

2010-11 United Way of Bemidji Area Partner Agencies



United Way
of Bemidji Area

Adult Day Services

Promotes healthy aging with the focus to improve and enhance overall wellness. Through a system of supportive services in one location, the program cost effectively assists people experiencing isolation due to physical and psychosocial demands, to maintain and/or increase independence, and remain an active part of family and community. Adult Day Services provides coordination of services with other agencies, nursing supervision, physical, occupational, speech and horticultural therapies, structured exercises, observation and recording of health needs, therapeutic whirlpool bath, social recreational and educational activities, professional staff, nutritional meals, flexible hours, transportation to and from the program, assistance with personal-care needs, personal support for participant and caregiver, and monthly facilitation of caregivers support group. Persons served are those 18 years of age and older.

ARC Headwaters

Information, support and advocacy for children and adults with disabilities and their families in northwest Minnesota.

Bemidji Community Soup Kitchen

Provides free meals on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week to those in need with no questions asked.

Bemidji Area Early Childhood Initiative

The Bemidji Area Early Childhood Initiative is a coalition of area citizens committed to improving outcomes for all young children (0-5 yrs.) in our area. We know that when children receive the nurturing, learning and care they need to grow up healthy, our whole community benefits. We also help the people who care for them – parents, family members and child care providers – do the best possible job of supporting the healthy development of the young children in their care. Our priorities include sponsoring community family events such as the Tiny Tots Expo, providing quality learning opportunities for child care providers, ensuring a smooth transition to kindergarten through partnerships among professionals, and advocating for early childhood issues.

Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. BGGCBA desires to see Club youth have positive self-identities, be educationally, occupationally, socially, emotionally, and culturally competent, be involved in their community, be physically healthy, and have a moral compass. B&GCBAs programs are designed to support the accomplishment of these goals. Programs and activities are offered in the areas of Character and Leadership, Education and Career, Health and Life Skills, the Arts, and Sports, Fitness and Recreation. A new Teen Center for high school teens will be opening in the fall of 2009. The Teen Center will be in the existing Club but in a separate area and designated space for high school teens only. It will have a lounge, computer/tutoring lab, media room and snack area.

Churches United

A collaborative of Bemidji area churches organized to serve and meet the needs of homeless, persistently poor, and impoverished individuals and families, by providing financial assistance and referrals in an empowering manner while also seeking the cause of poverty with the goal of reaching a solution to the immediate concerns.

Civil Air Patrol- Northland Squadron

Three mandated components: Cadet Programs, Emergency Services and Aerospace Education. Civil Air Patrol is a leadership laboratory for young people to learn self esteem and confidence while becoming leaders. The squadron has the additional goal of being a strong community partner through educating the youth about community service, serving other agencies in need of manpower support and providing hands on assistance at large community events.

Community Resource Connections

Community Resource Connections (CRC) is a nonprofit membership organization serving Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater and Hubbard Counties. All agency work is intended to serve the needs of nonprofit member organizations and the clients they serve. Direct services to the public include: Management of Resource Centers in Bemidji, Blackduck and Kelliher; provision of an unusually inclusive form of Information, Referral and Advocacy; Senior Outreach concerning Medicare Part D, Social Security Disability Application assistance, and Minnesota Health Care application assistance. Member agency services include coordination of agency and nonprofit director networking groups, group fund raising, coordination of service ventures, nonprofit advocacy, and community resource distribution to nonprofits.

Courage Center

Courage Center programs and services empower clients to live as independently as possible. United Way supports camperships for Bemidji area residents to attend Courage Center camping programs. Courage Center operates two fully accessible residential camps – Camp Courage in Maple Lake and Courage North on Lake George. Camping programs include sessions for youth and adults with physical disabilities, youth and adults with hearing impairments, specialty camp sessions for youth who use augmentative alternative communication devices, literacy camp, and college, career, and technology camp. The newest session – Brain Gains- helps adults with traumatic brain injury to improve organizational and social skills.

