Valley Outreach Highlights

Maximize Your Impact with Our $175,000 Challenge Match We're kicking off the year-end giving season with a $175,000 Challenge Match! Thanks to a group of generous anonymous donors, your gift can go even further in supporting the people who access our programs. Our goal is to triple the $175,000, and every donation helps move us closer. Ready to make an even bigger impact? Visit **valleyoutreach.info/give** to donate.

Food Pop-Ups Expand Access to Nutritious Food At Valley Outreach, we believe everyone deserves access to nutritious food. For some community members, barriers such as transportation, disability, or lack of awareness can make access difficult. This summer, we launched a food pop-up program at carefully selected locations where barriers can be significant, bringing fresh, nutritious food closer to home. After three pop-ups, we've served approximately 62 new households and distributed 1,829 pounds of food, with Client Support Services staff on site to connect residents with additional resources. By meeting people where they are, we're creating more accessible and welcoming ways for people to get the food and support they need.

Investing in a Brighter Future Earlier this year, we announced our plans to bring solar power to Valley Outreach. We're excited to share the panels are officially installed—helping us take another step toward a more sustainable future. We believe caring for the community also means being thoughtful about how we use our resources and how we prepare for the future. This investment will help reduce our environmental impact and bring greater predictability to our energy costs, strengthening Valley Outreach so we can continue directing our time and resources towards people and programs.

Valley Outreach

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Valley Outreach Impact Update

November 2026

Donor Spotlight

When the Community Shows Up

Everyone should have somewhere to turn when life gets difficult. When people come together to help, they can ensure support is there when it's needed most.

That belief was put to the test last November, when SNAP benefits were disrupted due to the 43-day federal government shutdown. For many families, grocery budgets were already stretched thin, and the disruption made it even harder to afford food and other essentials they needed.

Nancy Zimmerman saw an opportunity to help.

"I know hunger is an issue in Stillwater," Nancy said. "When SNAP benefits were disrupted, I wanted to help people who were facing uncertainty put food on the table."

Nancy made her first gift to Valley Outreach that November. Support from donors, like Nancy, enabled Valley Outreach to distribute 583 Food-to-Go bags during the SNAP disruption and host our first ever Holiday Distribution event, providing immediate food support for the community. For Nancy, that first gift was just the beginning.

She has continued giving monthly ever since, including through Operation Metro Surge, which brought fear and uncertainty to all of Minnesota. Valley Outreach expanded food delivery to all of Washington County—increasing deliveries tenfold compared with all of 2025.

Our fast response was possible because people across the community came together. Community food donations increased 73% over the prior year. Volunteer applications increased 200% in January as more people stepped forward to help. Organizations and community partners shared resources and connections. Staff adapted services to meet changing needs, while clients navigated circumstances with resilience. Thanks to the generosity of two local foundations, the Community Response Fund also provided 130 households with rental assistance, with an average payment of $2,830 per household. Each played a role in responding to an unprecedented period of need.

For Nancy, giving is about more than responding to a particular moment. It's also personal.

"I continue to give because I have family members who have turned to Valley Outreach for food and other support," Nancy said. "We never know what life might bring or when we might find ourselves needing help."

Nancy's generosity is one example of how people show up for one another during difficult times. Alongside the efforts of donors, volunteers, staff, and community partners, her support helps Valley Outreach remain a place people can turn when they need help.

Interested in learning more about ways to support Valley Outreach? Contact Debbie Kanda at debbie.kanda@valleyoutreachmn.org or 651-342-5569.