2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society
A local need. Answered.

nmesociety.org

P.O. Box 744
Neenah, WI 54957-0744

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FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Before we share this year's report, we want to acknowledge something close to home. The tornado that tore through our community this summer touched lives in ways that will take time to fully understand. Some of you reading this are still sorting through what it left behind.

NMES has spent 120 years showing up for neighbors in moments exactly like this, when something unexpected upends a family's stability and they don't know where to turn. No one in this community has to face that alone.

None of our accomplishments would be possible without the unwavering support of our members, volunteers, donors, community partners, and friends. Last year alone, we provided assistance to 2,957 individuals in our community.

One of our greatest strengths is our ability to respond quickly to those in need, often within just a few days. Our 34 dedicated members work tirelessly to bring the NMES mission to life delivering meals, serving community dinners, preparing children for school, providing warm winter clothing, and helping families facing emergency situations. These efforts, and many more, are highlighted throughout this report.

None of it happens without resources, and this year our community delivered. The 17th Annual Kitchen Tour was an incredible success. We are deeply grateful to the generous homeowners who welcomed visitors into their beautiful homes, the local businesses that enthusiastically supported the event, and everyone who attended. This year's Menasha lakeside tour was filled with sunshine, community spirit, and record-breaking generosity.

Thanks to our donors, the Kitchen Tour's success, grant funding, and individual contributions, this year we helped close a funding gap for the Meals on Wheels program, contributed to a Habitat for Humanity build in Menasha, awarded two renewable scholarships, and provided funding to help maintain affordable housing rentals.

As we look ahead, we warmly welcome anyone who shares our passion for this work. Thank you for believing in our mission and for your continued generosity and support. Together we are building a stronger, more caring community.

Sharyl Borucki and Anastasia Horan
Co-Presidents

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

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.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

There is an ever-expanding need for emergency assistance in the Neenah and Menasha communities. With many families living paycheck to paycheck, one unforeseen expense can lead to a family being evicted from their home.

The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society has, as one of our cornerstone programs, an Emergency Assistance Program to assist these families. Families in need are referred to NMES through other organizations in the Fox Valley, including, but not limited to, LEAVEN, St. Vincent de Paul, Casa Esther, and various agencies within Winnebago County.

This past year, NMES was able to assist 48 families that consisted of a total of 153 people. Of the requests we received, almost 90% of the dollars distributed were to pay rent or make mortgage payments, ensuring families could remain in their homes.

In addition to assisting with rent, we occasionally assisted with utility bills and car repairs, as well as providing bus passes so students could get to school. We even provided winter gear for a mom and her young daughter.

HOW WE HELP

NMES exists for moments when a family has run out of options. Here's how our emergency assistance program works.

Who can we help?
Individuals and families living in the Neenah-Menasha area who are unable to meet a core need — things like rent, utilities, or other essentials that keep a household stable and safe.

What can we help with?
Rent and mortgage payments, utility bills, vehicle repairs, medical equipment, clothing, and necessary household items. We focus on needs that are urgent and that other resources haven't been able to cover.

How does a request get made?
Requests come through a referring agency — a school counselor, social worker, or nonprofit partner who is already working with the family. Individuals cannot self-refer.

How quickly do we respond?
For urgent situations, our board can review and vote within a day or two. That speed matters when a family is in crisis.

Know someone who needs help?
Connect them with a local referring agency, or reach out to us directly at nmesociety@gmail.com.

STORIES OF IMPACT

A car accident. A death in the family. A medical bill that wiped out the savings. The people NMES helps didn't plan to need us. Here are three stories from this past year.

When everything went wrong at once

A woman lost her sister unexpectedly and took custody of her two children. She'd also been dealing with health issues for months — bills piling up, income unsteady. She'd just started a new job and was trying to get back on her feet. Without help covering her car payment, she couldn't get to work. Casa Esther referred her to NMES. We covered the payment so she could keep the job she was counting on.

The battery that kept a life moving

A man came out of rehab after a partial leg amputation. Before his stay, he'd been homeless, living in his car. Now he had a place — but that same car wouldn't start. Without it, he couldn't look for work. Leaven and Casa Esther coordinated the tow. NMES covered a new battery. Three hundred and seventeen dollars kept one person's path to stability from stalling out.

One month between her and a fresh start

A woman was injured in a car accident that wasn't her fault. She'd been working, the accident stopped her cold, and she spent months drawing down her savings to cover rent. By April, the savings were gone. A full-time job — $25 an hour — was set to start in May. One month's rent stood in the way. Winnebago County HELP referred her to NMES. We covered April. She started her new job in May.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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 our area. That same year, the group purchased a duplex in the city of Menasha and donated it to Pillars, which operates the property as part of their Stable Housing program.