Evergreen House – Evergreen Youth Crisis Shelter

Evergreen Youth Crisis Shelter – All services are free to youth and families. Open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for youth ages 9-17 who are homeless, runaways, or experiencing personal or family crisis. Family counseling provides support to families in crisis, offering parenting support and training in skills that are necessary for families to work through their immediate difficulties and to establish healthy patterns of conflict resolution that will help prevent future crises. Tribal Family Support Services are available on-site on the Red Lake and Leech Lake Reservations to support youth and parents through coaching and education and case management to access mental, chemical, dental and physical health services. The Suicide Prevention Program trains 9th graders in all county schools, including Red Lake, in suicide prevention training. There is a monthly survivor support group for adult family members/friends and the Headwaters Alliance for Suicide Prevention, a community-based taskforce, provides planning and information on suicide prevention monthly.

Evergreen House – Evergreen Youth Recovery House

Open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for male youth ages 14 through 18 with alcohol and drug problems. This is a 3-5 month residential program. Youth attend school, participate in individual and group counseling, work with an advocate, provide community service, attend local cultural opportunities, and engage in a variety of recreational activities. A Rock Sober youth group for high school-age community youth is sponsored by Evergreen and provides sober activities and group meetings.

Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota

The Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota's mission is to ensure access to comprehensive, culturally sensitive care for survivors/victims of child abuse, sexual assault and intimate partner or family violence in northern Minnesota. The three programs offered include: Children's Advocacy Center, Information/Referrals and Advocacy.

Foster Grandparents/Senior Companions

Senior Companion Program partners volunteers 55 or better in age with lonely, isolated adults who wish to remain independent and living in their own homes. The "Companions" provide friendly visits, transportation, and advocacy. The Foster Grandparent Program provides volunteers mentoring opportunities in all kinds of educational and shelter settings. Foster Grandparents work with youth of all ages. Volunteers in both programs receive a small tax free stipend and mileage reimbursement.

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines

Promotes and provides educational programming for girls and young women ages 5-17 to help them build character and life skills to be successful adults.

Headwaters Science Center

The Headwaters Science Center provides intellectual stimulation and enjoyment for all children and adults with scientific and technological interactive displays, exhibits, programs and activities which enhance and supplement educational programs.

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Hope House

Hope House provides community support services to individuals with serious and persistent mental illness so they can live in the community in the least restrictive setting, function at their best level, and reduce the need for involuntary hospitalization. Hope House provides adult rehabilitation mental health services (ARMHS) in the home and community. Hope House also provides community support services (CSP) such as phone support, consumer outreach, social and recreational activities, after hours emergency help, community/public education, medication and wellness checks, REACH family support group, diagnostic assessments, and consumer employment. Hope House also provides day treatment and a drop-in center for members.

Kinship North

Kinship North is a formal one-on-one mentoring program that focuses on matching at-risk youth, ages 5 to 15, with caring adult volunteer mentors. Kinship mentors are trained to involve their Kinship Kids in everyday activities that will model positive attitudes and behaviors, as well as provide opportunities in which their Kinship Kids can be successful and have fun.

Lutheran Social Service – Personal Support Services and Guardianship Options

Lutheran Social Service Personal Support Services for people with disabilities provides residential and in-home support services for individuals with disabilities. The Personal Support Services helps people stay connected to their community through employment, volunteerism, and social and family connections. LSS encourages a person's sense of independence while also keeping the services specialized and sensitive to each person's unique needs.

Guardians are appointed by court to manage the affairs of incapacitated adults, advocate in their best interest, and ensure their safety and well being. The responsibilities of guardianship are to establish place of residence, consent for necessary medical or professional care, approve or withhold approval of contracts, determine and provide for basic care needs, and manage personal belongings.

North Country Food Bank

North Country Food Bank was established in 1983, and is the sole distributor of surplus food products to over 155 charitable food programs, including soup kitchens, food shelves and homeless shelters. Other recipients include low-income individuals in need of supplemental assistance, group homes, senior programs, youth programs, addiction treatment centers and domestic abuse prevention programs. As a non-profit food bank, our primary role is to provide food to the front-line charitable agencies that feed the hungry. North Country distributes over 2.1 million pounds of food in our 21 county service area annually.

