VOL XIII | Fall 2026

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.



Greater Twin Cities UNITED WAY | TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



LIGHTING THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL

Reflecting on this season of gratitude, I'm inspired by countless everyday acts of kindness by Minnesotans during a tough year. Along with many others, I was quite moved by our theme, "Luminaries: Uniting for a Brighter Twin Cities," at the Tocqueville Society annual dinner. As guests lit their LED lanterns at inspirational moments, the room filled with a hopeful glow – a powerful reminder of our impact together.

In a year that brought significant challenges, I am grateful to each of you for showing up as **luminaries** for one another and the entire community. As Tocqueville Society members and philanthropic leaders, our collective support lights a path for others and enables Greater Twin Cities United Way to make a meaningful impact when our neighbors need it most.

Together, we supported mental health resources for students and staff following the tragedy at Annunciation Catholic School. Then, when a federal government shutdown delayed SNAP benefits, we helped address emergency food needs. And when Operation Metro Surge impacted our region, we contributed to the launch of the Community Response Fund to help move resources into community quickly to meet immediate needs.

Many of us also came together to volunteer in recent months. In May, following the Legacy Society Appreciation Tea and Social, we packed supplies to support the wellbeing of local children, families, and educators. In June, we distributed food alongside our partners at NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center. Finally in August, Tocqueville Society members joined more than a thousand volunteers at Allianz Field to pack over 55,000 backpacks full of school supplies for local students during Action Day 2026. We look forward to additional opportunities in 2027 for Tocqueville members to connect and volunteer together.

I'm also thankful for occasions that allow us to gather and celebrate our community impact. When I look at all the smiling faces in photos on the following pages, I see luminaries coming together to support our shared vision of a community where all people thrive. It is times like these when your light shines brightest and serves as a beacon of hope for our community, and I personally am grateful we are in a position to help others

Thank you for all that you have done this year to build community among ourselves and for the Greater Twin Cities. I wish joy and good health for you and your families. We look forward to seeing you at future events and appreciate your continued generosity.

With gratitude,

Keith

Keith Waxelman
Tocqueville Society Cabinet Chair



Guests raise LED lanterns as Shannon Smith Carter reflects on the luminaries among us during the 2026 Tocqueville Society annual dinner.



Marilyn Carlson Nelson (right) congratulates Gail Buuck (left) as she accepts the 2026 Tocqueville Lifetime Achievement Award.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 19
Give to the Max Day
Support Greater Twin Cities United Way during Give to the Max Day.

JANUARY 18 AND 21
Home for Good Volunteer Activity
Join us as we volunteer to assemble Home Essentials Packs to help ease housing costs for local families. Space is limited. Email Chris.Woodlee@gtcuw.org to sign up.

Can't join us to volunteer in-person? Volunteer at home with your family and friends to provide household essentials, like cleaning supplies, hygiene products and more. Scan the QR code to learn more.

FEBRUARY 11
211 Day on the Hill
Join Greater Twin Cities United Way and our fellow United Ways of Minnesota as we celebrate the Minnesota 211 helpline – and call for lawmakers to support new investments in this vital statewide referral service.

APRIL 6
Advocacy for Children Day
Join Greater Twin Cities United Way and our childcare allies to advocate for policies and investments in support of Minnesota's youngest learners.

VOLUNTEERING AT NORTHPOINT HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER







(L to R) Lauri Roberts with John Wilgers; Shirley Boyd and Jeanne Rudelius; TiAnna Anderson and Keith Waxelman

INNOVATION IN ACTION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THRIVE?



We talk a lot about our shared vision of a community where all people thrive, regardless of income, race or place. “Thrive” is not a vague concept for us, but a condition we can define, measure and help create.

You might be surprised to learn that in the Greater Twin Cities, 35% of our neighbors are not making ends meet, often despite working full time. As rising costs have outpaced earnings, necessities like food, housing and childcare are increasingly out of reach.

Recently, we shared The State of ALICE in Minnesota: 2026 Update on Financial Hardship, which reveals that a quarter of these households earn less than the federal poverty level (FPL), but most are what we call **ALICE®** (**A**sset-**L**imited, **I**ncome-**C**onstrained, **E**mployed). ALICE households earn more than the FPL and too much to qualify for many types of assistance but not enough to make ends meet.