In early 2024, the Taskforce donated the funds Habitat for Humanity needed to secure a lot in Neenah. This past year, we were thrilled to learn that the family moved into their new home. Knowing that our contribution helped make that possible is exactly the kind of outcome that drives our work.

Looking ahead, NMES has committed to two new affordable housing investments. The first is a contribution to the Congregational United Church of Christ's Home 401 Fundraiser, in partnership with Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity. This home is planned for construction in 2027, and the partner organizations are currently identifying a lot. The second commitment supports Pillars Inc. with funds designated for rental property purchases within the Neenah-Menasha school boundaries, adding to the stock of affordable rentals available to families in our community.

These commitments reflect something that has been true of NMES since its founding: when our community has a need, we find a way to help.

KITCHEN TOUR

Our 17th Annual Kitchen Tour, generously presented by Nicolet National Bank, brought together hundreds of supporters along the scenic north shore of Lake Winnebago on Thursday, April 23, 2026. Guests toured a stunning collection of lakefront homes — each one uniquely designed, beautifully styled, and brought to life with culinary tastings, demonstrations, and raffle opportunities that made the day a true celebration of community.

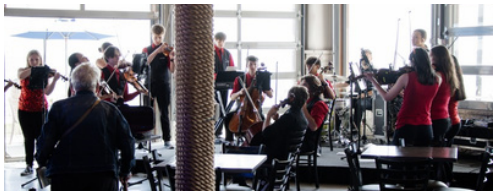
New this year, the Kitchen Tour introduced "Wellness on the Water" at Waverly Beach Bar & Grille, a lakeside hub where guests could relax, enjoy live music from the Touch of Class String Ensemble of Neenah High School, and attend the Fireside Wellness Chat series. Three sessions featured local health and wellness experts covering topics from longevity and nutrition to lifestyle medicine — a fresh addition that offered guests something to take home beyond design inspiration.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, demonstrators, homeowners, donors, and attendees, the event raised approximately $67,000 to support the work of NMES.

As always, the Kitchen Tour's success reflects the commitment of our members and the spirit of a community that shows up for its neighbors.

Visit nmesociety.org or follow us on Facebook to stay updated!

KITCHEN TOUR



2,095

Backpacks distributed at the 2025 Back to School Fair

150

Students kept warm through Caring for Kids

452

Meals served at the Community Table

1,152

Rogan's Shoes certificates redeemed

6,652

Meals delivered through Meals on Wheels

2,957

Individuals were helped by NMES programs

A LOCAL NEED, ANSWERED

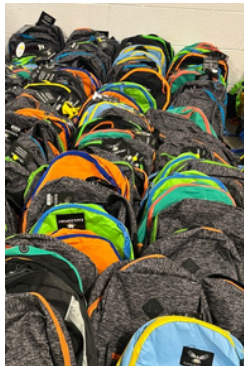
BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

On August 6, 2025, NMES kicked off the 2025-2026 school year by hosting the annual Back to School Fair (BTSF) at Gegan Elementary School in Menasha. At the BTSF, qualifying students receive a backpack filled with grade-appropriate school supplies. In addition, each student receives a $40 voucher that can be used to purchase a pair of shoes at the Shoe Station at Rogan's as well as a gift certificate from St. Vincent de Paul.

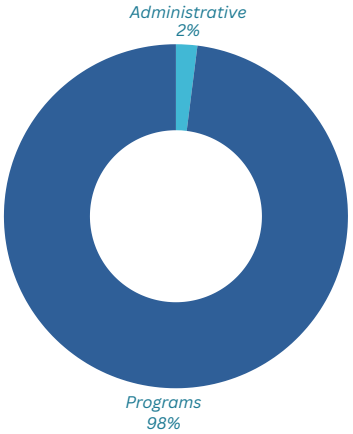
In 2025, nearly 2,100 backpacks were distributed and more than 1,150 shoe vouchers were redeemed. After a number of years of increasing numbers, 2025-2026 was almost identical to 2024-2025. NMES would like to extend a hearty thanks to all the members of the community, adults and children alike, who assisted in filling and distributing the backpacks. We couldn't have done it without you.

Also, thanks to the staff at Gegan School for allowing us to descend upon their school for several days.