North Country Home Care and Hospice

Our focus at North Country Home Care and Hospice is to provide service that offer comfort, peace, and dignity for our patients with incurable illness, and for their families. We provide assistance to the patient and to the family members. Families who come to North Country Home Care and Hospice for help receive services customized to their needs. These services can include: Home visits several times a week by a registered nurse, social worker, chaplain and/or home care aide care; management of pain and other difficult symptoms, help with bathing and grooming, 24-hour assistance and advice, emotional and spiritual support, patient and caregiver education, coordination of multiple services, help for family caregivers.

Northern Dental Access Center

Provides dental care and other family service referrals to low income families enrolled in Medical Assistance or Minnesota Care in the Bemidji and surrounding areas. We provide dental exams, cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals, and dentures on site; and provide referrals for specialty care needs to a variety of providers throughout the state. With Beltrami County Health and Human Services on site, child and teen exams, immunizations and other family service referrals are available.

Northwoods Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, grass-roots Christian ministry with the goal of eliminating poverty housing worldwide. Unwilling to accept the fact that millions of people live without adequate shelter, Habitat challenges individuals, churches, companies, foundations and other organizations to join in partnership with people in need to change the conditions in which they live. Northwoods Habitat for Humanity builds simple, decent, affordable homes and sells them with no interest mortgages to low income families who partner with Habitat and are committed to improving their lives.

Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (NICE)

Northwoods Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers (NICE) is a volunteer-based organization that provides services for seniors and other special needs individuals and families. Through many dedicated volunteers, NICE provides transportation to medical appointments, shopping assistance, friendly visiting, and respite care for seniors and children. With the help of United Way and so many important caregivers, Northwoods Interfaith enables independent living and ensures to improve the quality of life for those with disabilities or special needs. In addition, Northwoods Interfaith's First City Visitation Services program offers a positive, safe, child friendly and neutral site where children and parents can be assured that supervised visitation or exchange will be safe and conflict free.

Occupational Development Center

Since 1973 the Occupational Development Center of Bemidji has helped persons age 16 and above with disabilities and other employment barriers to find satisfying employment opportunities. ODC's Employment Planning Services help individuals explore career paths and choose employment goals based on their preferences, strengths, abilities/skills and needs. After an intake/orientation meeting and completion of the EPS program, the following employment programs are available: Placement Services provide ODC staff to work closely with each person during the placement process so that exploring job resources, writing resumes, and job interviewing become lifelong skills. Supported Employment assists individuals in obtaining work in the community. Individuals receiving this service are provided with ongoing support as needed, either at or away from the job site. If an ODC participant's goal is community employment, individualized job seeking/retention skills are taught. Work Services provide work and fringe benefits while continuing the individualized work goals and skills training for participants. The program provides approximately 30 hours per week of paid work and individual programming for the person not yet prepared for competitive employment. The work takes place at the ODC facility.

Ours to Serve House of Hospitality

Provides temporary emergency shelter for families with dependent children and single pregnant women experiencing homelessness. Services include a private family room, three nutritionally balanced meals each day, and supportive services that assist guests in achieving and maintaining housing stability.

Paul Bunyan Amateur Radio Club

The Paul Bunyan Amateur Radio Club has been providing severe weather reporting (Skywarn), emergency communications support, and community service to Beltrami County for over 30 years. Whenever severe weather threatens, club members are paged by the National Weather Service or the Beltrami County Emergency Operations Center. Members immediately go to preplanned locations throughout the county where we communicate via radio directly with the National Weather Service radar operators in Grand Forks to provide advance warning of weather conditions that may threaten the citizens of the county. The club also maintains and operates the Beltrami County Emergency Communications Trailer which is deployed as a mobile command and communications center for law enforcement, fire, ambulance, and other emergency and public service responders.

Paul Bunyan Senior Activity Center (Bemidji Senior Citizen Center)

The Paul Bunyan Senior Activity Center ensures that seniors who need assistance, information and referral are assisted. The Center's programming teaches seniors to advocate for themselves, provide opportunities for continuing education of interest to seniors, social interaction to decrease isolation, and volunteer opportunities to maintain vitality and a sense of meaning in their lives. The Center houses the Senior Creations Craft Shop, Volunteer Income Tax Preparation, AARP Driver Safety Program, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and America Reads Program, all of which give seniors volunteer opportunities as well as much needed services. The Center also houses the LSS Nutrition Project, serving five nutritious meals each week, and the Meals On Wheels Program that reaches out to seniors unable to come to the Center. There is no age limit for becoming a member or to participate. A person does not have to be a member to enjoy our services but membership does have benefits.

