

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERISM



UNITED WAY
Sheboygan County

Spirit Awards



THURSDAY APRIL 24, 2025
AT THE OSTHOFF RESORT

VOLUNTEER CHAMPION SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSORS



SPIRIT SPONSORS



PAY IT FORWARD SPONSORS

KOHLER.

Christine Loose
Stephanie Schaefer
Amy Reinemann

VENUE SPONSORS

The Osthoff Resort
Encore AV

EVENT PROGRAM

11:30 a.m.

Lunch

12:00 p.m.

Ceremony

1:00 p.m.

Nominee Pictures

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Kate Baer, President & CEO
United Way of Sheboygan County

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

Presented by Nicole Brown, Kohler Co.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER STAR AWARD

Presented by Marquita Norton, Johnsonville Sausage

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AWARD

Presented by Alec Bartolai, Sargento Foods

GROUP/TEAM VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presented by Michelle Zuengler, HSA Bank

TRANSFORMATIVE PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Presented by Katelyn Piper, United Way of Sheboygan County

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presented by Lauren Splivalo, Van Horn Automotive

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented by Dennis Ketterman, The 2024 Spirit Award for Lifetime Achievement

THANK YOU & CLOSING REMARKS

Lisa Finney, Volunteer Center Director
United Way of Sheboygan County

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

United Way of Sheboygan County is committed to building a stronger, healthier community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. For 90 years, we have worked alongside local nonprofits, businesses, and community leaders to address Sheboygan County's most pressing challenges. United Way is the current home of critical community initiatives including Providing Access to Healing (PATH), the Community Partnership for Children and the Volunteer Center. In 2023-24, our Community Action Fund re-invested \$1.8 million dollars back into multiple nonprofit agencies throughout Sheboygan County.

Since our founding as the Sheboygan Welfare Fund in 1934, volunteers have been at the heart of everything we do. Their dedication strengthens our programs, amplifies our impact, and fosters the spirit of unity that defines our community.

Today, that spirit of volunteerism remains as strong as ever. Whether through corporate service days, individual engagement, or grassroots fundraising efforts, volunteers continue to be the driving force behind our mission. We are proud to celebrate their contributions through our annual Spirit Awards knowing that their efforts will continue to shape the next 90 years of positive change in Sheboygan County.

ABOUT VOLUNTEER CENTER OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

United Way of Sheboygan County's Volunteer Center matches community needs with individuals and groups eager to make a difference. By supporting a centralized hub for volunteerism, our goal is to create a culture of service that strengthens our entire community.

UNITED WAY VOLUNTEERS

We extend our deepest gratitude to the numerous volunteers who make our work possible. Your time, passion, and dedication fuel our mission, strengthen our community, and create lasting change. A special thanks to our Board of Directors and our Spirit Awards Committee members for help making this event possible.

2024-25 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kate Baer, United Way of Sheboygan County

Chair: Christine Loose, Community Member

Vice Chair: Holly Baumgart, Sargento

Secretary: Lindsay Rick, Sheboygan County Health & Human Services

Treasurer: Ross Marsden, Bemis Manufacturing

Past Chair: David Gallianetti, Lakeland University

Hilary Arthur, Kohler Co.

Alex Castillo, Johnsonville Sausage

Sherri Halverson, Thrivent

Zach Kaiser, McClone Insurance

Jacob Konrath, Sheboygan Area School District Superintendent

Alayne Krause, Sheboygan County Administrator

Travis Knier, Rockline Industries

Karl Kuhn, Lakeland University

Tammy Pelletier, UnitedOne Credit Union

Garrett TeSelle, Community Member

2024-25 CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Jeff and Michelle Gentine

SPIRIT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Sara Biederwolf, Collins State Bank

Nicole Brown, Kohler Co.

Alec Bartolai, Sargento Foods

Kirsten Coenen, Kohler Credit Union

Marquita Norton, Johnsonville Sausage

Lauren Splivalo, Van Horn Automotive

Johannah Wenig, St. Nicholas Hospital

Michelle Zuengler, HSA Bank

HOW DO VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Volunteers are the heart of a thriving community, and through United Way of Sheboygan County's Volunteer Center, their impact is felt every day. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, thousands of volunteers dedicated their time and talents to support local nonprofit organizations, strengthening vital programs and services across the county.

Whether lending a hand on our annual Day of Caring or engaging in ongoing volunteer efforts, their contributions have made a lasting difference. The collective impact of their service not only enhances the well-being of our neighbors but also generates significant economic value, reinforcing the power of community-driven change.



64

local nonprofit organizations
supported



\$31.86

value of 1 hour of volunteering
in Wisconsin



3,547

volunteers engaged



15,501

hours of volunteer service



\$493,861

total economic impact of
volunteers in Sheboygan Co.



**Feeling inspired? Let us help you find the right
volunteer opportunity for you!**



Congratulations *to all nominees and winners!*

Your gifts of time and talent make Sheboygan County a better place and improve the lives of our friends, family, and neighbors. Thank you for being a positive force for good!

While only one winner can be chosen in each category, Spirit Awards is about celebrating the incredible contributions of all nominees – and the countless individuals in our community who volunteer or give back in a myriad of meaningful ways. Whether through hands-on service, leadership, or generosity, each act of kindness strengthens Sheboygan County and inspires others to do the same.

We invite you to read more about this year's nominees in the following section and join us in recognizing their outstanding dedication to making a difference.

Volunteers are the light that brightens our community, bringing hope, kindness, and connection to those who need it most. Through their selfless acts of service, they illuminate the darkest corners, proving that even the smallest gestures can spark meaningful change.

As a token of our gratitude, each guest in attendance today will receive a "Share Your Light" lapel pin. We encourage you to share it with someone whose light deserves to be recognized or wear it with pride – as a symbol of the light you bring to others through your gifts, service, and compassion.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT NOMINEES

Honors a corporation that has made a substantial impact in the community by promoting volunteerism and inspiring the spirit of giving to their employees

FROEDERT & MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN

demonstrates a deep commitment to volunteerism, with leaders contributing over 9,200 service hours in FY24. Their team actively supports initiatives like the United Way Campaign, the Healthy Shelves Drive, and hands-on projects for organizations such as Angel Hugs and the Girl Scouts of Manitou. Through these efforts, they foster employee engagement while making a lasting impact on the community's health and well-being.

HSA BANK

shows dedication to the community by offering all 640 employees 24 hours of paid volunteer time annually. Their teams have transformed nonprofit spaces, from painting classrooms to applying siding, and support a wide range of causes, from environmental cleanups to assembling craft kits.

OOSTBURG STATE BANK

fosters a culture of service by empowering employees to engage in volunteerism, including a collaborative project with The Production Farm. By uniting their team behind a shared community goal, they create a ripple effect of service that extends beyond their organization. Their commitment to hands-on impact strengthens partnerships and reinforces the power of collective action.



YOUTH STAR NOMINEES

Honors an individual volunteer, under the age of 18, that embodies the spirit of giving

ANNABELLE PAULSEN

volunteers with The Production Farm and showcases her dedication to community service, from assisting at the community pantry to helping organize events like Partners Trunk or Treat. Her creativity, dependability, and willingness to go above and beyond make her a true asset in uplifting those around her.

EMMALINE MILLER

is a passionate member of DELTA Club at North High, Emmaline has spent four years ensuring the success of the Food4Thought program, which provides weekend food bags to children facing hunger. This year, she introduced "Inspirational Inserts," small gifts and uplifting notes that remind recipients they are seen and valued—an initiative that has touched hundreds of lives.

MATTEA ABHOLD

has dedicated countless hours to service, through WeACT at Plymouth High School, from nursing home visits and meal packing to food bank support and community events like Night to Shine. Always the first to lend a hand, Mattea balances her busy schedule while consistently showing up with enthusiasm and dedication to making a difference.

