

The Link

LINKING PEOPLE : BUILDING COMMUNITY

2022 COMMUNITY REPORT



Canned
Meat
Limit 2 per
Household

Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.



A Message from the Board Chair

Growing up, living and working in this community is such a blessing. This is the sixth year I have had the privilege of serving on The Link Board, and the sense of caring and giving among our donors, board members and volunteers continues to amaze me. We have seen an exponential growth in the need for food and services over the last six months due to food and gas price increases. Your support has meant that we are able to continue to help our neighbors in their time of need. Individual, congregational and corporate giving allows us to meet the many needs of our community. Thank you all!



On behalf of the entire Board, I would like to extend a special THANK YOU to The Link Staff and Volunteers who have seen us through a year of change and re-adjustment. They are the glue that holds this organization together, and their dedication to lifting up this community makes all things possible.

And thank you to our generous donors - YOU are The Link!
Sincerely,

Michelle Kastel-Olson



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Michelle Kastel-Olson
Chair



Tanya Mayhew
Vice-Chair



Dave Henle
Treasurer



Steve Slominski
Secretary



Kay Knudsen



Trish Perry



Ashley Hanson
Executive Director



Dave Gehant



Nichole Lindahl



Wyatt Jackson



Amy Gronli



Todd Mattson

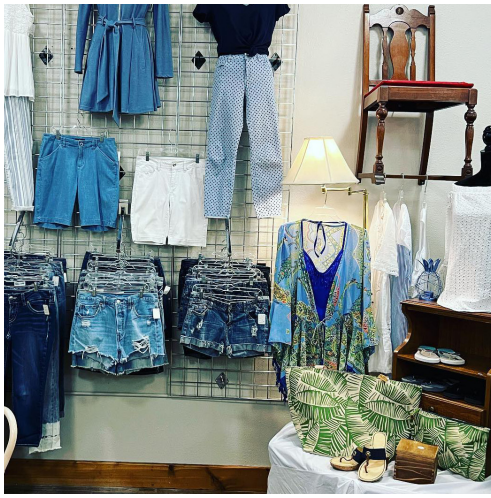
STAFF



Kristina Reuss
Financial Officer



Shawna Roemeling
Thrift Store Manager



Changes, Transitions and Resilience!

2022 brought another year of change and transition at The Link as we said goodbye to former Executive Director Chasity Ommott and celebrated our first full year in our new-to-us building. In February, I moved into the role of Executive Director after working as Program Coordinator for the past 3.5 years, and we also welcomed former board member Kristina Reuss as Financial Officer.

These changes made it extremely clear how supportive and adaptive the staff and volunteers at The Link are and confirmed that the community I call home is one of the very best! The transitions could not have gone more smoothly, and I am feeling extremely grateful to work for a place that has so many compassionate volunteers, staff and donors to meet the needs of their neighbors.

Over the past few months, The Link has witnessed a significant increase in the need for food and outreach services. It is a scary time, but I am confident that The Link will continue to meet the needs of children, families and seniors because of our dedicated and supportive community.

Moving into 2023, The Link hopes to close on our building, increase awareness of our programs and needs and welcome more volunteers to ensure its programs continue to run smoothly. Our volunteers and donors are truly the heart of The Link's mission and I could not be more thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of a place that shares my passion to serve and help others. Thank you for making our work possible. And thank you for helping us give hope to those who need it most.

Ashley Hanson

Ashley Hanson, Executive Director



Shawna, Chasity and Ashley display the "Best of the Best" award for The Link in the Best Non-Profit and Best Thrift Store categories.