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Peacemaker Resources

Primary prevention programs and activities that promote conflict management and other cooperative life skills to assist children, adults and families to lead responsible, violence free lives and see themselves as valuable, contributing members of our community.

Restore House

Restore House is a faith based transitional housing program for individuals in recovery from drugs and alcohol. We provide a family style structured program which includes housing, meals, goal setting, job or continued education coaching, financial planning, continued recovery educational programs, relationship restoration counseling, and spiritual development. Our goal is to assist individual coming out of jail or treatments programs to reenter into the community and become productive members of society as they maintain their sobriety - teaching them life skills that will enable them to live healthy fulfilling lives.

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and America Reads

Horizon Health RSVP, which is a national program with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), encourages seniors to continue an active lifestyle by providing meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities within their communities. This gives seniors the chance to provide a valuable "service" that enhances not only their own quality of life, but the quality of life for others in their communities. RSVP is getting things done by involving volunteers in community organizations and programs that need the assistance of skilled, knowledgeable, and dedicated people to develop our communities into better places to live.

Rural Aids Action Network

The Rural Aids Action Network (RAAN) is a nonprofit, community-based organization with the mission to organize, develop and sustain caring communities of volunteers and professionals that serve and support persons living with, affected by, or at risk for HIV/AIDS in the rural Midwest. RAAN's programs and services include: training rural family practice doctors/clinics about HIV/AIDS care and partnering them with RAAN'S medical case managers and directors for oversight, support and ongoing consultation; HIV Testing and Medical Case Management; Public Education on Transmission and Prevention of HIV/AIDS; and developing networks of concerned volunteers.

Salvation Army

Offers emergency help with basic needs such as food and shelter.

Sexual Assault Program

Since 1977, the Sexual Assault Program of Beltrami, Cass & Hubbard Counties has been providing advocacy and supportive services to sexual violence survivors and their families. Support and information are offered 24 hours a day via our Crisis Line. In addition, trained staff often accompany survivors during a medical/forensic exam and through the criminal justice process. Services are confidential and free of charge to survivors of all forms of sexual violence. Sexual Assault Program staff also provide educational presentations and seminars on a variety of sexual violence issues, ranging from prevalence to prevention.

Timber Bay

For 36 years, Bemidji Area Timber Bay, a non-profit organization, has provided hundreds of at risk children and their families with strong Christian mentors who assist them in successfully reaching adulthood and beyond. As a Christian referral agency, we work directly with others to provide assistance both during crisis and long term. We own and operate Timber Bay Camp, "the camp that comes home with the kids", year around. We have a local Timber Bay House where children experience a "healthy home", both during the day and after school. Our goal is to have a caring adult in the life of every child who would benefit from another adult advocating, affirming, encouraging and supporting them.

Upper Mississippi Mental Health Center

Upper Mississippi Mental Health Center, Inc. is a private, non-profit community mental health center committed to providing high quality and comprehensive outpatient behavioral health services to people needing to gain control in one or more areas of their lives. A comprehensive set of services are provided for individuals and families with a range of behavioral health problems and conditions in order to ameliorate existing problems and prevent future problems that may impede the ability to live a full, active and productive life. UMMHC serve primarily clients who do not have private insurance, are on public assistance, or have no resources. United Way supports the Child and Adolescent Therapeutic Services program which provides case management and skills education to Beltrami County children diagnosed as emotionally disturbed or seriously emotionally disturbed. The program also provides therapeutic intervention, family therapy and skills training to improve coping and social skills, as well as individual and couples work as needed and parenting education. The primary goal is to prevent out-of-home placements.

Voyageur Area Boy Scout Council

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America, Voyageurs Area Council is to serve others by instilling values in young people and otherwise prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime and help them to achieve their full potential. The values that we strive to instill are based on those found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We serve boys from ages 6-20 and girls ages 14-20 in our flagship program; Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing (co-ed). The Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2010. Boy Scouts is the largest youth character education program in the world today.