

Omaha World-Herald

# Goodfellows

In Partnership with United Way of the Midlands

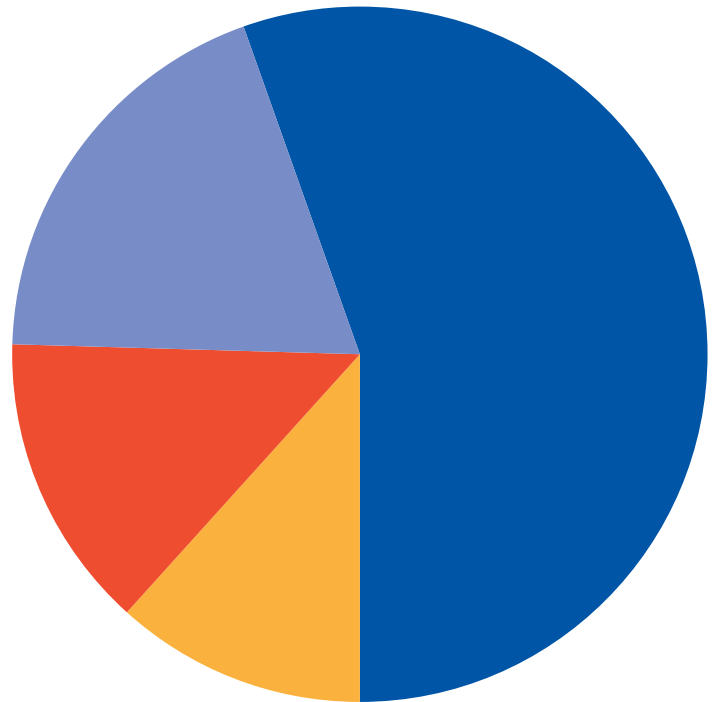
Thanks to the generosity and support of everyone who donated to Goodfellows in the last fiscal year, you helped us raise nearly \$980,000 to help those in need. Your generosity is truly making an impact in thousands of lives throughout Nebraska and the Council Bluffs metro area.

emergency assistance programs **51%**

food banks and youth services **18%**

holiday food vouchers **17%**

shoes and clothing funds **14%**



More than **2,865** Families

**72%** for utilities aid

**28%** for housing support



**1,400** holiday meals for local families



**60,000** meals for individuals in need



Shoes, coats, and clothing for more than **300** school-age children

Purchased **71,440** diapers which provided a monthly supplement to **1,100** children

## GOODFELLOWS COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Omaha Housing Authority



# TO FURTHER INSPIRE YOU

Here are a few clips from beautiful stories, written by OWH reporters Betsie Freeman and Nancy Gaarder, that highlight the impact your donations have, and the many reasons people donate to Goodfellows.

“Each holiday season for years, Jolinda “Joey” Loth read stories about The World-Herald’s Goodfellows charity in the newspaper. They were interesting, often heartwarming. But they were remote, she said. They didn’t relate to her personal life. ‘I was always in a position to help others,’ she said, not the one who needed help. Then, in 2013, Goodfellows became her story.

That year, Loth, then 50, learned she had Stage 3 colon cancer. She also had three sons, two still at home. As she started treatment – which meant time off from her nearly new job with no health insurance – she worried about rent and other necessities. ‘I had a gut feeling I would be OK, but I didn’t now how my kids would be,’ she said. Goodfellows, she said, was a game changer. The agency paid her rent for a month, easing her most pressing problem, and she was featured in a long story in the Sunday World-Herald. The aid, and the article that grew out of it, were the catalyst for a cascade of help.

...The article, in November 2013, gave her a support system beyond family and close friends. ‘It took the weight off my shoulders,’ she said.

...Loth said she could never repay all the generosity she received from Goodfellows to the anonymous checks. So she tries to pay it forward. She volunteers with Partnership for Kids and looks for opportunities to talk to people who are facing similar health problems.

...At a checkup in October, her oncologist used the phrase every cancer patient years to hear: ‘You don’t have to come back.’ ‘I’m stronger than I’ve ever been,’ she said.

– OWH, November 21, 2021

“Reports of job losses and housing woes during the pandemic were a call to action for Omahan Susan Beeghly. She had contributed to The World-Herald’s Goodfellows charity in previous years, so she was familiar with its primary purpose...Always before she gave smaller gifts – ‘\$100, \$75,’ she said. But last year, she wanted to make a more substantial difference.

‘I thought, people right now will really be needing that extra,’ she said. She and her husband, Weyland, who died in 2015, had purchased a fair amount of stock. She figured she could help a lot of people if she donated it directly to Goodfellows.” ‘...It was the first time I gave such a big donation – just because of the need and (because) I was able to...This was a big year just because of circumstances,’ she said. ‘These people are going to lose their housing, and that’s not good.’ She’s a staunch supporter of The World-Herald’s 120-year charity. ‘...We’ve gotta get more people to give to Goodfellows,’ she said.”

– OWH, November 28, 2021

“...Many donors give year after year, some to honor or remember loved ones, some in thanksgiving for blessings and some just because they believe in the Goodfellows mission. And many, like Roland “Red” Timmerman of Beatrice, Nebraska, are examples of all three. In 2016, Timmerman, then 86, gave \$52 in gratitude for a Goodfellows care package he received as a soldier in Seoul, Korea. ‘Dear Friends, in 1952 I was in Korea (combat zone). You sent me a great care package. Great gift! Thanks,’ he wrote in a note accompanying his donation. This year, he gave \$69 because it had been 69 years since he received the package. Now 91, he still remembers that the box held candy, cookies and other goodies and that he shared it with four buddies and an orphaned child ‘adopted’ by some of the soldiers.

...‘The money goes to those who need it most,’ he said in a recent interview. ‘And I needed that care package bad.’”

– OWH, January 9, 2022