Kammy Nelson

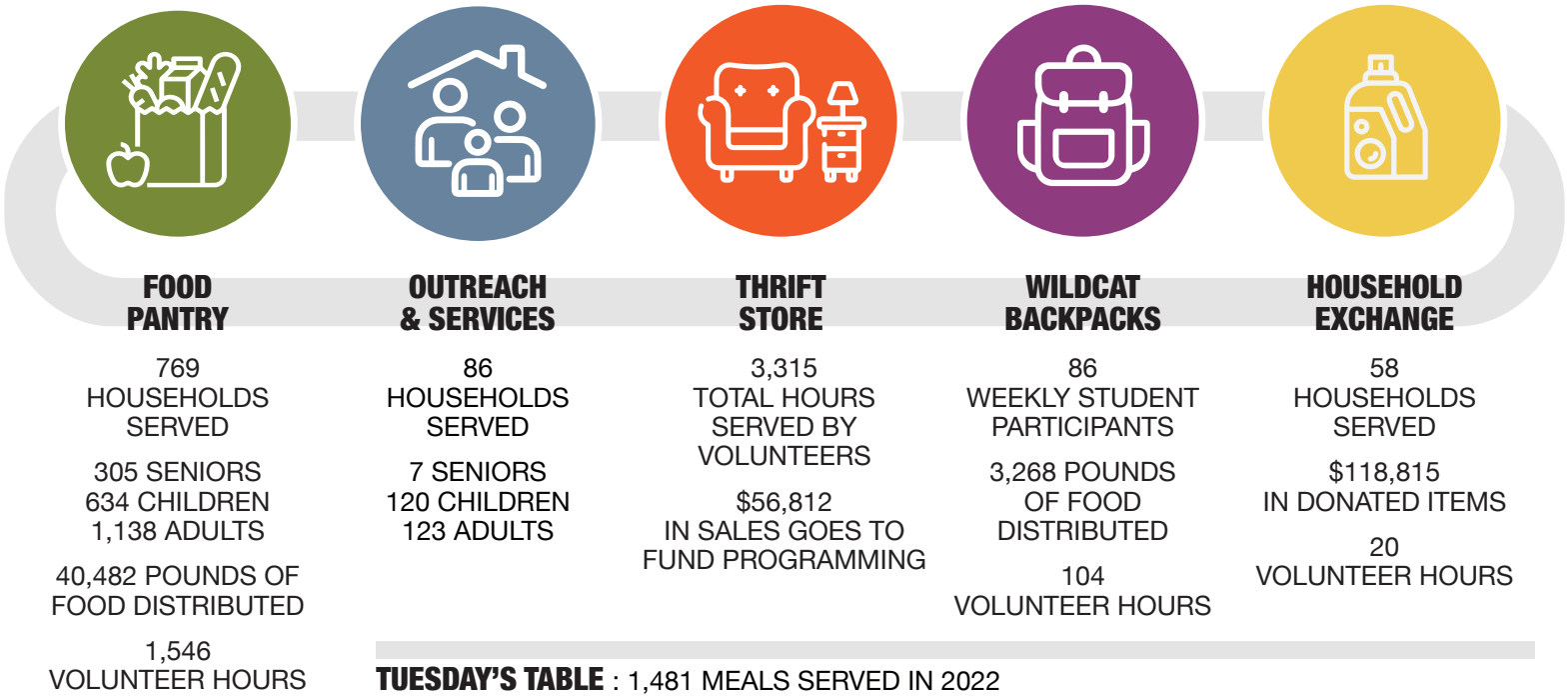
Volunteer Perspective — Kammy Nelson

I grew up watching my parents volunteer in our community and church. My dad was always serving somewhere, helping someone. So I've pretty much had volunteering engrained in my life and heart. When we moved to the New London/Spicer area a while back, I started looking for a place to connect with people and the community. As a member of New London Ambulance, I needed a place that would welcome the help but also allow me to be available to serve the ambulance when I'm on call.

