



A Twice-Annual Newsletter of the
Greater Twin Cities United Way Tocqueville Society

CONNECTIONS

Together we will create a community of opportunity where all people thrive.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS TOGETHER



This year, we are proudly celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Greater Twin Cities United Way Tocqueville Society. Throughout the year we'll be reflecting on what we hope are memorable moments from our time together through the years.

Our chapter of the Tocqueville Society began in 2005 when a small group of dedicated philanthropic leaders came together with a goal of maximizing their collective impact by supporting community initiatives and solving pressing social issues.

Today, we are proud to share that our Tocqueville Society includes nearly 300 households! We are a group of passionate, civic-minded leaders dedicated to strengthening our community to achieve our vision of a Greater Twin Cities where all thrive regardless of income, race or place.

While the challenges our community faces may shift and evolve, our commitment to meeting urgent needs while making lasting change has remained steadfast. Together, through our support of Greater Twin Cities United Way, we are ensuring food security, stable housing, educational success and economic opportunity for our neighbors today and for years to come.

It was a joy to see so many of you at the Tocqueville Society Annual Dinner last year for an evening of fellowship to celebrate the contributions of leaders in our community. Justin and Desirae Butler were honored with the Civic Leadership Award and founding Tocqueville members, Jeff and Terri Greiner received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Did you enjoy watching John Wilgers live his dream of becoming a late-night TV host during Tocqueville Tonight as much as we did? If so, be sure to mark your calendars to join us on Thursday, September 25 and stay tuned for another unforgettable night.

We're so grateful for the opportunity to work alongside people who share our passion for this community. Together, we've helped make Greater Twin Cities United Way what it is today.

Thank you for your philanthropic leadership.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike and Morgan Doyle".

Mike and Morgan Doyle
Tocqueville Society Cabinet Chairs



Original Tocqueville Society Cabinet in 2005: (L to R) Jeff Greiner, John Lindahl, Nancy Lindahl, Susan Campbell, Rick Ambrose, Jo Marie Dancik, Jerry O'Brien, Barbara Burwell, Nick Burke (not pictured: Richard Davis)





TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY CREDO

The Greater Twin Cities United Way Tocqueville Society exists to maximize and multiply the collective impact of innovative philanthropic leaders to help solve our community's most significant challenges.

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 29

Arise and Shine

Watch the Pride march in style alongside fellow Arise Project supporters.

JULY 15

Tocqueville Together

Hosted by Lauri and Jim Roberts.

AUGUST 7

Action Day

Join us as we celebrate 10 years of helping students succeed in the classroom and beyond!

SEPTEMBER 25

Tocqueville Society Annual Dinner

Save the date to mark our 20th anniversary with a memorable night of celebration.

OCTOBER

Legacy Society Appreciation Luncheon

Join the Tocqueville Cabinet

If you feel called to become more engaged in developing solutions to challenges in our community, we invite you to join the Tocqueville Cabinet. As a cabinet member, you'll have the opportunity to meet with like-minded peers to lead the direction of the Tocqueville Society and engage our members. To learn more, reach out to Christina Woodlee at christina.woodlee@gtcuw.org or (612) 340-7421.

"I appreciate being a member of Tocqueville because we kind of get that behind the scenes look at the organization and are able to impact the direction and strategy in the way that would be most impactful to the community."

- TiAnna Anderson on being a member of the Tocqueville Cabinet



INNOVATION IN ACTION

UNITED IS THE WAY TO BELONGING



In this time of uncertainty, I find myself reassured knowing that the work of Greater Twin Cities United Way does not stop. We continue to unite changemakers to create a community where all people thrive. I am especially grateful for opportunities that allow us to gather and learn from one another, advocate for social good and lift the amazing work being done by our partners to support our neighbors.

One powerful way we bring people together is through our advocacy work. Already this year, our advocacy team has been busy engaging with community members, nonprofit partners and policymakers to drive meaningful change.

In February, we partnered with the Start Early Funders Coalition to gather local children, parents and guardians, early childhood educators and other advocates for Advocacy for Children Day at the Minnesota Capitol. With more than 200 attendees and a family- and children-focused program, the event was an opportunity to ask legislators to prioritize Minnesota's youngest community members by investing in early childhood education, trauma-informed care and more.

