

10 Reasons to Support United Way

Because the need is enormous. Half of Minnesota children are not ready to learn when they start school. About 45% of students in Steele County receive free or reduced lunch. The typical family must spend 24% of its income on daycare – for just one child. One in six people is uninsured - 80% from working families.

Because resources are scarce. Government funding for health and human services has been declining dramatically in recent years, forcing agencies to eliminate critical programs or close their doors altogether.

Because your gift will deliver results. Every United Way partner program must demonstrate measurable and lasting results - to ensure that your contributions make the greatest impact possible. It's not about how many kids attend an after school program, it's about how many of those kids stay in school to graduate. It's not about how many people receive meals at a soup kitchen, it's about how many of them no longer need the services because they've become self-sufficient.

Because your donation does more than fund programs. The support you give United Way of Steele County helps us leverage other funds – foundation grants, business partnerships, State and Federal Grants. The funds UWSC gives to agencies helps them leverage other funds because foundations and other funders understand the oversight given to these organizations.

Because your contribution helps your local community. United Way researches the needs in the community and funds a network of programs to address those needs.

Because your dollars leverage more dollars. United Way funding is like a “Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval” for health and human services agencies. Because United Way does such a thorough job of reviewing its funded programs for fiscal accountability and program effectiveness, United Way partner programs are able to leverage many additional dollars from government and other grantors.

Because no agency or program can do it alone. It takes coordination and an entire network of programs to keep our communities strong – and that's what United Way provides. We have a deep network of relationships with government, community and business leaders, health and human service experts, volunteers and donors, United Way is uniquely positioned to provide the leadership and resources to get things done.

Because your gift will address the greatest needs. United Way focuses on the most important human care issues of our day. From job readiness to education to healthcare access to economic self-sufficiency to crisis support – United Way works to address the greatest challenges facing people in each community.

Because we all benefit from United Way. From programs that help our neighbors and even our own families cope in the face of unexpected crisis, to programs that help working families overcome life's challenges and remain self-sufficient – we have a wealth of community support services that has improved the quality of life in our region. It is up to each of us to protect and sustain it.

Because your gift will change people's lives. United Way donations have made it possible for people to have the basic needs in life, children to succeed in school, families to have financial stability, and everyone to have good health.