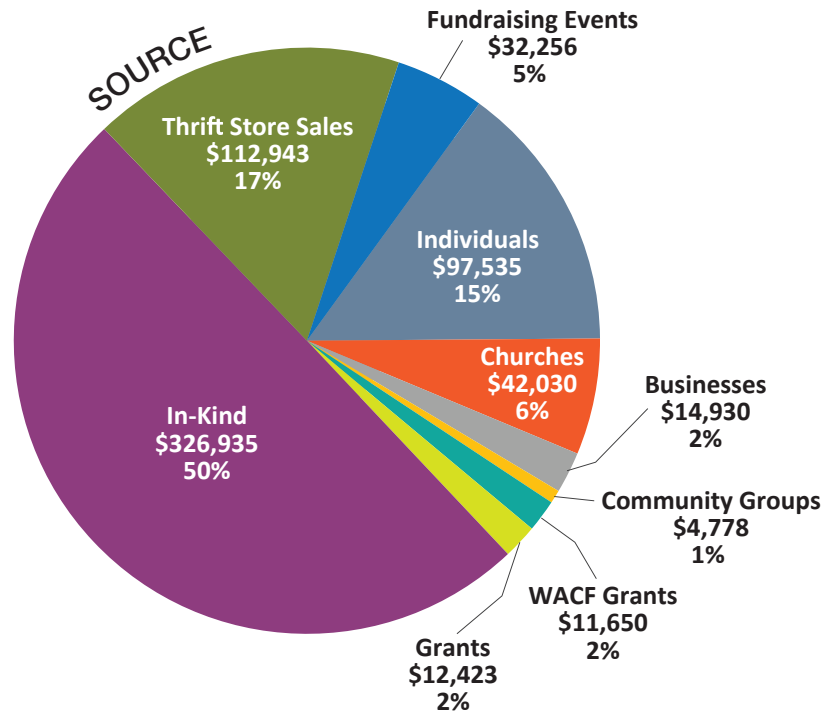
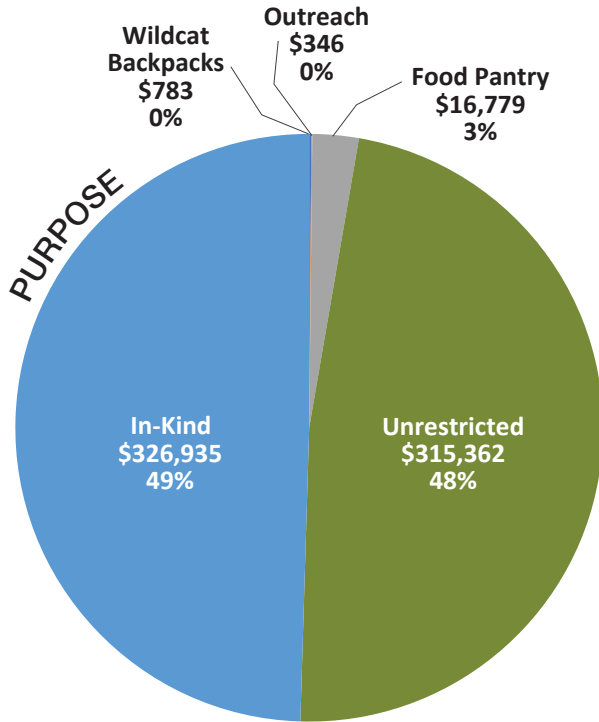
I remember connecting with Chasity and telling her that I love to organize and asked if there's anything I can help with and use my skills. It just so happened that I called in 2020 and the food pantry had lost volunteers due to COVID. I was happy to jump in! I enjoyed volunteering once a week, meeting new folks that visit the food pantry and helping organize the food pantry.

Since moving to our new and much larger location, I've been given the opportunity to help in all areas of our ministry. As I take in donations, it's fun to connect with the community and realize the support they give us. Working in the store gives me an appreciation for our shoppers because the money we receive then goes to support our food pantry and community outreach.

