



Youth Opportunity

Our vision is that every Central Minnesotan is able to succeed and thrive from cradle to career. Our mission is to unite the community to create equitable environments, opportunities and support so that each child has what is needed to succeed in school and in life. Essential to this vision and mission is the realization that historical and ongoing inequities embedded in systems, structures and policies prevent access, accomplishments and outcomes for Black, Indigenous and youth of color as well as those living in low socio-economic conditions. Community wellbeing is harmed by these inequalities so we continue to create environments and opportunities so that each learner has what is needed to succeed.

\$466,048

invested locally through United Way-funded programs and grant awards that build youth opportunities allowing young people to succeed and thrive.

Priority Focus Areas

Early Childhood

Equipping adults with skills to deliver or support access to high-quality and positive childhood experiences

Student Success

Strengthening the development of literacy skills, positive identity and social-emotional skills through meaningful relationships

Career and College Readiness

Providing skills, experiences and mentorship that prepare young people for careers or college

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Youth Opportunity Partners and Programs are funded by United Way of Central Minnesota

UWCM brings together staff and leadership across over **9 schools, 17 out-of-school community** and **school-based centers** and **several program delivery providers** to increase opportunities that allow young people to make decisions and develop leadership skills.



Did you know? UWCM Youth Opportunity invests in partners and programs serving over **34,514** Central Minnesota young people and their caregivers.

Career & College Readiness

93%

of survey respondents who participated in the **2023 Exploring Potential Interests and Careers (EPIC) Student Day** reported it was helpful and gave them better ideas about future career opportunities.

 **125**
of
150 
American Reading Company Participants
strengthened their literacy skills

UWCM Youth Opportunity
supported over **3,000** young people in out-of-school time for over **492,000** additional learning hours beyond the school day

From June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024

Investing in Early Literacy

A story of impact from UWCM's Preschool 4 Success Parent Program

United Way of Central Minnesota arranged and funded monthly family engagement sessions to promote early literacy for children in Central Minnesota from low socioeconomic backgrounds and those who are multilingual learners. Initially, 11 families attended these sessions. However, by the end of the 2023–24 school year, the attendance had more than doubled to over 20 families participating each month. Recognizing the positive feedback, UWCM increased the frequency of the sessions to twice a month after the first year.

United Way's unwavering dedication to provide support and guidance has truly made an incredible difference. We gained a wealth of knowledge and resources that have empowered us to better nurture and advocate for our children. The information we learned about early learning and literacy is truly remarkable and we hope to see more of this in our community. – Preschool 4 Success Parent Program participants



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Scan the QR code to learn more:

