

## Introduction

In 2005, United Way of Becker County worked with Mosaic Consulting, Inc. to conduct a community assessment. The purpose of the report was to help community partners understand the degree to which area leaders believed each community asset exists in Becker County and the relative importance of each asset in developing strong, vibrant and healthy communities. The areas to be included in the original survey were identified by individuals and groups throughout Becker County including housing, human services, employment, health, nutrition, transportation and education. There was wide distribution of the on-line survey and a total of 217 completed surveys were part of the 2005 assessment.

United Way of Becker County again commissioned Mosaic Consulting, Inc. to conduct a follow-up community assessment during April and May 2010. The 2010 survey asked the same asset and relative importance questions which were first presented in the 2005 survey, with a total of 380 completed on-line surveys in 2010.

In addition, the following questions were added to the 2010 survey at the request of the United Way of Becker County Board of Directors:

- Questions specific to United Way of Becker County's identified "Community Impact" programs: Backpack Program, Minnesota Consortium for Advanced Rural Psychology program, and Dental Health.
- Questions regarding the respondent's familiarity of the United Way of Becker County.
- Questions regarding the respondent's familiarity of the Day of Caring sponsored by United Way of Becker County.
- A request for respondents to self-identify their top five issues which they consider to be of the greatest importance and need in Becker County at this time.
- An opportunity to provide comments regarding issues or questions which were not asked as a part of the survey for which they would like to provide input to the United Way of Becker County.

### Methods

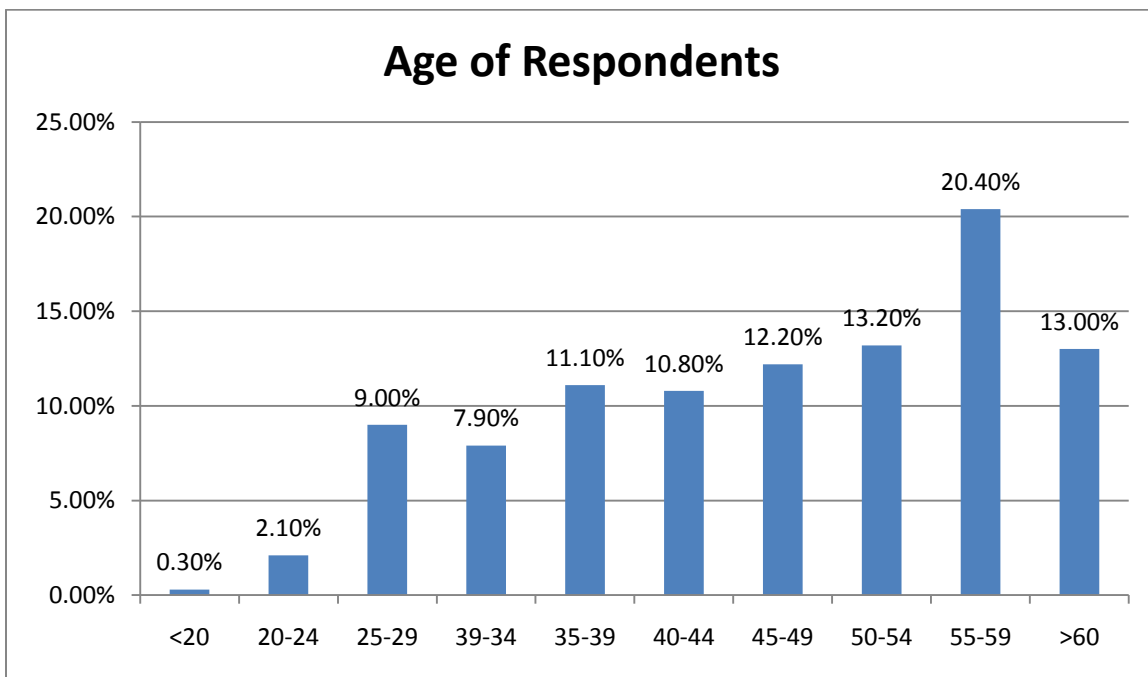
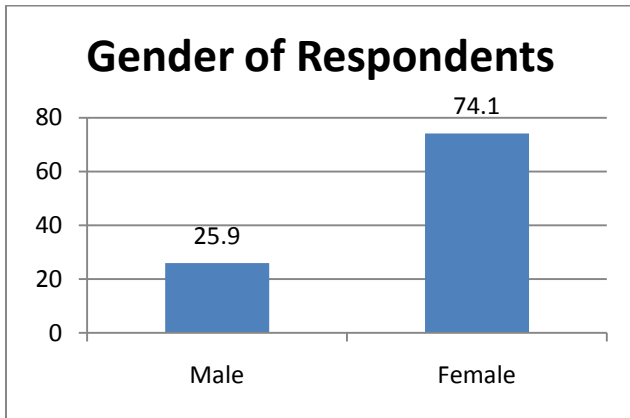
Mosaic Consulting, Inc. collected quantitative data from community leaders and interested persons through the administration of an on-line survey process as well as secondary data review at the state and county level. There were six major areas of focus for this assessment:

- Housing
- Human services
- Employment
- Health
- Transportation
- Education

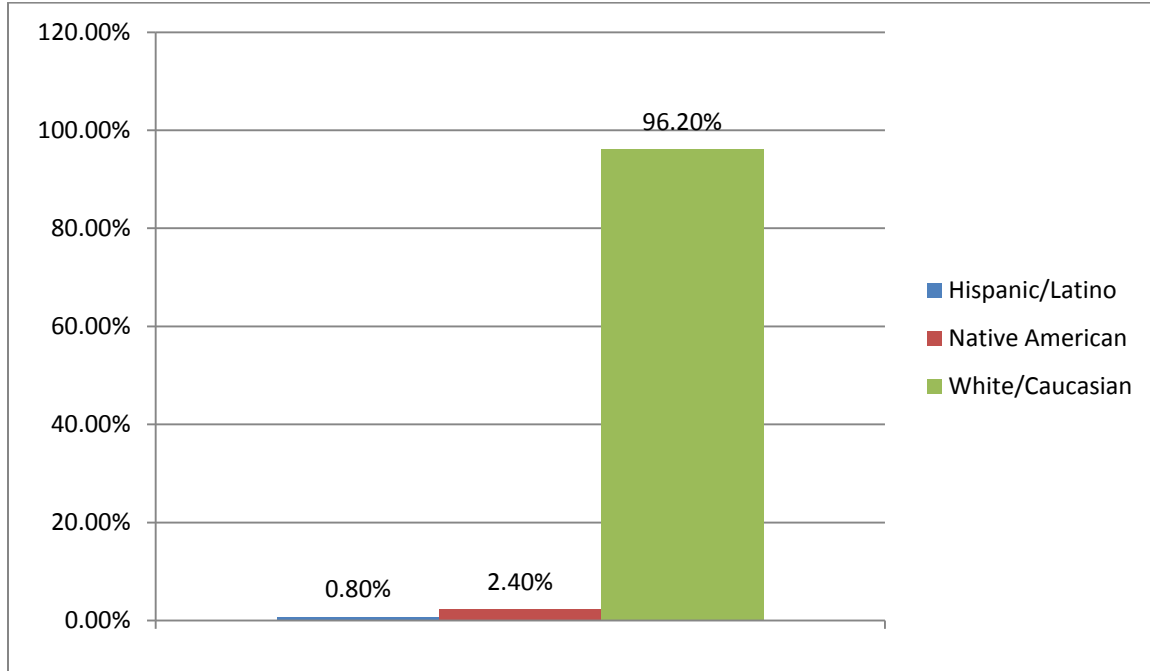
Participants were instructed to review the list of community assets and asked to rate how well the county performs with regard to developing the community assets. Secondly, participants then were asked to indicate how important the community assets are in developing strong, vibrant and healthy communities. Additional questions related to quality of life and living, were also included in the survey.