Costs of living vary widely across Minnesota. ALICE data breaks down what it takes for local families to survive in each county. The ALICE survival budget considers the real cost of basic needs such as housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care and the basic technology to connect with work, school and community.

ALICE households work hard every day, make difficult financial choices and still struggle to achieve financial stability. To move beyond persistent financial hardship, families must earn enough to consistently meet their basic needs, plus manage emergencies and save for the future. This is what we mean when we say “thriving.”

Supporting everyone in our region to advance above the ALICE threshold is core to achieving our vision of a thriving community. Because of your generous support, we invest in stable housing, food security, children’s developmental and educational success, and family-supporting career pathways for adults. All of which are essential so families have foundational support while they work toward increased earnings.

Get to Know ALICE

Scan the QR code to learn more

Thank you for helping make the Greater Twin Cities a thriving community where all belong. When more of our neighbors experience improved financial, health and academic outcomes it benefits us all, leading to a stronger more productive regional economy. Together, we’re building a community where everyone has the opportunity and resources they need to thrive.

With gratitude,

John A. Wilgers
President and CEO

MEMBERS IN ACTION

MILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

In August we welcomed and recognized individuals whose extraordinary generosity is helping create lasting impact across our community.









(L to R) Trudy Wilgers with John Muggee and John Wilgers; Shannon Smith Carter and Kristina Salkowski with David and Laura Newinski; Gail Buuck with Cathy Muggee and Shirley Boyd; Paul and Jean Mooty, John Estall and Shirley Boyd, Gail Buuck, Laura and David Newinski, Cathy and John Muggee



Earlier this year, we welcomed the Ella P. and Thomas Crosby family as members. Back Row (standing, L to R): Robert Crosby, Teri Crosby, David Crosby and Lucy Crosby Mitchell Front Row (seated, L to R) Eleanor Crosby Winston, Ellie Crosby and Mary Crosby Dolan

COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKERS

EARLY GIVING GROWS INTO A LIFELONG PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIP

For more than 25 years, Tocqueville Society members David and Laura Newinski have championed the work of Greater Twin Cities United Way through generous financial support, executive leadership and hands-on volunteer service. What began as contributions to our organization through workplace giving campaigns has grown into a lifelong philanthropic partnership.

Laura shares that the family's philanthropy is guided by a simple philosophy, "When we're blessed with a little, we should give a little, and when we're blessed with a lot, we should give a lot."

Their approach to charitable giving is grounded in shared Midwestern roots. David is a lifelong Minnesotan and Laura grew up in small town Iowa and moved to the Twin Cities after college. As a young married couple, they resolved to give a percentage of their financial resources, time and abilities back to the community.

"We lived on earnings and we gave from earnings. We didn't give from assets because we didn't have any. And how we decided to give changed how we lived. It wasn't until much later that we were able to think about giving from assets," said Laura.

A profound sense of community and a steadfast commitment to social responsibility guided their decision to support United Way. Before retiring as deputy chair and CEO of KPMG US, Laura's career took her to communities worldwide. These experiences reinforced her belief in the uniqueness of Minneapolis's business leadership and its strong connection to community support through United Way.

"In Minnesota, we believe our community extends beyond our small intersection, which felt very connected to our shared beliefs. Recognizing our part in something bigger – as individuals, companies or small towns – shaped our sense of belonging in the Twin Cities," said Laura.

As a golf course designer, transforming natural landscapes into beautiful, welcoming public spaces, David uses design to foster connection, bring diverse groups of people together, and strengthen the social fabric of local neighborhoods.



Laura and David Newinski

Their connection to United Way and the community grew over time, from attending workplace campaign events and learning about the organization's impact to becoming involved at the executive level and seeing how it evolved to meet changing community needs.

An opportunity for Laura to serve on the evaluation committee for our multiyear Community Investments grantmaking further cemented the couple's confidence in Greater Twin Cities United Way.

"The experience of reviewing grant proposals and deciding which to fund, furthered my sense of excellence in United Way's process for helping organizations improve by providing valuable feedback and using resources most effectively," said Laura.

Motivated by their own experiences as parents and what they saw as underperforming middle schools in our state, the couple gave a restricted gift of $500,000 to support innovation initiatives in education and youth programming. Laura and David's thoughtful support of our work in education has opened doors of opportunity for young people facing immense barriers.

"When you support education, you're supporting people's capabilities and self-reliance and ability to also contribute themselves," said Laura.