I am blessed to witness the full circle of need and the way our community helps us support that need. The staff at The Link are fun to work with and accommodating to everyone's schedule. *I love this place!*



2022 Income \$655,481



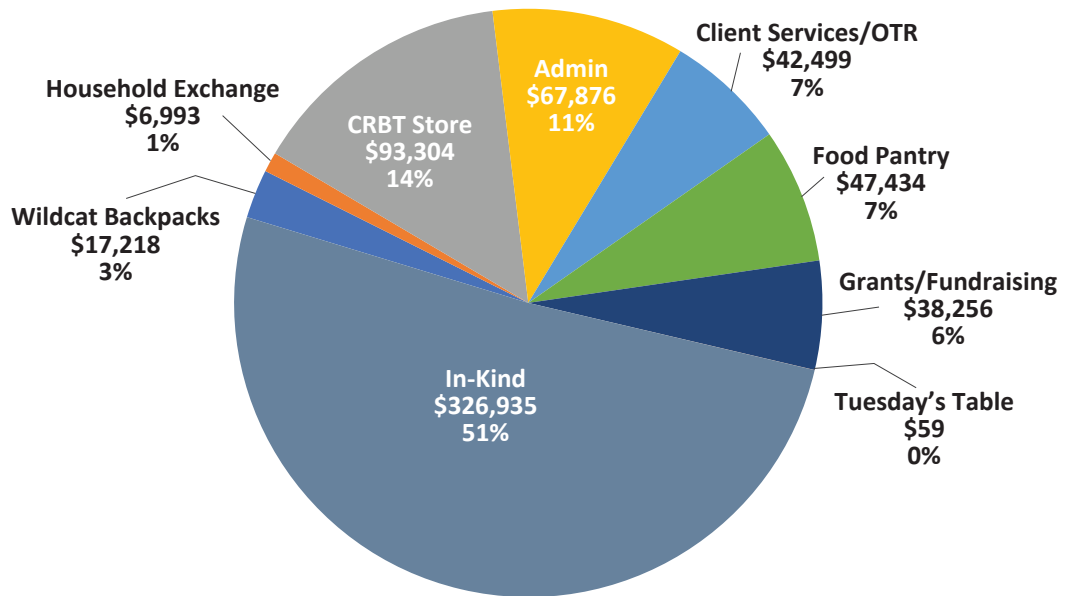
DONATIONS

If you would like to make a gift of support to the mission of The Link, you can scan the QR code below or call Ashley at the Link office:

320-354-5465



2022 Expenses \$640,573



Volunteers ARE The Link!

Managing a large building like our new site would not be possible without our volunteers! We always have room for more people to get involved. If you are interested in using your gifts to support your neighbors in need, contact Ashley [320-354-5555] at The Link office.



Volunteering at The Link is fun!



A Story of Impact

I am so grateful to your volunteers, Adam and Nate, who picked up my donation items today! As they loaded that (very) gold-colored rocking chair, it made my heart smile. It was my grandmother's chair, where she liked to sit and knit. She was an immigrant from Germany who came through Ellis Island in the 1920s. She and my grandfather had a difficult time because of the language barrier. Often people would take advantage of them because they could not speak English. It is so fitting if these donations could go to help an immigrant family like my grandparents, to help make the adjustment to their new life easier. If that gold chair goes from one struggling immigrant to help another, I know it would make my grandma happy, too. I've asked our extended family to pray for these families as they start from scratch in a new place.



Thrifting is Fun and Important!

Because you never know what you're going to find at a thrift store, every trip is a new adventure. When you shop at a thrift store, it's exciting to think about what you might find. The thrill of the hunt is what compels most people to shop at a thrift store.

Shop for a cause, find clothing, décor, furniture, and so much more in support of The Link!

Not only is thrifting an exciting experience, but by shopping a Community Revival Boutique, you are also giving back to the community. All proceeds go right back into The Link's programs to help serve your neighbors in need.

