

Valley Outreach Highlights

Delivering Kindness: Growing Our Fleet We recently purchased a brand-new refrigerated truck, appropriately named Haulin' Oats by the community. Haulin' Oats allows us to safely distribute temperature-sensitive items and transport frozen and refrigerated food from grocery stores without time or temperature concerns. We've also welcomed a new van to our fleet, helping us move food more efficiently and extend our reach. Together, these vehicles strengthen our ability to move food quickly, safely, and reliably.

2026 Stillwater Human Rights Award Valley Outreach received the 2026 Stillwater Human Rights Award, recognizing our commitment to serving the community with dignity, equity, and the belief in the value of every person. As a community-powered organization, we worked alongside donors, volunteers, students, schools, churches, and community organizations to provide critical support during Operation Metro Surge. We're grateful for the trust the community placed in us and for the many people who came together to make this response possible.

Celebrating 100 SuperShelf Sites SuperShelf has reached an incredible milestone with 100 certified sites across Minnesota! As the very first SuperShelf site, we have had the privilege of watching this idea grow into a statewide movement. The SuperShelf approach helps food shelves increase access to nutritious foods while creating a more dignified, client-centered experience. SuperShelf practices continue to inspire food shelves across Minnesota and create more empowering experiences for the people they serve.

Learn more about SuperShelf at extension.umn.edu/supershelf.

Valley Outreach

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Please check our website for the most current donation and service hours.



Kindness in Action



Valley Outreach Impact Update August 2026





Donor Spotlight

Turning Retirement Savings Into Community Impact

Giving back doesn't always look the same from one season of life to the next. For many retirees, thoughtful charitable planning offers an opportunity to support the causes they care about while making the most of their retirement savings.

Doug and Mary Louise Menikheim chose to make their IRA a source of community impact through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to Valley Outreach. By giving through their IRA, the Menikheims help support Valley Outreach programs while receiving valuable tax benefits.

"Donating through QCDs maximizes our giving, yields the best tax benefits, and is easier than writing a check," the Menikheims said.

A QCD is one option available to individuals age 70½ or older who want to support charitable organizations directly from their IRA. Rather than receiving a required minimum distribution as taxable income and then making a donation separately, a QCD allows the gift to go directly to a nonprofit and provides valuable tax advantages.

For the Menikheims, this approach reflects something bigger than a financial decision—it reflects their commitment to strengthening the community they call home.

"We give to Valley Outreach because of the commitment, camaraderie, and hard work of community volunteers serving neighbors with unmet needs," said the Menikheims. "Valley Outreach is a superbly well-run organization that we feel good supporting."

Gifts made through qualified charitable distributions provide Valley Outreach with important support that helps sustain programs and services throughout the year. Whether it's helping stock the food shelf, providing clothing through StyleXchange, or supporting people as they navigate unexpected challenges, every gift helps create a stronger community.

We are grateful to Doug and Mary Louise for their generosity and for choosing to make an impact through tax-efficient giving. Their story is a reminder that thoughtful planning can create lasting change—not only for donors, but for the people who rely on Valley Outreach every day.

Interested in learning more about qualified charitable distributions? Talk with your financial advisor to see if a QCD may be a fit for your charitable goals.

To make a gift through your IRA, recommend a gift to:
Valley Outreach | Federal ID #: 41-1452973

Questions? Contact **Debbie Kanda**
at Debbie.kanda@valleyoutreachmn.org or **651-342-5569**.

You're Invited!

Style Madness – September 2 | 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Style Madness is back this September! Join us for an evening of fashion, fun, and connection as guests shop StyleXchange, create their own unique outfits, and compete for prizes. With appetizers, mocktails, and plenty of opportunities to connect, it's the perfect way to kick off the back-to-school season while supporting Valley Outreach.



Ready to join the fun? Scan the QR code or visit valleyoutreach.info/StyleMadness to purchase your tickets today. We can't wait to see you there!