At the same time, believing that meeting basic human needs is a part of social responsibility – something we are all responsible for – the couple continues to support our work to ensure everyone has stable housing, nutritious food, opportunities to learn and careers that support our families

Recently, the couple was welcomed into our Million Dollar Roundtable, marking a truly remarkable philanthropic commitment to our community.

"Getting to a million dollars was never our goal," said Laura. "It was the result of consistently meeting our annual giving goals and responding to community needs."

Over time, their approach to supporting our work expanded from annual giving based on earnings to long-term giving through assets, estate planning and a family donor-advised fund.

To help manage the shift from giving primarily out of annual earnings to giving from assets, the family has created a donor-advised fund (DAF). The DAF will also be used as a vehicle for multi-generational giving, combining annual grants with long-term estate planning. Together, Laura, Dave, and their adult children and their spouses, make decisions and direct funds to organizations they care about.

Rather than letting the funds accumulate and sit idle, the family has established a minimum annual amount to distribute from the fund – ensuring ongoing impact for our community.

We've made it easy to give from your DAF directly on our website. Simply visit gtcuw.org/daf, click on Donate with DAFpay, select your DAF provider, sign in and submit your grant request.

Laura said of the family's use of a DAF, "It's not set and done. It's... on a journey."

Dave and Laura hope the Twin Cities will build on its history of civic cooperation and become a national leader in addressing shared priorities such as health, education and care for vulnerable people. They continue to support Greater Twin Cities United Way because they believe in our ability to connect people, resources and solutions in support of our shared vision of a community where all people thrive.

"It doesn't matter where inside the United Way we look; we find consistency. And that gives us a lot of confidence," said Laura.

MEMBERS IN ACTION

TOCQUEVILLE TOGETHER













(L to R) Jean Mooty with Lamar Anderson, Kevin and Nancy Rhein; Jim and Betsy Engelking; Gail Buuck with Barbara Swain and Jack and Gretchen Stratton; Mike Doyle, Paul Mooty and Morgan Doyle; Justin Butler, Jim Zappa and Rani Murdoch Zappa; John Whaley and Jim Adams

ACTION DAY 2026















(L to R) Kristina Salkowski with Marcia and Don Trevarthen; Courtney Richardson; Cathy Muggee; Tocqueville Society volunteers; Dana Klimp and Mike Doyle; Melissa Perttula; Courtney, Keith, Skye and Copper Richardson

MAKING AN IMPACT TODAY… AND TOMORROW

We're so thankful to our Tocqueville Legacy Circle members who have decided to include a future gift in their will or named Greater Twin Cities United Way as a beneficiary of their retirement account, life insurance policy or donor-advised fund. Your thoughtful planning will leave a meaningful legacy of impact in our community.

This spring, we celebrated these donors during the Legacy Society tea and social at The Minneapolis Club. Members got to mingle and learn more about our work through a program led by our board chair, Stacy Bogart. John Wilgers shared an update on United Way, and Kyle Cooper, executive director of Rise Early Learning Center, shared how support through our 80x3 initiative is making a real difference in their early childhood work.

After the social, guests were invited to participate in a volunteer activity packing snack packs, family activity packs and gratitude boxes for early childhood providers. The packs were distributed to families at Rise Early Learning Center where they made an immediate impact in our community. And the gratitude boxes will be distributed to our early childhood partner agencies to show appreciation for all the ways they show up for community.

To learn more about how you can make a lasting impact with planned gift, please contact director of planned giving, Linne Lemke, CFRE, at 612-340-7434 or linne.lemke@gtcuw.org.

LEGACY SOCIETY APPRECIATION TEA & SOCIAL











(L to R) Gail Buuck, Cathy and John Muggee, John Turner; Trudy Wilgers; Stacy Bogart; Jim Engelking; Bob Olafson

YOUR 2026 TOCQUEVILLE CABINET

Keith Waxelman, Chair

TiAnna Anderson
Messaging Strategist and Copywriter

Mike Doyle
Partner, Kenwood Commercial

Aimee Norasingh
Senior Director, Optum Health

Anna Picchetti
Vice President of Marketing and Strategy, Uponer North America

John Potter
Partner, PwC

Lauri Roberts
Community Leader

Jeanne Rudelius
Community Leader

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
Mike & Morgan Doyle 2023-2025

TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY SPONSOR

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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