Finally, we owe a thanks to Glass Nickel Pizza who provided lunch on the day backpacks were filled.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

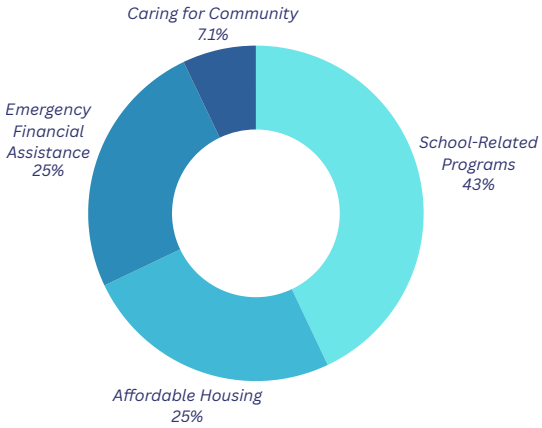


Expenses by Function

In keeping with our mission, 98% of NMES funds were directed toward programs serving the community, with just 2% allocated to administrative expenses.

Program Spending

The majority of program spending supported School-Related Programs (43%) and Emergency Financial Assistance (25%), with equal investment in Affordable Housing (25%) and additional spending on Caring for Community (7.1%).



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 NMES. 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 email nmesociety@gmail.com to sign up for our newsletter.

CARING FOR KIDS

The NMES Caring for Kids program supports our community by providing everyday essentials to students and families in the Neenah and Menasha school districts. We support both public and private schools ranging from Pre-K through high school. Thanks to generous support and donations to our organization from our community, we were able to provide winter gear for 150 students. NMES donated 43 coats, 35 pairs of snow pants, 72 pairs of winter boots, 16 hats, and 49 pairs of gloves.

Caring for Kids not only provides winter clothes, but we also supply students with items such as shoes, clothes, snacks, hygiene products, and various school supplies. Students within our community are especially appreciative of leggings, sweatpants, sweatshirts, and undergarments. NMES was able to provide over 410 students and families with basic needs because of our wonderful community.

SCHOLARSHIP

The NMES Scholarship Program helps graduating seniors in Neenah and Menasha who may not qualify for traditional academic awards but show resilience and a strong commitment to their future. The program provides up to $2,500 in renewable tuition assistance for college, trade certification, or other continued education. For the upcoming 2026-2027 school year, students from Neenah High School and Menasha High School will receive scholarships for UW-Green Bay and Fox Valley Technical College. Applications open January 1 at nmesociety.org/scholarship, with materials due by May 1.

CARING FOR COMMUNITY

The Caring for Community committee partners with local organizations to reach residents who struggle to meet their most basic needs. Among those partners is the Community Table, which addresses food insecurity by serving free meals every Tuesday and Saturday in the lower level of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neenah. This past year, NMES members served 452 lunches.

NMES has supported Valley VNA's Meals on Wheels program since 1966, helping deliver hot, nutritious meals to elderly and home-bound residents throughout the Neenah-Menasha area. The program accommodates diet-specific needs, and NMES both financially subsidizes the cost and supplies volunteers who make deliveries each month. This past year, those efforts resulted in 6,652 meals served to 59 clients, an average of 26 meals per day.

NMES also continued its partnership with HeadsUp Fox Cities, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting young adults as they transition out of the foster care system. HeadsUp provides personalized guidance, life skills development, mentorship, housing assistance, and connections to community resources. NMES supports each new participant with a welcome basket containing bedding, personal hygiene items, and laundry care supplies. This past year, NMES members assembled 11 welcome baskets.

FOLLOW US

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

Sharyl Borucki, Co-President
Anastasia Horan, Co-President
Nicole Mertes, Co-Vice President
Betsy Wilson, Co-Vice President
Laura Wallander, Secretary
Chris Wilharm, Treasurer
Marianne Alexander
Mary Ann Bazile
Flo Bruno
Linda Caswell
Sandipa Das
Summer Ennis
Jess Fagan
Diane Ferraro
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Mary Kelly
Christina Klinkhammer
Sue Larson
Julie Last
Sunhi Lundeen
Stacey Manteufel
Deb Matheny
Leslie Mayer
Holly Muggenthaler
Kerri Nimtz
Nicole Podojil
Christine Rondeau
Royal Rondeau
Kate Schmidt
Heather Stinson

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Pat Bowen, Amy Gaerthofner, Kay Halbrook, Alex Hittle, Kaye Krueger, and Casey Sullivan for their dedicated service as active members of NMES. Pat and Casey retire with the special designation of Sustaining Member, which recognizes members who have given at least 10 years to the organization. Pat and Casey served for a combined 15 years in various board and committee roles.