



AN ALLETE COMPANY

FOR RELEASE: Nov. 21, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT: Amy Rutledge
Director, Corporate Communications
Minnesota Power, ALLETE
(218) 723-7400
arutledge@allete.com

Minnesota Power announces \$10,000 donation to 2 nonprofit neighbors at Light Up the Plaza event

DULUTH, Minn. – Two Duluth nonprofits that help people with housing, food and other basic needs will receive some extra support this holiday season from Minnesota Power.

In a tradition that began in 2020, the company makes special donations as part of its Light up the Plaza event. This year, the Minnesota Power Foundation is donating \$5,000 to the Damiano Center and \$5,000 to the Union Gospel Mission.

“We hope these donations help these important organizations as they make meaningful differences in the lives of people in our communities,” said Bethany Owen, ALLETE CEO. “This time of year can be especially challenging for so many, and we’re grateful to all of our nonprofit neighbors for all they do to help people by providing a hot meal, a place to stay, child care and other basic needs.”

Julie Pierce, vice president of strategy and planning at Minnesota Power, formally announced the donations today during the company’s Light Up the Plaza celebration on Lake Superior Plaza. The annual holiday lighting event featured a 40-foot blue spruce that was illuminated shortly before the Christmas City of the North Parade.

“This gift comes at a critical time, as both food insecurity and homelessness are increasing across the Northland,” said Katie Hagglund, executive director of Union Gospel Mission. “With more people turning to us for daily meals, support, and connection, this funding will help ensure that no one is left without a warm meal or a safe place to land. We are deeply grateful for the Minnesota Power Foundation’s commitment to the well-being of our community.”

Seth Currier, Damiano Center executive director, said the donation will support essential services.

“We are so grateful to the Minnesota Power Foundation for this generous gift. We are honored by their belief in the important work of providing food, clothes, basic needs and support to people experiencing housing insecurity, food insecurity, and poverty,” Currier said. “The needs are rapidly increasing, with more and more people seeking meals and services. This generous gift will directly support our neighbors and community members who are struggling.”

While Minnesota Power supports nonprofits and programs year-round focusing on education, income equality, food insecurity, social justice and the opportunity gap, the donations at the start of the holiday

season have become a cherished tradition. This year's gift brings to \$60,000 the amount donated since the tradition began in 2020.

The \$10,000 donation announced today is in addition to an ongoing matching gift challenge by the Minnesota Power Foundation called Feeding Our Communities. The foundation will match employee donations to food banks and food shelves that serve communities where ALLETE operates up to \$20,000 through Nov. 30.

The [Union Gospel Mission](#) has operated since 1922 and the [Damiano Center](#) traces its roots to the early 1980s. Both are located near downtown Duluth, where Minnesota Power has had offices for more than a century.

About Minnesota Power

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

About ALLETE, Inc.

ALLETE, Inc. is an energy company headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. In addition to its electric utilities, Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power of Wisconsin, ALLETE owns ALLETE Clean Energy, based in Duluth, Minnesota; BNI Energy in Bismarck, North Dakota; and New Energy Equity, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland; and has an 8% equity interest in the American Transmission Co. More information about ALLETE is available at www.allete.com. ALE-CORP

ALLETE calculates and reports carbon emissions based on the GHG Protocol. Details in ALLETE's [Corporate Sustainability Report](#).

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