

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Neenah-Menasha
Emergency Society
A local need. Answered.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

It's that time of year when we present the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society's annual report. This document highlights all our accomplishments from the past year. We are grateful to our members and to everyone in our community who support us in achieving our goals. The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society has been helping Winnebago County for over 117 years. Last year, we assisted 2,963 individuals.

We are grateful that we can typically respond to requests for assistance within a few days. Our organization is comprised of 32 dedicated members who work together to meet the NMES vision. This includes delivering meals, serving meals, preparing children for school, keeping children warm during winter, and helping families with emergency needs—all of which are highlighted in this annual report.

This year marked our 16th annual Kitchen Tour, our only fundraiser. Once again, it was a huge success, thanks to the generous homeowners who opened their beautiful homes to us and to the community of businesses eager to be part of this fantastic event. Supporters enjoy participating in and supporting NMES, and they often share their enthusiasm with us. Even in the rain, people came and enjoyed a fun day. Through the generosity of donors, the Kitchen Tour fundraising efforts, grants, and individual donations, the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society can proudly support residents in need across our community.

We always look forward to meeting potential new members who want to help us become the best version of NMES. We are a small group of caring individuals who value our community and its residents. Our goal is to prevent homelessness by helping families meet their living expenses. Thanks again to everyone your continued support.

Sue Larson and Kris Rankin, Co-Presidents

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

The mission of the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society is to provide emergency resources to support residents of the Neenah-Menasha area who are unable to provide for their core needs.



Your generosity helps the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society provide critical emergency resources to residents in our community. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your donation is tax-deductible.

Scan a QR code to give securely via your preferred platform:



PayPal



NetGiver
(No platform fees—100% of
your gift goes to NMES!)

Prefer to mail a check? We gratefully accept donations by mail to
Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society, PO Box 744, Neenah, WI 54957-0744

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Emergency Assistance is a key cornerstone of the services provided by the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society. Our organization is considered the “last resort” for individuals and families needing help. We receive referrals from a wide array of agencies and non-profit groups throughout the community.

The number of referrals for assistance exploded in 2024-2025. We assisted a record number of 189 people, which is a 60% increase from the previous year. As expected, the funds spent to provide this assistance also saw a 60% increase. We are proud of our ability to be able to assist this many families, and for our agility to be able to respond within one to two business days.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (CONT.)

Our goal is to ensure, that with our help, no family will become homeless. As such, a lion's share of the money we provided during this period went toward paying rent for our clients. However, we also assisted with utility payments, car repairs, and in one case, we paid for the materials to build a wheelchair ramp.

Additionally, we provided bus passes to school counselors to distribute to students to ensure they are able to make it to school.



TESTIMONIALS

During our 2024-2025 fiscal year, NMES provided emergency assistance to 189 individuals across 48 households. This support helped cover rent, utilities, and urgent car repairs — easing burdens during some of life's most difficult moments. Behind each number is a neighbor facing hardship, and thanks to your generosity, each one found stability, relief, and hope.

The testimonials below offer just a glimpse into the lives forever impacted by your support:



"I am so teary eyed right now. I literally think that she is going to have a break down (but in a good way when she hears this)."

J.C.



"I wanted to reach out and say thank you SO MUCH for helping me and my family out by covering our rent for this month of January. Having that paid for saved us so much stress, especially right around the holidays. We all appreciate you so much, and thank you again!"

Happy New Year!"

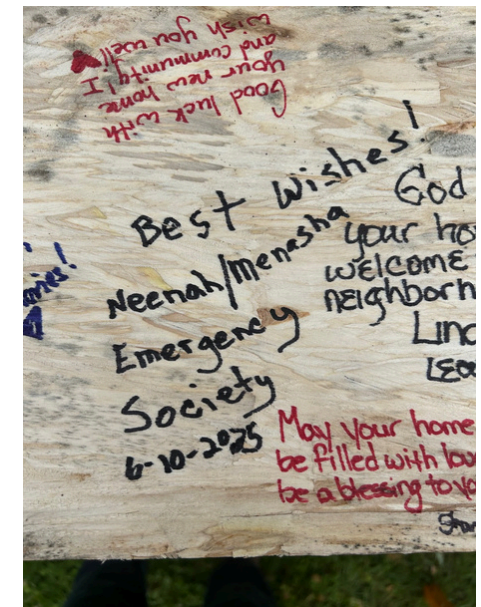
H.F.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASKFORCE

From the very beginning of NMES's existence in 1906, we have always been looking for ways to help meet the needs of our neighbors. In 2022, NMES, along with First United Methodist Church of Neenah, formed the Neenah-Menasha Affordable Housing Taskforce to address the lack of affordable and workforce housing in the Neenah-Menasha area. Later that year, the group purchased a duplex in the City of Menasha and donated it to Pillars who operates the duplex as part of their Stable Housing program.

In early 2024, the group again decided to assist with affordable housing, this time by donating the funds Habitat for Humanity needed to secure a lot in Neenah. In June of this year, we were excited to be part of the Beam Blessing, a tradition where volunteers write messages of hope, love, and encouragement on the structural beams of a new Habitat for Humanity home. We hope our contribution sets the family up for years of financial stability and helps them make beautiful memories in their new home.



KITCHEN TOUR 2025

Our 16th Annual Kitchen Tour, generously presented by Nicolet National Bank, was a truly memorable day filled with inspiration, creativity, and community spirit. Held on May 1, 2025, the tour welcomed nearly 900 guests into beautifully designed homes located in South Neenah. The event raised more than half of our annual program funding in a single day — a remarkable testament to the power of community.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, demonstrators, homeowners, donors, and attendees, this year's Kitchen Tour saw record-breaking success. Each stop on the tour came alive with activity, featuring local culinary and lifestyle experts offering demonstrations that delighted guests throughout the day.

For the first time this year, the Kitchen Tour included two exceptional barn properties with experiences that captured the spirit of the Kitchen Tour in an entirely new way. These awe-inspiring venues brought a fresh, dynamic energy to the event and offered guests unique, immersive experiences that beautifully showcased design, architecture, and our mission.

As always, the Kitchen Tour's success is thanks to the tireless work of our planning committee, who dove right back into preparations for the next event. Mark your calendars for the 17th annual Kitchen Tour on:



Thursday, April 23, 2026

You won't want to miss the opportunity to be inspired and to support NMES's mission to serve those most in need in our community. Visit nmesociety.org or follow us on Facebook to stay updated!

KITCHEN TOUR





2,102

**Backpacks distributed
at the 2024 Back to
School Fair**



120

**Students kept warm
through Caring for
Kids**



510

**Meals served at the
Community Table**

DID YOU KNOW?



**Neenah-Menasha
Emergency Society**
A local need. Answered.



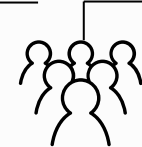
1,117

**Rogan's Shoes
certificates redeemed**



6,654

**Meals delivered
through Meals on
Wheels**



2,963

**Individuals helped by
NMES programs**

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR

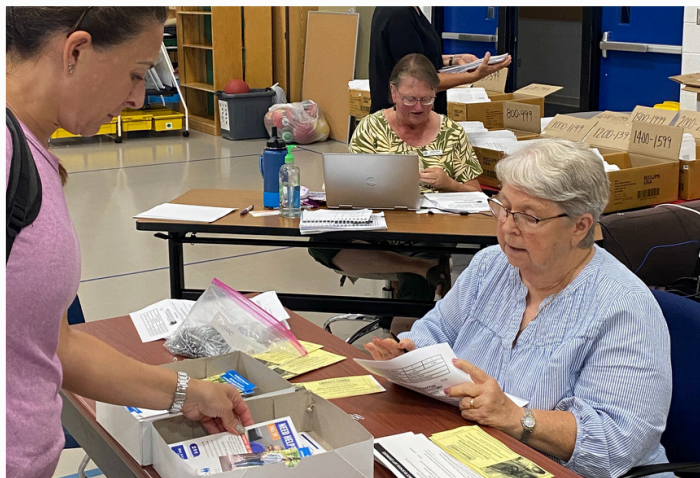
On August 7, 2024, the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society kicked off the 2024-2025 school year by hosting the 18th annual Back to School Fair (BTSF) at Gegan School in Menasha.

Students who are invited to the fair receive a backpack loaded with school supplies, as well as a \$40 voucher that can be used to purchase shoes at Rogan's Shoe Store and a gift certificate from St. Vincent de Paul. In 2024, over 2,100 backpacks were distributed to qualifying students. In addition, vouchers for over 1,110 pairs of shoes were redeemed.

We cannot thank our donors enough for their generous contributions. Without them, this desperately needed event would not be possible. We also need to thank the staff at Gegan School for allowing us to take over their gym for a week in August. Lastly, a hearty thank you to all the volunteers, including members' children, who fill and distribute the backpacks and vouchers.

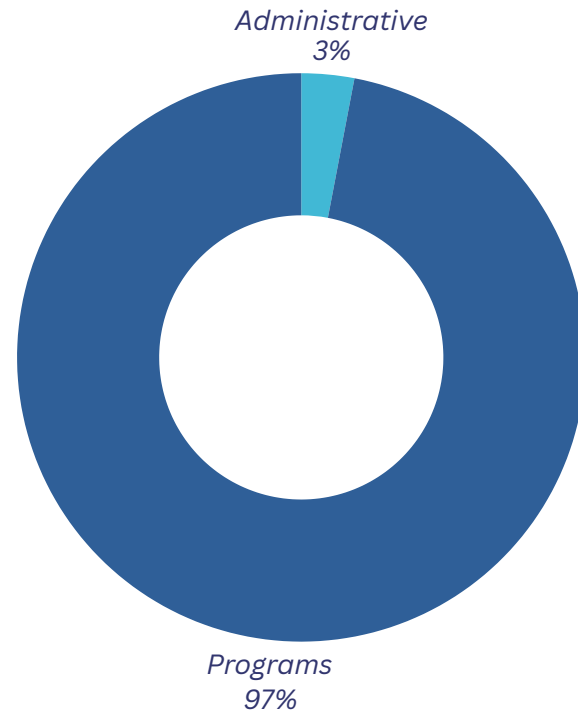


BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR (CONT.)