SOPHIA LIEFFRING & YESENIA VERA

worked together to launch "Under The Wing Mentoring", a student-led initiative that pairs high-need 6th graders with trained high school mentors. What started as a small program has grown, with additional upperclassmen joining after witnessing its impact. Their vision and leadership have created a lasting, student-driven support system.



OUTSTANDING BOARD NOMINEES

Honors a nonprofit board that has exceptional leadership in driving a nonprofit agency

BLACK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH (BACO)

is dedicated to fostering a more inclusive community that embraces all cultures and races. Beyond sharing ideas and knowledge, board members actively seek critical partnerships, secure financial resources, and provide strategic leadership to further BACO's mission. Despite being a young organization, BACO has already made tremendous strides, creating meaningful impact for the communities they serve and their valued partners.

LAKESHORE REGIONAL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)

plays a pivotal role in ensuring every child in need of services is seen, heard, and loved. Their leadership was instrumental in the opening of the Sheboygan Child Advocacy Center, which now provides essential services for children in crisis. Through strategic oversight, capital campaign management, and marketing guidance, this dedicated board made the vision of a Sheboygan CAC a reality, demonstrating profound generosity and unwavering commitment.

LIGHTHOUSE RECOVERY COMMUNITY CENTER (LRCC)

is united in their passion for empowering individuals on the path to recovery. They provide access to resources, education, and recovery support services, ensuring that all pathways to recovery are honored. Board members actively host and participate in weekly family dinners, attend special events, and deeply invest in the well-being of peers impacted by substance use disorders. Their hands-on involvement underscores their commitment to fostering hope and healing.



OUTSTANDING BOARD NOMINEES

NEVER GIVE UP (NGU)

has long served as an online community supporting individuals facing mental health and substance use struggles. Recognizing the need to expand its reach, the board worked tirelessly to promote NGU's mission and connect with individuals nationwide. In addition, board members championed the launch of NGU Recovery Outdoors, a new initiative offering activities like ice fishing, kayaking, and disc golf to promote physical wellness, mental clarity, and social connection. Their vision and leadership are creating new opportunities for recovery and resilience.

THE PRODUCTION FARM

offers expertise from diverse industries, helping advance the organization's mission to create safe spaces and provide mental health services. This past year, the board provided steady leadership through a pivotal transition, guiding the organization as it made the difficult decision to part ways with a longstanding partner whose practices no longer aligned with its values. With grace and strategic insight, the board's unwavering support ensured the team stayed focused on their mission while preserving relationships within the community.



GROUP OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Honors a group of two or more people that volunteer together on the same project

ANJENNETE POND & KATE MILLER

are instrumental in connecting North High School students with local nonprofits, helping foster a culture of civic engagement. Their work not only benefits local organizations but also inspires the next generation of community leaders by giving students real-world experience in service and leadership.

GREAT MARRIAGES MENTOR COUPLES

has 30 active mentor couples contributing over 900 volunteer hours, these dedicated volunteers help couples strengthen their relationships, creating healthier families and communities. Each mentor couple brings unique strengths, but all share compassion and empathy, guiding others through challenges and celebrations alike. Their impact extends far beyond individual couples, fostering strong, lasting relationships that positively shape Sheboygan County.

LOVE INC'S FURNITURE MINISTRY TEAM

is a dedicated team of 28 volunteers, representing 9 local churches, who contributed 1,420+ hours in 2024 to provide essential furniture to families in need. They collect, repair, clean, and deliver furniture to local individuals facing hardship, including 22 refugee families. Through their work they remain committed to offering dignity and comfort to those in need.



GROUP OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

MELODY KUETHER & DIANA SCHULTZ

are the magic behind Morning Rounds at Bookworm Gardens, ensuring the beloved space is pristine and welcoming for visitors. With 140+ volunteer hours together, they show up rain or shine, provide reliable coverage for fellow volunteers, and go above and beyond to preserve the beauty and magic of the Gardens.

SHEBOYGAN JAYCEES

are a nonprofit group of young active citizens, driving impactful community projects year-round, organizing events including Brat Days, the Dominion of Terror haunted house fundraiser, scholarships for local students, Earth Day street clean-up, Turkey drive, Brunch with Santa and many more. Their hands-on efforts shape a better Sheboygan, proving that young leaders can create lasting change.

