

Funded Programs

Albert Lea Area Schools
Early Learning Scholarship Program

Albert Lea Chamber Foundation
All Together Inclusive Playground

Albert Lea Family YMCA
Access for All Scholarships

Alden Area Food Shelf
Food Shelf Transition to Client Choice

Cedar Valley Services
Community Employment

Exchange Club Center for Family Unity
Parent Mentoring

First Lutheran Church
Thursday Evening Free Drive Thru Meals

Grace Lutheran Church
Food for Backpacks

LIFE Center of Freeborn County
Educational Programming

SEMCAC
Senior Nutrition

STARS
Mentoring Program

Did you know?
The programs listed here are funded on the recommendation of a volunteer-led Community Investment Committee.

United Way Programs

Imagination Library
Early Childhood literacy program providing free developmentally appropriate books for children ages birth through five years of age. United Way raises funds to cover the shipping, which is approximately \$150 per child.

2-1-1 Hotline and Resource Assistance
A free 24-hour help and referral hotline with language accessibility providing information and referral services for Freeborn County.

CSFP Delivery - Adopt a Senior
A collaboration between Channel One Regional Food Bank, and Albert Lea Family Y, UWFC coordinates volunteers to provide home delivery of the CFSP food boxes to area homebound seniors each month. CFSP are shelf stable foods, and UWFC Volunteers also shop the Welcome Pantry to supplement the CFSP boxes with fresh and frozen foods. Volunteers are needed once a month for this program to be successful.

Welcome Pantry
The Welcome Pantry is a client choice food pantry with a focus on fresh foods. The Pantry opened in June 2023 after a needs assessment determined the need for increased capacity in serving those in need of food. Welcome Pantry also serves as a “hub” for smaller food pantries, accepting bulk donations and distributing throughout the county to other food shelves and meal sites. The Welcome Pantry was fully grant funded for the first year and served approximately 532 households a month in 2024.

To learn more, visit unitedwayfc.org/welcomepantry



Community Needs Program
UWFC staff work to connect donors wishing to donate tangible items such as clothing, furniture and kitchen items to area social workers for their clients. This is a direct referral program only, designed to “fill the gap”.

Seasonal Programs

Jingle - A Holiday Giving Program
Local donors anonymously adopt families that that are not receiving other holiday assistance and are directly referred by area social service providers. Families share their family story, wish lists including clothing sizes, creating a more personalized experience. Priority is given to families with teenagers.

Did you know?
UWFC employs a staff of 4 people and over 130 volunteers to make these programs successful!

Winter Gear Drive
Annual Winter Gear Drive works to keep families warm. Approximately 30 droboxes are placed around the county from October-December. UWFC provides direct distribution to area school social workers and other social service providers and hosts Community Distribution Days to distribute the winter gear. Area quilters donate beautiful handmade quilts to assist in keeping families warm.

Connect

UNITED IS THE WAY
Stay inspired - follow United Way to see the difference we make with your help!



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