



# PROGRAMS



# 2022

# COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Tusen Tack Programs, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, builds community and enhances the quality of life of residents in East Central Minnesota through engagement of volunteers, partnerships with non-profit organizations, and providing services, including the following programs:

- Alice Studt Library
- Braham Area Food Shelf
- Braham Event Center
- Kathy's Kitchen
- Tusen Tack Thrift Store

## 2022 BOARD MEMBERS

Marie Meyer, President  
Mike Reilly, Vice President  
Darryl Kukowski, Treasurer  
Edie Kaunonen, Secretary  
Leona Dressel  
Marie Grundberg  
Merrie Ann Hesselroth  
Greg Korstad  
Terry Lind  
Janice Neville  
Dixie Randall  
Becky Turnquist

## STAFF

Kelly Nelson, Event Coordinator  
Dana Zakowitz, Office Coordinator  
Steve Douse, Lead Custodian  
Anthony Anderson, Custodian  
Courtney Cadwell, Custodian  
Josh Place, Custodian  
Rachel Reed, Custodian

## VOLUNTEERS

**Alice Studt Library** - 13 volunteers provided 124 volunteer hours  
**Food Shelf** - 46 volunteers provided 2,000 volunteer hours  
**Event Center/Kathy's Kitchen** - 123 volunteers provided 11,393 volunteer hours  
**Thrift Store** - 43 volunteers provided 12,104 volunteer hours  
**199 total volunteers** (57% of volunteers serve in multiple Tusen Tack Programs)

## YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 was a year of growth for every one of our core programs. The Braham Area Food Shelf provided more pounds of food for more clients than in previous years, the Thrift Store had record sales and quality donations, the Braham Event Center had the most events in a single year in its eight-year history, and Kathy's Kitchen served more meals during their busiest schedule yet. The Alice Studt Library and Library Committee have programs up and running once again, with new programs also in the mix. During this year of growth, Tusen Tack Programs' volunteers and staff have worked hard to build on our foundations and mission.

We have begun to look at our processes to find areas for improvement and to create more efficiency. At the end of 2022, our Board contracted to work on our strategic plan for the next five years. We look forward to receiving continued input from the community, particularly through our upcoming community survey.

**Volunteers are the foundation of our organization and their continued generosity and hard work gives Tusen Tack Programs the ability to provide services and support to our local communities.**



# OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

## ALICE STUDD LIBRARY

- Continued with community socials and monthly book club meetings.
- Continued to restock little libraries posted around town.
- Plan to install a pollinator field at Braham Event Center in Fall of 2023.
- Worked with East Central Regional Library Outreach Services on upcoming library lockers for easier access to books for the community.
- Continued with computer, printer, and scanner access in the library on weekdays.
- Led Tusen Tack Programs in support of The Empty Bowls Project and the Purple Martin Project.
- Plan to work with local schools and library to develop reading programs and initiatives for youth.

## BRAHAM AREA FOOD SHELF

- Distributed over 66,000 lbs of food to more than 600 households and over 2,100 individuals during 2022.
- Continued to partner with Catholic Charities and the Braham Event Center to provide frozen meal distribution for seniors as well as in-person senior dining twice a week.
- Began offering food delivery for people unable to leave their homes.
- Provided holiday food baskets for food shelf clients for Thanksgiving and Christmas in partnership with the Grandy Lions.



## TUSEN TACK THRIFT STORE

We are extremely grateful for our donors, customers, and volunteers who make great things possible.

- Continued to provide a rewarding shopping experience with low-cost clothing, household goods, books, and furniture.
- Recycled thousands of pounds of clothing and household items, reducing the impact on local landfills.
- A team of 43 dedicated volunteers served the community by offering 12,104 hours of service (up 10% from 2021) to make the community stronger.
- Donated 500 children's books for Braham Trunk or Treat and 156 books for children's book swap.
- Provided free kid's coats for families in need, sponsored by Knights of Columbus.
- Sponsored, along with the Braham Elementary Parent Organization, another Braham Area Elementary 4th Graders gift Shopping trip to Tusen Tack Thrift Store.
- Donated medical equipment and supplies to Global Health Ministries.

"Tusen Tack Thrift Store is a true gem among the community. How amazing and wonderful it is to have a place that is truly non-profit and has done so much for the community. I have been coming to this thrift store for many years and now I bring my kids to it as well. I have been to countless thrift stores all over the state and Tusen Tack is by far the best in my opinion. From the affordable prices to the wide selection of items you can't go wrong. It is run by an outstanding group of volunteers that always greet you as soon as you walk in the door. Everyone is friendly and helpful, an overall great atmosphere."

- Tanya, Customer at Tusen Tack Thrift Store

## TUSEN TACK PROGRAMS HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THOSE LISTED BELOW:

North Star Family Advocacy Center, New Pathways, Braham Elementary Parent Organization, sponsored Kid's 'N' Berries Activity Tent at Braham Pie Day, Braham Fire Fighters, Salvation Army, Tusen Tack Programs Student Scholarships, Braham Halloween Party, Options for Women, Braham Police Department, City of Braham, Isanti County Kids Day, and the Braham Area Committee for Kids.



# OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT

## THE BRAHAM EVENT CENTER & KATHY'S KITCHEN

In 2022, Braham Event Center and Kathy's Kitchen volunteers provided 11,393 hours of volunteer service (up 46% from 2021). These volunteers truly show the importance in helping to make a difference while enjoying social opportunities like making new friends and working as part of a team.

- 16,012 meals were served by Kathy's Kitchen
- 352 events were held at the Braham Event Center
- 28,783 people came through the doors at the Braham Event Center
- The Braham Event Center and Kathy's Kitchen worked together throughout the year to provide access to arts, culture, health, wellness, and educational opportunities for the community and donated meeting space for over 200 non-profit and community-focused events, including partnerships listed below.

## 2022 PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS AT THE BRAHAM EVENT CENTER

### Economic, Health & Social Support

- Town Hall Meeting - *City of Braham*
- *Braham VFW & Auxiliary* Breakfasts & Meetings
- Braham Area Food Shelf
- Free Frozen Meals for Seniors - *Catholic Charities*
- Free Tax Assistance - *AARP Tax Aide*
- Head Start Training - *Lakes & Pines Community Action Council*
- Isanti County Senior Day Out - *Isanti County Triad*
- Senior Fitness Class - *Juniper Programs*
- Local Candidate Forum & Chamber Meetings - *Braham Area Chamber of Commerce*
- Legacy Giving & Childcare Steering Meetings - *Initiative Foundation & Cambridge Memorial Hospital Foundation*
- Vaccine Clinics - *Isanti County Public Health*
- *Welia Health* - Meetings

### Non-Profit Partnerships

- AARP Tax Aide
- Braham Area Education Foundation
- Braham Girl Scouts
- Braham Sportsman's Club
- Braham VFW & Auxiliary
- Cambridge Community College Foundation
- Catholic Charities
- City of Braham
- East Central Regional Library
- East Central Minnesota Educational Cable Cooperative (ECMECC)
- Family Pathways
- Future Farmers of America
- GUMI Camp, USA
- Initiative Foundation
- Juniper Health Programs
- Isanti County Public Health
- Isanti County Triad
- Kanabec Area Friends of the NRA
- Lakes & Pines Comm. Action Council
- Memorial Hospital Foundation
- North Star Family Advocacy Center
- Pheasants Forever Isanti County
- Pine City Blue Star Moms
- Pokegama Lake Association
- Polaris Sea Cadets
- Pregnancy Resource Center
- Royal Neighbors of America
- Ruffed Grouse Rum River Chapter
- University of Minnesota Extension
- University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy

### Youth-Focused Events

- Braham Schools Meetings
- Dance Class - *Just for Kix*
- Family Paint Night - *Creative Studio 23*
- Fire Arm Safety Class - *Braham Sportsman's Club*
- Kids' Magic Show
- Bruce the Bug Guy - *East Central Regional Library*
- Minnesota College Fair - *Pine Technical College*
- Polaris Sea Cadet Banquet
- Proms (Braham & Ogilvie Schools)
- Santa Day
- Big Band Jazz Extravaganza

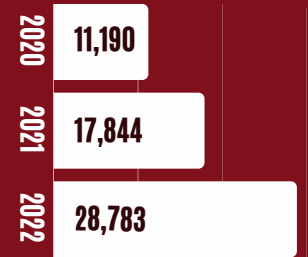
### Educational, Arts, & Cultural Events

- Bingo - *Pokegama Lake Association*
- Book Clubs
- Braham Schools Testing & Meetings
- Craft Fair
- Comedy Shows
- East Central Minnesota Chorale Concert
- East Central Regional Library services & events
- Family Paint Night - *Creative Studio 23*
- Friends of the Library presentations
- Hank Williams Concert
- Monroe Crossing Bluegrass Concert
- Scandinavian Feast
- Swedish language lessons
- Whitesidewalls Concert

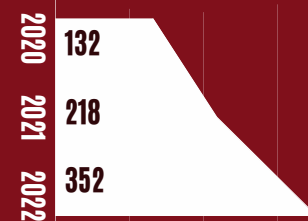
"North Star Family Advocacy Center is proud to be a collaborative community partner with Tusen Tack. We both share a common goal of helping those in need while relentlessly pursuing ways to improve our community. The staff and volunteers went out of their way to accommodate our needs for our first annual Stand Against Child Abuse Gala. The event was a huge success, and can be directly attributed to Tusen Tack's dedicated and attentive staff. It feels good to be part of such a wonderful small community continuously making a big impact."

- Jeremie Reinhart, North Star Family Advocacy Center

### # OF PEOPLE THROUGH OUR DOORS AT THE BRAHAM EVENT CENTER



### # OF EVENTS HELD AT THE BRAHAM EVENT CENTER



IN 2022, 63% OF EVENT CENTER BOOKINGS WERE DISCOUNTED OR FREE FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

