair located on the lawn at the Franciscan Sister's building
- October 16<sup>th</sup>: Carbles at the Sobieski Community Center 6pm

### Morrison County United Way

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[www.unitedwayofmc.org](http://www.unitedwayofmc.org)

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@UnitedWayMorrisonCounty



BALL DROP 2025