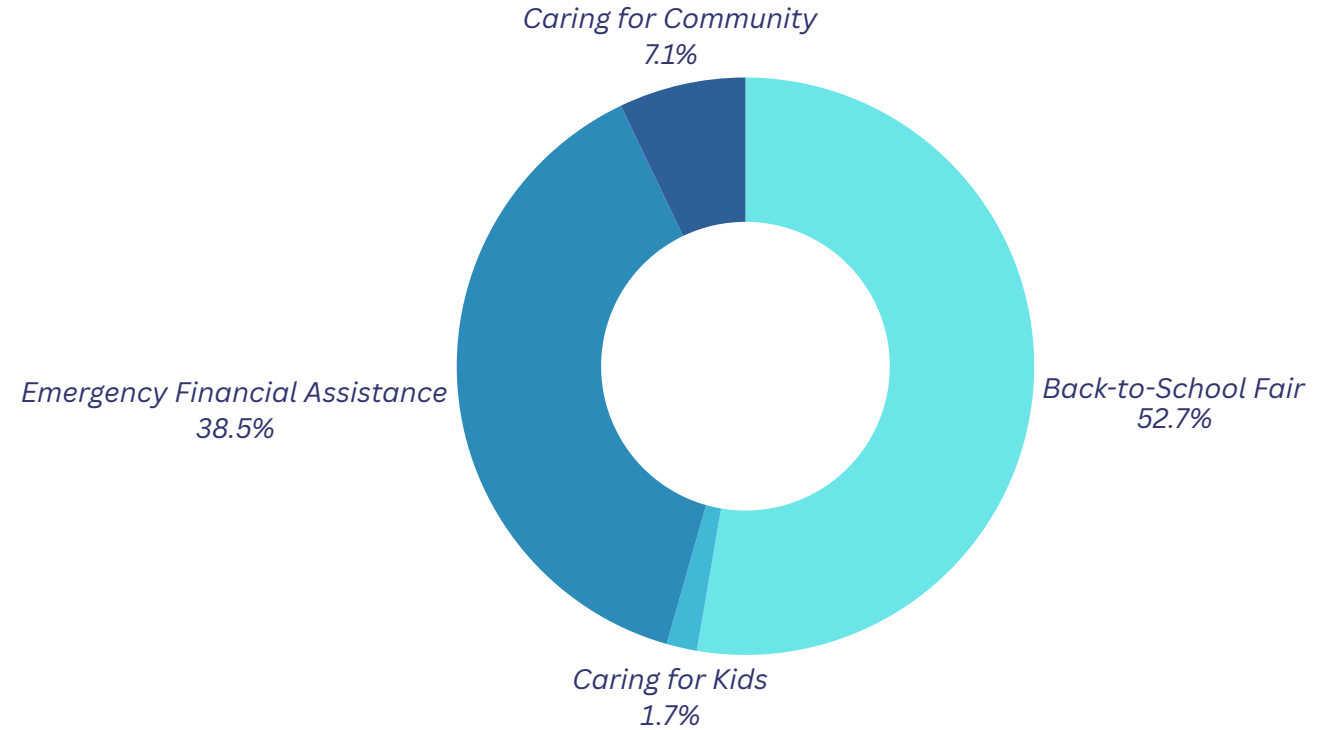
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Expenses by Function



In keeping with our mission, 97% of NMES funds (\$137,900) were directed toward programs serving the community, with just 3% allocated to administrative expenses.

Program Spending



The majority of program spending supported the Back-to-School Fair (52.7%) and Emergency Financial Assistance (38.5%), with additional investments in Caring for the Community (7.1%) and Caring for Kids (1.7%).

**CALL FOR
VOLUNTEERS!**



Together we are strong and are able to connect with more people who find themselves in need for different reasons. Thank you for supporting the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society. Your dollars make an impact on individuals and families throughout the Neenah-Menasha communities. For more information on NMES, visit our website at nmesociety.org. Stay connected by following us on Facebook or by signing up for our newsletter by emailing us at nmesociety@gmail.com.

CARING FOR KIDS

The NMES Caring for Kids program cares for our community by supporting families within the Neenah and Menasha school districts by providing everyday essentials. Support was provided to a total of 26 schools – both public and private.

Thanks to your generous support and donations to our organization, Caring for Kids was able to provide 36 winter jackets, 48 pairs of boots, as well as 36 pairs of snow pants. 120 people were helped with winter clothes this year. Donated items such as hats and mittens were also distributed throughout the community to keep families warm during the winter.

Moreover, Caring for Kids also provided over 380 students with ongoing school supplies, shoes, hygiene products, snacks, rain boots, bedding, water bottles, and clothes that were brought to schools to aid students and families throughout the school year.

SCHOLARSHIP



NMES remains dedicated to partnering with schools to empower students with potential and purpose. The NMES Scholarship Program provides up to \$2,500 in renewable tuition assistance to graduating seniors in Neenah and Menasha pursuing college, trade certification, or other continued education. It is designed for students who may not qualify for traditional academic awards but show resilience and a commitment to building a stable, successful future. More information can be found at nmesociety.org.