Additionally, at a time when state lawmakers are considering a steep funding cut for the Early Learning Scholarship program, we are advocating for bipartisan legislation to maintain scholarship funding at its current levels to ensure quality child care for more Minnesota families.

Housing continues to be the most common reason people call our 211 resource helpline – amounting to 45% of all 211 requests. We know that without stable housing job training programs, child development efforts and workforce initiatives are less effective, which is why housing is one of our lead advocacy issues this year.

In March, Greater Twin Cities United Way staff and supporters gathered at the Capitol for Minnesota Homeless Day on the Hill to advocate for better housing policies that increase access to safe, affordable housing.

That same week, during Hunger Day on the Hill, we advocated for policies that ensure all Minnesotans have access to the food they need.

We know that 211 is a lifeline for Minnesotans, connecting people to housing, food, child care, youth programs employment, resources and more. That is why we continue to advocate for support of this vital resource by increasing awareness and engagement among supporters and policymakers.

We could not do this work without you. Because of your support, whenever there is a need in our community, United Way is there.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Wilgers".

John A. Wilgers
President and CEO



Greater Twin Cities United Way associate vice president of advocacy and community impact Stephannie Lewis (left), young learners and 80x3 partner Xavier Vazquez, executive director of Centro Tyrone Guzman, celebrate Advocacy for Children Day 2025



2024 INSPIRING MINDS

Inspiring Minds, hosted by John and Annette Whaley at the Science Museum of Minnesota, was a unique immersive opportunity to explore and discuss two exhibits: “Wonder Years: The Science of Early Childhood Development” and “RACE: Are We So Different.” Afterward, a panel of leaders in early-childhood education shared how these themes intersect during the first years of a child’s life – and some of the excellent work communities are already doing to support children’s inherent capacity to grow and learn.



John and Annette Whaley with their daughter and grandchild



John Whaley takes part in a group discussion with fellow attendees



John Wilgers enjoying an interactive exhibit during Inspiring Minds

CONNECT FOR MORE IMPACT

As a Tocqueville Society member, you can receive stories celebrating our community partners, volunteers and individuals achieving their dreams with your support, including:

- A quarterly e-newsletter with news and stories from our community.
- Occasional (no more than one per quarter) messages about opportunities to gather with others who share our vision of a community where all can thrive.

To be in the loop, scan the code and opt in



COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKERS

TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY SUPPORT COMES FULL CIRCLE

New Tocqueville Society members Mike and Wendy Wethington bring their support of Greater Twin Cities United Way full circle with a gift honoring the philanthropic leadership of friends and founding members, Jeff and Terri Greiner.

Mike and Wendy were college sweethearts who have called the Twin Cities home for nearly 50 years. After raising their two children and building several successful businesses here, the couple has a simple philanthropic philosophy of giving back to the community that has given them so much.

“My hope for the future of the Twin Cities is that we can find economical and sustainable ways to provide affordable housing and a stable food supply for everyone,” said Wendy. “Because without those two things, other programs can’t work as well.”

Inspired by the philanthropy of respected peers and colleagues that support United Way, the couple appreciates the value the organization brings to the people of the Greater Twin Cities.

“It’s important to us that United Way has the ability to impact everyone in a community,” said Mike. “What’s interesting strategically is looking at our current environment and thinking about how we can leverage the assets we have in an even more meaningful way. And that’s cool.”

A self-described serial entrepreneur, Mike has built and grown several successful businesses throughout his career. It’s through these ventures that Mike connected with people he describes as legends within the community – incredible humans who ultimately inspired the couple’s support of Greater Twin Cities United Way.

One such influence was Mike’s first business partner, Bart Greenwood, who was a passionate supporter of United Way and served as an executive-on-loan with the organization before his passing in 2009. Bart found the experience deeply meaningful and would often express its profound impact. For this reason, Mike and Wendy gave their first gift to United Way in honor of Bart’s memory.



Mike Wethington (center) with his sister Anne Wethington (left) and Connie Brock at the 2024 Tocqueville Society Annual Dinner

“Bart was a brilliant guy who believed the work of United Way, in part because the organization was so efficient,” said Mike. “That is something that is attractive to me as well.”

Later, Mike got to know Jeff Greiner when he became an investor and board member for his second business venture, Outsell. Over the years, Jeff quickly became a trusted business partner and friend.