2022 Gifts, Grants, In-Kind Support To The Link

Gifts \$10,000 +

HUNGER SOLUTIONS MN
CHRIS & MICHELLE KROMM

Gifts of \$5,000-\$9,999

CATHOLIC AREA FAITH COMMUNITY
CENTRAL MN CREDIT UNION
RICHARD GUNDERSON
WAYNE & KAY KNUDSEN
RON & DIANE MINKE
OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DAWN WEBER

Gifts of \$2,500-\$4,999

DEBBIE CAYLOR REAL ESTATE
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STEVE ELLINGBOE
CRAIG & MARY MEYER
DAVID & SHIRLEY OLSON
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TEALS MARKET
STEVE & AMBER VICK
WILLMAR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Gifts of \$1,000-\$2,499

ALLEY ON ASH
DONNA BELANGER
MIKE BELANGER
HOWARD CARLSEN & MARY JANE YOUNG
DONALD & KRISTI CARLSON
PAUL & BECKY CARLSON
D&V PROPERTIES
BOB & CONNIE DICKERSON
RON & VERDONNA DOBBS
CHRIS & LARA DUININCK
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
FIRST LUTHERAN WELCA
GREEN LAKE CHIROPRACTIC
ADAM & AMY GRONLI
THE HARBOR SPICER FOURSQUARE
GOSPEL CHURCH
TERRY & DEB HOLMQUIST
JEFF & CHERY JOHNSON
KIRBY & HALYCE JOHNSON
KANDIYOHI POWER COOPERATIVE
DAVID KILPATRICK & JULIE SCHULTZ
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL
CURTZ & FAY KUZNIA
LAKE REGION BANK
LAKELAND BROADCASTING
TOM & SUSAN LANGE
LIESER INSURANCE
LPL FINANCIAL
JON & PAM MELANDER
JOE MEYER
SCOTT & LINDA NELSON
OUR LADY OF THE LAKES CCW
NORDLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORDLAND WOMEN
TIM & MARY PIEH
GERALD & REBECCA REITER
JASON & KRISTINA REUSS
FRED & BARB ROGUSKE
DALE & JEAN RUTER
JAMES & PATRICIA SOLHEID
ROGER STRAND
KELLY & SHERI TERWISSCHA
MARK & JULIE THOMPSON
BRADLEY VICK
LOIS VICK
RICK & NANCY WEHSELER

Gifts of \$500-\$999

CASEY ALSAKER
PETE ANDERSON
ANONYMOUS DONOR
BAUMGARTNER AGRICULTURE
BELGRADE CO-OP
CHAPPELL CENTRAL
DAVID & SUSAN CHASE
HAROLD & CAROL CONRAD
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH
DEEP FREEZE
BRIAN GIESEKE
GOOSE GROUP
GREEN LAKE LIQUORS
GREEN LAKE NURSERY
CHARLES & LISA GROFF
HAWICK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ROGER & JUDY IMDEIKE
TODD & JILL JACKSON
DON & SHARON JOHNSON
RICHARD & LINDA KELVINGTON
GREG KVAM
LAND O'LAKES FOUNDATION
REYNOLD W. & ELEANOR D. LARSON
WANDA MALONE
LAURA & JIM MOLENAAR
KEITH & KAMMY NELSON
NEW LONDON LEGION GAMBLING
NEW LONDON REAL ESTATE
NL-S SCHOOLS
JON & NAOMI NOELDNER
NORWAY LAKE PARISH
O'NEIL'S
PAFFRATH JEWELERS
TODD & DIANE PAFFRATH
DONALD & NANCY POWERS
PRO FITNESS
SHERLEN & BETTY RODI
DAVE & TRISH PERRY SCHNEIDER
DUANE & MARY SEMMLER
CRAIG & LORI SHELLBERG
SPICER LIONS
KENNETH & ELTA STALBOERGER
SCOTT STANGELAND
MICHAEL & ROXANNE STEFFL
JAMES & NAOMI STINSON
SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP GROUP
TAATJES LANDSCAPING & DESIGN
WILLIAM & JULIE TAUNTON
UNITED PRAIRIE BANK
DOUG & DEB WESSLING
GRADEN & REBECCA WEST
ZION WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Gifts of \$250-\$499