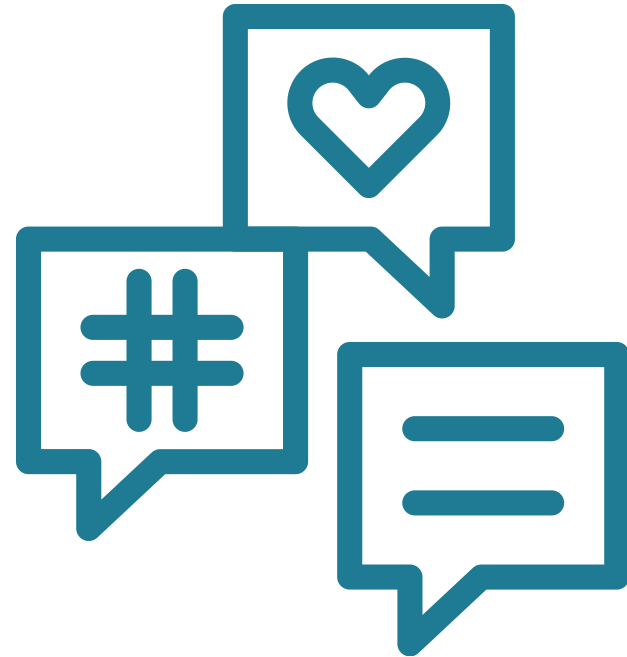
CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Caring for Community committee works alongside other organizations in our community to support residents who struggle with their basic needs. One organization that the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society supports is the Community Table and its effort to help those who are struggling with food insecurity. Meals are served every Tuesday and Saturday in the lower level of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neenah, and they are free to the public. This past year NMES served 510 lunches, which was a 41% increase from the previous year.

NMES has also been supporting the Valley VNA's Meals on Wheels program since 1966 to help provide hot, nutritious food to the elderly and home-bound in our community. A unique aspect of this program is that it caters to diet-specific needs. NMES financially subsidizes the cost of this meal program, and NMES members are amongst the community volunteers that deliver these meals each month. This past year 6,654 meals were served to 70 clients, averaging 26 meals per day, thanks to these volunteer efforts.

Lastly, NMES formed a new community relationship this year with HeadsUp Fox Cities, a nonprofit that supports young adults transitioning out of the foster care system by providing personalized guidance, life skills development, trust-based mentorship, housing assistance, and connections to resources—empowering them to thrive independently. Housing remains the most urgent challenge for HeadsUp Fox Cities participants, and HeadsUp has proudly introduced the development and pilot of a transitional housing program tailored to the needs of our program participants. We support them by providing each new participant with a welcome basket containing bedding (comforter, sheets, blanket, mattress pad), personal hygiene items, and laundry care items. This past year 14 welcome baskets were created.

NMES MEMBERS



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to see us out and about in the community, learn about our events and programs, and find ways for you and your family to get involved!

NMES MEMBERS

Sue Larson, Co-President
Kris Rankin, Co-President
Kaye Krueger, Vice President
Anastasia Horan, Treasurer
Betsy Wilson, Secretary

Marianne Alexander
Sharyl Borucki
Pat Bowen
Flo Bruno
Linda Caswell
Summer Ennis
Jess Fagan
Diane Ferraro
Amy Gaerthofner
Kay Halbrook
Jennifer Hein

Alex Hittle
Amanda Izquierdo
Mary Kelly
Christina Klinkhammer
Julie Last
Sunhi Lundeen
Stacey Manteufel
Leslie Mayer
Deb Matheny
Nicole Mertes
Holly Muggenthaler
Nicole Podojil
Christine Rondeau
Royal Rondeau
Casey Sullivan
Chris Wilharm

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Stephanie Emenecker and Joellyn Key for their dedicated service as active NMES members and warmly recognize them as they transition into their new roles as sustaining members this year.