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NEWS

Minnesota Power brightens holiday season with \$10,000 donation to 3 nonprofits serving children and the homeless community

Duluth, Minn. — Three Duluth nonprofits working to keep children and adults in need warm this winter are getting a helping hand from Minnesota Power.

Minnesota Power's donation of \$10,000 will be divided among CHUM, Life House and Kids Closet. CHUM will receive \$5,000 for winter footwear and a holiday meal at the warming shelter at the Rainbow Center in Duluth, and Life House and Kids Closet each will receive \$2,500 so children and teens can receive cold weather gear, including jackets, mittens, hats, coats, socks and boots.

The contributions are in lieu of hosting the traditional Community Christmas Tree on the plaza outside the company's headquarters in downtown Duluth. The construction schedule for ongoing plaza renovations will continue into the holiday season, preventing Minnesota Power from safely hosting the tree this year.

"Once it became apparent we wouldn't be able to host the Community Christmas Tree, a tradition we have held dear for many years, we reached out to area nonprofits to see how we could embrace the spirit of the season in other ways," said ALLETE President and CEO Bethany Owen. "As Duluth and our region continue to feel the effects of a global pandemic, we want to spread some holiday warmth and make a meaningful difference by supporting these organizations in their efforts to ensure that children and adults can stay warm on frigid nights. We look forward to celebrating with community members on the newly refurbished plaza next year for our Community Christmas Tree time-honored tradition."

Lee Stuart, CHUM executive director, said CHUM is grateful for the many generous ways Minnesota Power has supported its work over the years and this contribution will make a big difference to people experiencing homelessness.

"About 200 to 300 people rely on CHUM, the warming center and street outreach to meet their most basic needs over the winter," Stuart said. "A holiday meal and warm boots? Hearts will be glad!"

At Life House, Jordon Johnson, executive director, said winter and the holidays can be challenging for the youth the nonprofit serves and gift bags—filled with mittens, socks and other items—that Minnesota Power is providing are very welcome.

"We are thrilled to share the gift bags with our youth this holiday season," Johnson said. "The generosity of Minnesota Power makes an incredible impact on their lives. Moments like this are often remembered for years to come."

Here are some details about how the \$10,000 will be used:



Rainbow Center warming shelter: CHUM will use the \$5,000 donation to provide a holiday meal for about 150 people at the warming shelter with the rest of the money used to purchase warm boots and socks — items in high demand for the people CHUM serves. The warming shelter for the homeless, 211 North 3rd Ave. E., will open on nights when the National Weather Service predicts a temperature of 32 degrees or below. More information [here](#).
<https://www.chumduluth.org/index.htm>

Life House. The \$2,500 donation will be used to fill about 100 gift bags with mittens, gloves, hand warmers, socks, small hand sanitizers, chapstick, hand lotion and hot cocoa. The bags will be distributed to youths the nonprofit serves. Life House provides comprehensive services to homeless and at-risk youth ages 14-24. More information [here](#).
<https://lifelicenseduluth.org/>

Kids Closet. The \$2,500 donation will be used to purchase coats and other winter gear for children. The organization, run by volunteers, provides free clothing to Duluth schoolchildren in need through the fifth grade. Referrals to Kids Closet are made by a school social worker or family advocate. More information [here](#).
<http://www.kidsclosetofduluth.org/index.html#>

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 15 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

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