BARB JOHNSON
BIG GROVE WELCA
JEFF & DEB BOONSTRA
LARRY & SHERRY BRATSCHE
CALVARY LUTHERAN
MANUEL & SAMANTHA CONTRERAS
ROBIN DECATHELINEAU
FIRST REFORMED CHURCH
TRISHA HANSON
DAVID & EILEEN HELMSTETTER
DAVE & VICKI HENLE
JIM & JULIE HONZAY
ROB & CAROL LEE
SARA LESTER
LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH
BURTON LUNDBERG
STEVE & KRISTY MAHER
LINDA MICKELSON
DALE & HOLLY MOSSBERG
NEW LONDON SENIOR CITIZENS
NORTHERN STATES SUPPLY

JEROME PAULSON
FRANK & DONNA PLOTNIK
BRIAN & DARCI SCHNIEDER
VICKIE VOGT
JODY WEDDLE

Gifts up to \$250

ELAINE ABRAHAM
AG CO. FARM CREDIT SOURCE
ALI J BOUTIQUE
DONALD & SUSAN ANDERSON
ANONYMOUS DONOR
RON & LINDA BAETH
DAN & JULIE BECK
LAURA BECKER
LISA BERGH
EUGENE & SHIRLEY BERTRAM
ROBERT & SHERRI BEZDICEK
DEAN & SHERRY BIGALKE
BONANZA VALLEY TRAILBLAZERS
ALTON & LYLAS BOONSTRA
DARLENE BRATBERG
LYNN BURGETT
JACKIE BURGRAFF
JERRY BURMEISTER
HEATHER CARVER
GERRY CHESNESS
RICHARD & REBECCA CLAYTON
DANIEL COMMERFORD
CONCORDE BANK
LOUISE WIEDEMAN COAUETTE
CROW RIVER ELCA
CROW RIVER LUTHERAN
MATTHEW DAHL
MCKENZIE DAHL
JAMES & KATHERINE DETHLEFS
PAULA DIXON
JODY DRIGGS
JEFF VETSCH & ANNE DYBSETTER
EAST NORWAY LAKE ELCA
DEAN & DENA EICHELBERGER
BEVERLY ENGLESON
ROBERT & LUMAE ERICKSON
MARLYS ESTERLY
LINDA EVESLAGE
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN
N.E. FIFIELD
LARRY & JANET FLECK
KEVIN & JOYCE FRIEDRICH
LIV FUCHS
TAMMY FUGLIE
JOE & BARB GARDING
LYLE & KRISA GERHARDSON
MIKE GILSON
GOAT RIDGE BREWING CO.
GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES
GREEN LAKE MISSIONARY SOC.
KEVIN & BETH GRONLI
HILDA GROSCHLAGS
BRUCE & BARBARA HALGREN
ROBERT & PAULINE HALVORSON
JOSEPH & HANNAH HANNIG
HANSEN ADVERTISING
HANSON SILO
HANSON TIRE
TREVOR & ASHLEY HANSON
HARRISON PRESBYTERIAN LADIES
HARVEY ANDERSON & JOHNSON
FUNERAL HOME
ERIK HATLESTAD
BEV HAUGEJORDE
TROY & PAMELA HAVERLY
STEVE HAVIG
HOWARD & JUDITH HEDLUND
ASHLY HELSER
MARCIA ANN FLUCK HOFFMAN