SHEBOYGAN SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

is nominated for their work in organizing their school's annual Service Day. With over 800 participants contributing 10,400+ hours of service, this day is a powerful demonstration of servant leadership. Understanding that volunteerism strengthens both individuals and communities, staff and students engage in 40+ service projects across Sheboygan. Their collective effort, valued at over \$312,000, instills a lifelong commitment to giving back and fosters a school culture built on leadership, integrity, and pride.



TRANSFORMATIVE PHILANTHROPY NOMINEES

Recognized commitment to a nonprofit's stability and strategic success through empowerment and engagement

JENNA ILLARAMENDI

has been a pillar of financial leadership within the Sheboygan Jaycees for over 13 years, serving as treasurer for eight years. Beyond managing finances, she mentors new event leaders in budgeting and project planning, ensuring long-term success. Her dedication to financial education and hands-on mentorship extends into the community, creating a lasting impact on future leaders and sustainable philanthropy.

RICHARD & KRISTIN BEMIS

are true champions of Nourish's mission through volunteering of their time, cultivating lasting partnerships and philanthropic generosity. Their leadership in the Miley Barn capital campaign turned a historical restoration project into a symbol of community pride and financial sustainability for the organization. Their strategic vision and hands-on involvement has significantly strengthened Nourish's financial foundation and community reach, ensuring the organization's success for years to come.

SHEB DECK

was created by Joa Cain and Spencer Hurlburt. This fundraising initiative blends philanthropy with business to support local nonprofits. In 2024, Sheb Deck raised \$8,000 for Project Angel Hugs, and their efforts continue in 2025 with a new nonprofit beneficiary - Mental Health America Lakeshore. Their innovative approach inspires a culture of generosity, proving that fundraising can be both impactful and sustainable.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

Honors an individual volunteer that embodies the spirit of giving

JAMES BASLER

is a calm, supportive presence at Lighthouse Recovery, empowering individuals on their journey by providing resources, education, and support. He is a dedicated advocate for all pathways to recovery, sharing his knowledge and helping others feel welcomed. His quiet strength and genuine kindness create a safe space for everyone seeking healing.

ALLISON BLAKE

is dedicated to creating partnerships and connecting community leaders. She volunteers her time to support causes she is passionate about, including Love Inc and Black American Community Outreach, always working to create inclusive opportunities for others. Her dedication to uplifting individuals and strengthening her community is evident in everything she does.

JIM CHAPMAN

plays a pivotal role at Nourish, leading culinary programs, recipe development, and providing hands-on experiences to empower the community to make healthier food choices. As a valued member of the Nourish Culinary Advisory Board, Jim shares his expertise to elevate the organization's offerings. His commitment to service and knowledge enriches the lives of those he serves.

ALEXIS CORBETT

has dedicated years to helping youth at Lakers Ice Center, creating opportunities for growth and skill development. Her passion for making the ice center a welcoming and positive space is evident in her ongoing work. She continues to serve with grace and determination, impacting the lives of many young skaters.

PAM DEKKER

and her meticulous efforts during the holiday season ensure that every child in need receives gifts through the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program. She manages thousands of gifts and donations with exceptional attention to detail, making the process seamless. Pam's compassion, prompt communication, and organizational skills are integral to the success of this community initiative.

MICHAEL FINNEY

has been a driving force in organizing his church to support The Production Farm's community pantry, connecting people and resources to make a tangible impact. He also offers yoga sessions to youth and veterans, fostering holistic well-being. His leadership and dedication inspire others to make meaningful contributions to the community.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

CHAR GUMM

has dedicated countless hours to preparing meals for homeless individuals, creating both nourishment and a sense of community. Through her resourcefulness and creativity, she ensures no food goes to waste, while providing nutritious meals. Char's compassion and unwavering commitment to the mission of The Salvation Army are invaluable.