“Jeff is such an incredible human being and is truly a giver,” said Mike. “We were pleased to be a part of recognizing he and Terri for their generosity through the Tocqueville Society.”

Jeff and his wife Terri were among the small group of donors who founded the local Tocqueville Society and last year they received the Lifetime Legacy Award honoring their generosity and engagement through the years. Personal connections like these play an important role in influencing which nonprofits the couple chooses to support. But understanding an organization’s strengths and ability to make an impact is equally important.

“One of United Way’s great strategic advantages is the leverage model that provides the ability and infrastructure to work with a lot of organizations and vet the best of the best nonprofits to help people,” said Mike. “It’s just a beautiful model.”



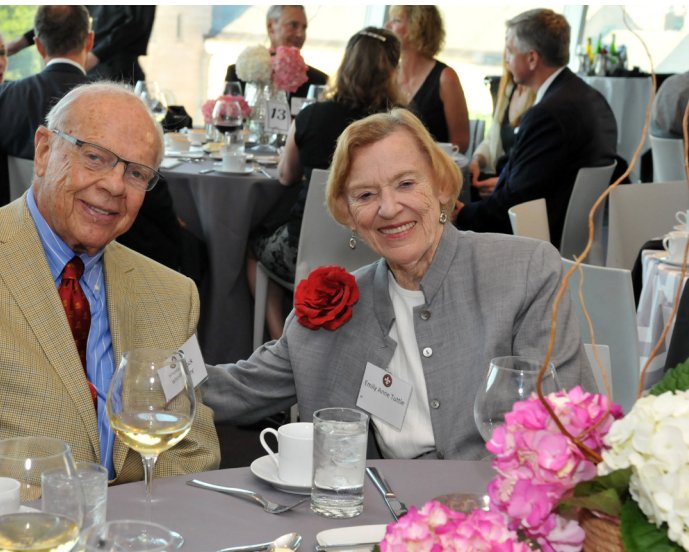
MEMBERS IN ACTION

2024 TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY Annual Dinner



(L to R) Rosa Malcka Miller and Robin Torgerson; Nancy Lindahl, Marilyn Nelson and Barbara Burwell; Kiera Fernandez with Desirae, Justin and Darby Butler; Annette Whaley, John Potter and Lauri Roberts; Jeanne Rudelius with Dana and Lori Klimp; Robin Torgerson and Cathy Muggee

SNAPSHOTS IN TIME





TOGETHER THROUGH THE YEARS

As the Greater Twin Cities United Way Tocqueville Society marks two decades of impact, let's look back on a few of our memorable moments together. From big celebrations like Tocqueville Society Annual Dinners to more intimate gatherings learning about United Way's work in community, every opportunity to come together is inspiring.

As philanthropic leaders, you are dedicated to solving our community's most significant challenges. Your collective generosity provides vital resources to meet urgent needs and make lasting change. Thank you for being part of this enthusiastic community. We look forward to another twenty years of impact together.

Past Tocqueville Society events: (clockwise from top left) Julie and Doug Baker, Jr. (2010); Ann Jackson, Dick and Judy Corson, Stacy and Matt Bogart, Deborah Hanson, Barbara Burwell and Jon Campbell (2024); Dave Goodwin and Steve Kumagai (2009); Jeff and Terri Greiner with Linda Brody (2012); Dave Kvamme with Kevin and Nancy Rhein (2013); John and Nancy Lindahl (2015); Tom Crosby and Jerry O'Brien (2011); John and Leslie Turner (2009); Wheelock Whitney and Emily Anne Tuttle (2013)



IN MEMORIAM

BOB BUUCK

Lifelong Visionary Remembered for Quiet Philanthropic Leadership

The Tocqueville Society remembers with gratitude entrepreneur and philanthropist, Bob Buuck. The son of Lutheran missionaries and the visionary co-founder of American Medical Systems (AMS), Bob exemplified a steadfast devotion to his family, friends, colleagues and community throughout his life.

He and his wife, Gail, raised three children in the Twin Cities while he was building one of Minnesota's most successful medical device companies. Together, they shared a passion for this community and quietly supported many local philanthropic endeavors over the years.

