

United Way of Central Minnesota

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNITED WAY TAKES STEPS TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH CHILD CARE

Parents in Central Minnesota are already aware, but we are in the middle of a child care crisis. Before COVID-19, Central Minnesota was facing a deficit of 4,400 child care spots in our community.

“We’ve heard so many stories of families planning pregnancies based on when their preferred child care provider will have a spot open for an infant.” Stated Alexis Lutgen, Director of Financial Stability at United Way of Central Minnesota.

What was once a problem, is now a crisis. In early 2020, Central Minnesota had over 80 in-home child care providers, as we approach 2022 that number is closer to 30. With changes to licensing and regulations, the lack of benefits, and the opportunity for other employment, child care providers are rapidly exiting the market.

This issue isn’t just a problem for parents, it’s a big problem for our economy and employers. Child care issues are the primary cause of absenteeism among American workers and 24% of parents surveyed either left the workforce or refused a position due to the lack of child care. Central Minnesota needs quality care options to support our economic recovery and survival through the crisis.

To help tackle these major issues United Way of Central Minnesota is excited to welcome Joelyn Rumpca-Barrett to the team in the role of Child Care Coordinator.

United Way focuses on finding community-wide solutions to community-wide problems and in this role, Joelyn will help connect employers to solutions that apply to their child care situation. From finding services and programs for support to implementing new strategies, these resources will support their retention and recruitment of employees through child care initiatives.

To start a conversation with us about the child care needs of your employees and barriers that your company is facing due to child care, please contact United Way of Central Minnesota at 302-252-0227 or contact us at info@unitedwayhelps.org.

About United Way of Central Minnesota

For more than 50 years, United Way of Central Minnesota has cared for the community. Its mission is to improve people’s lives and connect community resources to accelerate community-wide solutions. A local board of directors governs United Way of Central Minnesota. United Way focuses

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on the key issues of Health, Education, and Financial Stability by investing in collaborations, providing resources for program partners, engaging volunteers, and focusing on getting results. For more information on how you can join United Way and its partners to build a stronger Central Minnesota, please visit unitedwayhelps.org.

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