DEBORAH HOERRES

has made a lasting impact on those around her, from children to animals, through her work at Heaven's Gait Ranch. She offers quiet kindness, thoughtful encouragement and support, making others feel valued and important. Her dedication to both people and animals reflects her deep compassion and commitment to service.

MARIE LOEHRKE

supports the team at Nourish Farms to help bring fresh, local foods to the community, showcasing her dedication to good food education. Her experience in culinary arts contributes to the success of Farm to School programs and community events. Marie's willingness to collaborate and share her knowledge enhances the impact of Nourish's mission.

BERTA MEYER

inspires others to engage in community service, especially among younger generations, through her leadership at the Sheboygan Jaycees. She has trained and mentored individuals on how to make a positive impact in the community. As a vice president on the Jaycees board, Berta continues to drive meaningful change with her dedication.

RANDY MEYER

is a warm and welcoming presence at the Weill Center ensuring every patron feels comfortable and supported. His quick wit and kindness help ease any anxiety, particularly for those with physical limitations. Randy's commitment to making every visitor's experience special exemplifies his genuine care for others.

ANASTACIO "CHACH" MOLINA JR

creates an inclusive and supportive atmosphere, investing deeply in the mission of helping others on their recovery journey. His commitment to honoring individuals in their path to healing is evident in the space he provides. Chach's presence offers stability and encouragement to all who are involved.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

AMY REINEMANN

has had a profound impact on the students she mentors at Longfellow Boys & Girls Club. She works tirelessly with small groups, helping students break through educational barriers with patience and enthusiasm. Her consistent support and mentorship foster a love for learning and encourage students to reach their full potential.

DOREEN SALKOWSKI

has uplifted thousands through her volunteer work with Love INC, offering encouragement to those in need. Her dedication to writing over 1,000 cards since 2015 reflects her deep compassion and desire to make a difference. Doreen's quiet yet powerful impact brings hope and dignity to every recipient.

GREG SCHOEMER

has shown great dedication to the United Way campaign, helping reconnect with local organizations and amplifying community involvement. He has become an invaluable asset to the Campaign Engagement Committee, offering his time, talent, and connections. Beyond United Way, Greg's deep compassion for the community is evident through his support of many nonprofits including Kindred Hearts, Partners for Community Development, and Kiwanis, to name a few.

KATHY SCOTT

has played a pivotal role in empowering youth through her work with the Sheboygan Lakers Figure Skating Club. She dedicates her time to supporting families and creating opportunities for youth to get involved in sports. Kathy's involvement extends beyond the rink, shaping a culture of inclusion and community.

ABBY SIGLER

leads with resilience and dedication, supporting the United Way Steering Team at Johnsonville. She ensures her team has the resources and support needed to engage with United Way and share its mission to improve lives and community conditions. Abby's unwavering commitment and positive energy inspire those around her to take action for change.

DANIELLE SMITH

shows dedication to making a difference and shines through in every project she takes on, regardless of where she's volunteering. Her leadership in organizing a successful murder mystery fundraiser for the Sheboygan Warming Center demonstrated her creativity and commitment to the cause. In addition, she has contributed countless hours with the Sheboygan Jaycees.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

NICHOLA SUPRICK

has a bold passion for combating food insecurity, which drives her to give her time and energy to multiple efforts, from food prep to leading volunteer groups. She plays a vital role in organizing food distribution for those in need and empowering others to take action. Nichola's energy, compassion, and leadership make her an ongoing force for good in the community.

CHRIS TEMPAS

has been an essential volunteer for Fresh Meals, delivering 246 routes over 111 days in 2024, often completing multiple routes per day. Her dedication goes beyond meal delivery—she's helped with major fundraising events and even drove recipients to a holiday lunch, ensuring they enjoyed the season's warmth and companionship.

MARLENE VERSTRAATE

quietly supports Love Inc.'s volunteer recruitment and onboarding, ensuring processes run smoothly and documents remain confidential. Her selflessness and dedication make her an indispensable part of the team, as she consistently seeks to improve the experience for everyone who volunteers.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT NOMINEES

Honors an individual volunteer who has exhibited a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and community stewardship

JUDY DIENER

is the heart of Generations, dedicating her time to keeping the community center welcoming, organized, and inclusive. Her quiet yet powerful leadership uplifts everyone around her, making a lasting impact through kindness, perseverance, and selfless service.