Their support of Greater Twin Cities United Way goes back decades, beginning with workplace giving campaigns at AMS, annual giving, early support of Screen at Three, and the establishment of the Buuck Family Early Childhood Education Endowment. Their most recent gift of \$30 million to United Way will be transformational for our community. This incredible act of generosity will accelerate the impact of our work serving children and families for years to come by supporting our nonprofit partners and our new innovative solutions working to address barriers to success in the areas of early childhood education, housing, food security and jobs.

Bob passed away on January 4 after a valiant battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Though we'll miss his wit and wisdom, his tremendous legacy of compassion endures. We extend our deepest sympathy to his beloved wife, Gail, and their family and friends.

Photo courtesy of University of Minnesota



DOROTHY KIRK

Remembering 100 Years of Kindness and Generosity

The Tocqueville Society and Tocqueville Legacy Circle mourn the loss of centenarian, philanthropist and friend, Dorothy Kirk. A fiercely independent woman who cared deeply for our community, Dorothy believed in doing good work for people.

She was a lifelong Minnesotan and a devoted Vikings fan who watched every game. She attended the University of Minnesota for two years before moving to California to complete her degree and begin her career as a teacher for the deaf – ultimately, returning home to follow in her mother's footsteps by teaching at the Minnesota School for the Deaf. She also worked at Dayton's department store as an assistant buyer in the children's department.

An avid volunteer who took great pleasure in being able to help others, Dorothy helped transport patients at Fairview Southdale Hospital for nearly 40 years and was a frequent volunteer with the Minnesota Orchestra and the Guthrie Theater. Recently, she enjoyed selling bingo cards every Friday evening at her home, 7500 York Place.

When asked why she gave to organizations like Greater Twin Cities United Way, Dorothy shared that so many people are hurting, and she wanted to help. She was pleased that as a single woman, she was able to invest wisely and give back to her community. She also enjoyed attending many charity events, like the Legacy Society Appreciation Luncheon and Tocqueville Society Annual Dinner each year and getting to know other donors.

Dorothy passed away peacefully on March 25, one day short of her 100th birthday. Her kindness, generosity and friendship touched countless lives, and she will be greatly missed. We extend our sympathy to her cherished nieces, nephews and cousins, as well as the many friends she leaves behind.



CREATE ENDURING IMPACT

We are immensely grateful to our Tocqueville Legacy Circle members who have chosen to include a future gift in their will or named Greater Twin Cities United Way as a beneficiary of a retirement account, life insurance policy, or a donor-advised fund. By remembering us in your will or estate plans, you are leaving a generational legacy that will benefit individuals and families for years to come. To learn more about the United Way Legacy Society, contact Linne Lemke.

Linne Lemke, CFRE

Planned Giving Officer | Greater Twin Cities United Way
(612) 340-7434 or linne.lemke@gtcuw.org

YOUR 2025 TOCQUEVILLE CABINET

Mike and Morgan Doyle, Chairs

Partner, Kenwood Commercial
Senior Buyer, Target

TiAnna Anderson

Messaging Strategist and Copywriter,
Anderson Innovative Marketing Founder
Ready Set AIM Summit

Teddy Bekele

Chief Technology Officer,
Land O'Lakes

Aimee Norasingh

Director, Office of the CEO,
Optum Health

Anna Picchetti

Vice President of Marketing
and Strategy, Uponor North America

John Potter

Partner | PwC

Lauri Roberts

Community Leader

Jeanne Rudelius

Senior Vice President and
Head of Loan Capital Markets,
U.S. Bank

Steve VanRoekel

Independent Advisor

Keith Waxelman

Venture Partner and Generator
President, WAX Enterprises



Your 2025 Greater Twin Cities United Way Tocqueville Society cabinet, from left: Teddy Bekele, Mike Doyle (chair), Aimee Norasingh, Lauri Roberts, TiAnna Anderson, Steve VanRoekel, John Potter, and (not pictured) Morgan Doyle, Anna Picchetti, Jeanne Rudelius and Keith Waxelman.

FORMER CABINET CHAIRS

John & Nancy Lindahl 2005

Richard & Theresa Davis 2006

Jeff & Terri Greiner 2007

Nick Burke, Sue Slattery-Burke 2008-09

John & Trudy Wilgers 2010

Jerry & Lisa O'Brien 2011-12

Sara Sternberger & Howard Epstein 2013

Stacy & Matt Bogart 2014-15

John Potter 2016-18

Chris Burque 2019-20

Lauri Roberts 2021-22

TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY SPONSORS





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!