2022 Gifts, Grants, In-Kind Support To The Link

Gifts up to \$250, continued

MARY HOFFMAN
ROBERT & CHRIS HOFFMAN
MONA HOFFMAN-NICHOLS
JOHN & JOY HOLBROOK
JOAN HOLM
MARY HUDSON
GRANT & CARI HUISINGA
JAMIE & LAUREL IVERSON
MONA IVERSON
WYATT JACKSON
ROBERT & LOIS JACOB
TOM & PHYLLIS JACOBSON
PATTY JENSEN
ROBERT & LOIS JENSEN
DIANA JOHNSON
TRENT & STEPHANIE JOHNSON
ELROY & SHARON JONES
JAMES & RAMONA JUST
DORIS KAMPSEN
MARSHA KELLY
KARLA KING
MARCIA KLEVEN
JAMES & CAROL KLUEGEL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ASSEMBLY
TROY & TRACY KNUDSEN
WILLIAM KOECKEVITZ
DAVID & ARDIS LAIS
LAKES AREA DENTAL
LINDA LARSON
DEAN & PAULETTE LINDQUIST
JOHN & MARY LINDSTROM
MICHELLE LOHN
DEAN & MARIETTE LOVOLD
CHARLES & CINDY LUNDBERG
ANGELA MAGNUSON
TODD & JENNY MARXHAUSEN
BRYAN & DIANE MAURICE
RICHARD & CAROL MAURSETTER
MAX'S GRILL
KAREN & TIM MCLAUGHLIN
MEEKER COOP
RICHARD & GLORIA MEIER
TOM & DEB MERTEN
DR. JAMES & COLLEEN MICHELS
MID STATE AUTO BODY
MARY MILLER
MN FOODSHARE
CAROL MONNENS
DEB MORTENSON
HD MORTENSON
JULIE MUFFLEY
GREG & ROBIN MULDER
JAMES & KATHLYN MUNSELL
STEVE NEDRELOW
MEL & RICHARD NELSON DDS
SHARON NELSON
PALMER & DEE NORLING
DON & CHASITY OMMODT
PATRICIA OSS
BEATRICE OURADA
ARLYS OUSMAN
PAISLEY THREADS
PAUL & THERESA PATOCK
HOWARD & VERA PATRICK
KEITH PEARSON
PETE'S SURPLUS
DONNA PETERSON

PEG PETERSON
TOMI PIRROTTA
SUE PITRA
RANDALL & BEVERLY POTHE
POWER SYSTEM ENGINEERING, INC.
CHAD POWERS
JANAE RAMBOW
RAMBOW INC.
CHERYL RANDELMAN
ED & KAY RAUK
DEANN REDFIELD
COLLEEN REDMOND
BARB REE
DANIEL REE
ANDREW REGNIER
REJUVENATE SALON & SPA
JAMES & CHERYL RIEBE
RIVERVIEW REFRIGERATION & HEATING
BETH ROEDER
GREG & CAROL ROVERUD
BRAD & NANCY RUCHTI
SANDY SAULSBURY
ALISA SAVELKOUL
DOUG & MARY SAWATZKY
PAULA SCHAEFFER
JOHN & CONNIE SCHEEVEL
SHARON SCHMEISING
JEFF SCHMIDT
RICHARD & KATHY SCHMIDT
COURTNEY SCHMIDT-ANDERSON
JEFF SCHMITZ
RONALD & BETTE SCHMITZ
JOHN & CONNIE SCHNOBRICH
JACKIE SETTERBERG
DONALD & PHYLLIS SHAW
HEATHER SHUMAKER
BAILEY SPAULDING
HARRIET STAI
STAI TRUCKING
JAMES & NAOMI STINSON
ILDI & MARLYN SUNDHEIM
JEFF & JULIE TAYLOR
DEB TERWISSCHA
RALPH & GENEVA THOMPSON
MAYLON THORSTAD
TOMMY SWENSON MEMORIAL
UNITY STAMP CO.
URBAN ESCAPE
BETH VAN GULIJK
MARY JANE WALKER
TYLER & MAREN WALSTROM
TROY & KARI WEETS
LINDA WENDLANDT
JERRY & ANNA WESTPHAL
SHARON WILLEN
COREEN & STEVE WILLIAMS
PATRICK & HANNE WILLIAMS
STACY WILLIAMS
MICHAEL & MARIBETH WILLIAMSON
DONNA WILSON
JOY WOELFEL
MONICA WOHLIN
DIANE WOHNOUTKA
SKIP & CHERYL WRIGHT
WYSIWYG
GREGORY & SUSAN YEO
ROSLYN YUNIK