JUDY SCHMIDT

has brought healing and self-expression to vulnerable populations through her work with the Kaleidoscope art therapy program. From Bridgeway shelters to foster care to juvenile detention, her workshops have provided hundreds with a creative and judgment-free space to process their experiences.

PEGGY BRENNAN

has dedicated 13 years to serving both people and animals at REINS Equine Therapy and previously served on the Humane Society Board. Her generosity, optimism, and tireless efforts in fundraising, donor engagement, and sponsorships have strengthened organizations and uplifted the Sheboygan community.

PHYLLIS SCHIPPERS

has been instrumental in advancing The Production Farm's mental health mission, securing funding for staff training, transportation, and increasing community awareness. Her ability to create meaningful connections and drive resources has transformed the organization's reach and impact.

SHARON BRULLA

is a relentless volunteer who dedicates her every spare moment to serving others, whether at the Warming Shelter or with the Jaycees. She leads by example, inspiring younger members and ensuring that every project she touches is successful from start to finish.

WAYNE BENNIN

has dedicated over 30 years to the Boy Scouts, leading, mentoring, and ensuring generations of Scouts have the opportunity to grow and learn. Even after his own sons aged out, he remained committed, embodying the highest integrity and leaving a lasting impact on both Scouts and their families.

SAVE THE DATES



APRIL-JUNE 2025

PASSPORT TO FAMILY FUN

Presented by our Community Partnership for Children, we kick off “Month of the Young Child” with a family-fun scavenger hunt throughout various locations in Sheboygan County.



MAY 7, 2025

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION

Presented by our Youth Mental Health Network, we show teachers and education professionals some love at our annual Happy Hour, hosted at 3 Sheeps Brewing in Sheboygan.



JUNE 14, 2025

FAMILY FUN FEST

Presented by our Community Partnership for Children, this free community event connects families with vital local resources in a fun, welcoming environment, hosted at Fountain Park in Sheboygan.



UNITED WAY
Sheboygan County

SAVE THE DATES



JUNE 20, 2025

GOLF FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Help us raise awareness and expand access to youth mental health services. This fun, community-driven event welcomes golfers of all skill levels to enjoy a round on the nine-hole, par-three course or mini golf, hosted at Sunset Hills Golf Course in Sheboygan Falls.



AUGUST 14, 2025

NONPROFIT APPRECIATION DAY

Our annual "Thanks A Latte" event celebrates Nonprofit Professional Day by showing gratitude to the dedicated individuals who strengthen our community.

Each year in mid-August, we treat nonprofit professionals to a morning of coffee, donuts and connection as a small token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication to our community.



SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

DAY OF CARING

Our largest single-day volunteer event, bringing together individuals, businesses, and organizations to complete service projects that support 50+ local nonprofits. This annual day of impact strengthens our community by connecting volunteers with meaningful opportunities to give back and make a difference.



UNITED WAY
Sheboygan County

UNITED IS THE WAY

United Way of Sheboygan County is committed to creating lasting change through four key impact areas: youth opportunity, healthy communities, financial security, and community resiliency. By focusing our efforts, we work alongside community partners to support initiatives and programs that create brighter futures for today's youth, provide essential resources, and improve health and well-being.

With your help, we're building a stronger, more vibrant Sheboygan County for all.

OUR IMPACT IN SHEBOYGAN COUNTY (2023-24)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \$1.85 & + & 27 & + & 3,547 & = & 45,552 \\ \text{MILLION} & & & & & & \\ \text{investment} & & \text{Local Programs \& Partner Agencies} & & \text{Volunteers} & & \text{Lives Improved in Sheboygan County} \end{array}$$



Learn more at
uwofsc.org



UNITED WAY
Sheboygan County

uwofsc.org | volunteer@uwofsc.org | 920-458-3425