Gifts Made In Honor of:

ANONYMOUS
ARTHUR & MARSHA HAECHLER
MICHAEL & SHERRIS KLAERS
BEVERLY STANGELAND
WES STEVENS

Gifts Made In Memory of:

DEAN ANDERSON
JEROME AUGUSTON
NUVILLO BJORK
CONNIE BJORK
GWEN BOONSTRA
MARLIS CHESNESS
BEVERLY CHRISTENSON
BARBARA GUNDERSON
GENE HALVERSON
JILL YOUNG JACKSON
LELAND LUNDBERG
BETTY LOU MILLER
RICHARD NELSON
MATT OLSON
FREDERICK & BARB ROGUSKE
DAN VOSSEN
DELORES YOUNGREN



*Our area church partners
have been serving a free,
weekly community meal for
our neighbors through our
Tuesday's Table program.*

A Story of Impact

We would like to send a huge THANK YOU to the donors and staff at The Link! Our family has been through an extremely hard few years due to my husband's medical issues that, unfortunately, still continue. We are so extremely grateful for the help we received and are especially thankful to the donors that make The Link possible!!!

A year ago, we did not even know about The Link or what it offered. Just before Christmas, we got an unexpected call from The Link -- someone who knew us and our hard times wanted to be our Secret Santa. We were beyond grateful for whoever that was! They definitely made it a happy Christmas for our children, one that we could not have provided ourselves because of our financial strains.

After that amazing Christmas, we learned about the food pantry where we can come in and "shop" once monthly. We have definitely appreciated the help with our tight food budget.

We are so extremely thankful for people that have the financial stability to help others during hard times. I pray that someday we, too, may be able to be the ones donating to help others! We cannot express how grateful we are to have received the gifts of The Link in our times of need!



*A special THANK YOU to our
community foundation for
their ongoing support!*

The Link

LINKING PEOPLE : BUILDING COMMUNITY

20 Central Avenue
New London, MN 56273

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW LONDON, MN 56273
PERMIT NO. 823

PROGRAMS:

Household Exchange

Started in August 2009

Basic household goods and furniture donated by the community are provided to people in need.

Community Revival Boutique

Started in September 2017

A boutique and thrift store open to the community. All proceeds go to support The Link programs to support our neighbors in need.

Be a Link Volunteer! We have many volunteer opportunities available to support these programs and help your neighbors in need. Call The Link office to find out more.

Wildcat Backpack Program

Started in September 2017

A weekend food package for students at NL-S Schools to ensure all kinds are fed and ready to learn.

Food Pantry

Started in February 2017

A mini food shelf open to people in need for monthly 'shopping.'

Senior Food Delivery

Started in February 2020

A food delivery service for seniors and home-bound individuals due to disability or illness.

Tuesday's Table

Started in October 2010

A weekly community meal hosted by our church partners.

Hosting schedule:

1st Tue: Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer
2nd Tue: Evangelical Covenant, New London
3rd Tue: Faith Lutheran, Spicer
4th Tue: Peace Lutheran, New London
5th Tue: Rotates (call The Link office for info)

Client Services & Financial Outreach

Started in January 2009

Information, referral, connection to existing resources in the area and fill-the-gap assistance for people in need.



FOOD PANTRY | OUTREACH HOURS:
Tue-Wed-Thu.....10am-3pm



Follow us & share!

COMMUNITY REVIVAL BOUTIQUE HOURS:
Wed-Fri.....10am-3pm | Sat....10am-2pm
Entrance at 15 Main St. S, New London

*Donations are taken at back side of building during the above store hours. Please call ahead to The Link office (at 320-347-1047) if you wish to donate large furniture items.

CONTACT US:

The Link
PO Box 823 | 20 Central Ave E.
New London, MN 56273

OFFICE: 320-354-5465

STORE: 320-347-1047

OUTREACH: 320-354-5555