The response to the survey was anonymous. The on-line survey link was distributed through multiple sources, including through the email lists of the United Way of Becker County, Chamber of Commerce E-Blasts, etc. Included with each survey link was the request to forward the link to other individuals or agencies that might be interested in participating in the process. When the 2010 survey was closed, a total of 380 people had responded. This represents a 175% increase in responses over the 2005 survey.

**Demographics Self-Identified by Respondents:**



**Ethnicity of Respondent:**



**Length of Time Respondent has lived in Becker County:**

0-4 years:	14.1%	15-19 years:	10.3%	30+ years:	35.7%
5-9 years:	10.0%	20-24 years:	12.4%		
10-14 years:	8.4%	25-29 years:	9.2%		

**Best Description of Field of Employment:**

Business Owner/Employer	10.9%	Educator	30.1%
Law Enforcement	1.3%	Elected Official	.3%
Clergy or Religious	.3%	Social Services	10.4%
Health Care	20.2%	Volunteer	2.1%
Student	.3%	Other	24.2%

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**Zip Codes of Respondent Residence:**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Residence Zip Code</b>	<b>Zip Code of where attend school, work or volunteer</b>
Audubon	4%	.8%
Callaway	1.6%	.8%
Detroit Lakes	69.9%	85.4%
Frazee	8.7%	4.8%
Lake Park	4.0%	1.6%
Ogema	1.3%	.5%
Ponsford	.5%	0
Richwood	1.5%	.8%
Rochert	1.6%	.5%
Vergas	1.3%	0
White Earth	0	2.4%
Other	4.5%	2.4

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**2010 SURVEY ISSUES RATED BY (380 responses):**

1) How well are we addressing this issue in our community?

2) How important is this issue to our community?

<b>Children are physically and emotionally safe at home.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	6.1	<b>37.2</b>	36.4	8.2	.8	11.2	2.94
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>57.5</b>	29.4	9.1	1.6	.5	1.9	1.64
<b>Children feel safe when they are at school.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	20.4	<b>48.7</b>	16.1	3.4	.8	10.6	2.47
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>62.0</b>	28.2	6.6	1.6	.3	1.3	1.54
<b>Children are ready to learn when they enter school.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	8.0	33.8	<b>34.6</b>	7.2	1.1	15.4	3.06
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>45.8</b>	36.2	13.1	1.9	.3	2.7	1.83
<b>Children have the language and literacy skills to enter kindergarten successfully.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	5.6	31.6	<b>35.8</b>	6.9	.8	19.4	3.24
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>41.5</b>	37.8	14.6	2.1	.3	3.7	1.93
<b>Children know their colors, how to hold a book, etc. prior to entering kindergarten.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing	9.0	<b>33.7</b>	27.6	5.3	0	24.4	3.27

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this issue in our community?							
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	35.7	<b>38.9</b>	18.2	1.6	.5	5.1	2.08
<b>Children are adequately nourished before and after school.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	4.5	24.1	<b>39.3</b>	11.7	1.1	19.4	3.39
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>50.9</b>	30.9	11.2	3.7	.3	2.9	1.8
<b>A quality educational experience is provided for all Becker County K-12 students.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	17.0	<b>48.0</b>	20.4	5.0	.5	9.0	2.51
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>59.4</b>	31.0	5.6	1.9	.3	1.9	1.58
<b>School-age children have access to quality, nutritious meals at school.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	16.8	<b>37.5</b>	27.7	7.2	3.7	7.2	2.65
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>50.0</b>	34.8	10.1	2.4	.3	2.4	1.75
<b>School-age children have access to quality, nutritious meals during the summer.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	2.4	10.1	<b>33.4</b>	18.3	2.1	33.7	4.09
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>43.6</b>	28.3	16.0	5.9	.8	5.3	2.08
<b>Recreation, arts, and leisure opportunities are available to all youth in Becker County.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	12.6	<b>37.8</b>	35.1	7.8	1.3	5.4	2.64
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating

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How important is this issue to our community?	32.3	<b>43.3</b>	19.6	2.7	.3	1.9	2.01
<b>Volunteer opportunities are available to help charitable organizations, churches, and schools for youth.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	16.8	<b>41.7</b>	27.8	6.1	.3	7.2	2.53
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	28.5	<b>40.3</b>	26.1	3.0	.3	1.9	2.12
<b>Positive, character-building supervised activities for school-aged children/youth during out of school times.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	7.8	32.9	<b>35.8</b>	11.0	.8	11.8	2.99
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	38.6	<b>40.2</b>	13.7	4.0	.3	3.2	1.97
<b>Services and programs to help youth make positive choices concerning high risk behaviors (tobacco, alcohol, drugs, sexual activity, etc.).</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	7.5	28.4	<b>36.2</b>	13.7	1.1	13.1	3.12
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>45.6</b>	36.7	9.9	4.3	0	3.5	1.87
<b>Employment opportunities are available for all youth that would like a job.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	3.8	18.3	<b>41.9</b>	16.9	4.0	15.1	3.44
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	29.3	<b>37.4</b>	25.0	4.0	.8	3.5	2.20
<b>Substance abuse intervention programs are accessible to youth.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	5.7	24.0	<b>35.0</b>	12.1	2.2	21.0	3.44
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>42.4</b>	36.5	12.7	3.5	0	4.9	1.97



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<b>Becker County residents and communities are reasonably safe from crime.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	13.4	<b>55.5</b>	26.0	2.7	.3	2.1	2.27
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>55.1</b>	36.6	7.2	.5	.3	.3	1.55
<b>Recreation, arts, and leisure opportunities are available to all adults in Becker County.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	15.2	<b>51.1</b>	25.1	5.9	.3	2.4	2.32
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	24.3	<b>44.7</b>	27.5	2.7	.5	.3	2.11
<b>Residents are employed by businesses and have access to benefit packages.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	3.0	27.5	<b>46.1</b>	12.4	2.7	8.4	3.09
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>39.6</b>	39.3	13.9	3.5	.5	3.2	1.96
<b>Volunteer opportunities are available to help charitable organizations, churches, and schools for adults.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	18.9	<b>50.5</b>	23.5	2.2	0	4.9	2.28
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	22.8	<b>44.4</b>	28.8	2.7	.3	1.1	2.16
<b>Adults have access to appropriate jobs in the community for their skills and education.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	1.9	24.1	49.1	16.6	2.4	5.9	3.11
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>41.7</b>	36.4	16.0	2.4	1.3	2.1	1.92

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<b>Substance abuse intervention programs are accessible to adults.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	6.2	<b>36.0</b>	<b>36.0</b>	6.2	.8	14.8	3.04
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	33.9	<b>41.1</b>	18.8	3.0	.5	2.7	2.03
<b>Unemployed residents are supported to find work.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	2.9	22.5	<b>37.5</b>	13.9	4.0	19.0	3.51
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>39.0</b>	37.6	14.8	3.0	1.3	4.3	2.03
<b>Health care is accessible to all children.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	11.2	<b>31.5</b>	30.4	10.4	1.6	14.9	3.05
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>55.5</b>	30.8	9.4	2.7	0	1.6	1.66
<b>Dental care is accessible to all children.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	6.4	16.5	<b>31.2</b>	21.9	5.9	18.1	3.59
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>49.2</b>	32.0	11.3	4.8	.8	1.9	1.82
<b>Mental health care is accessible to all children.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	7.2	18.5	<b>35.1</b>	18.0	2.9	18.2	3.46
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>52.8</b>	28.4	12.3	3.8	.3	2.4	1.77

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<b>Health care is accessible to all adults.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	6.5	21.5	<b>39.8</b>	17.2	2.7	12.4	3.25
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>44.9</b>	35.8	15.1	2.7	.3	1.3	1.82
<b>Dental care is accessible to all adults.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	4.3	11.7	<b>30.9</b>	25.6	9.6	17.9	3.78
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>39.8</b>	35.2	16.4	4.8	1.3	2.4	2.0
<b>Mental health care is accessible to all adults.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	5.6	18.5	<b>36.3</b>	19.6	4.3	15.6	3.45
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>44.5</b>	35.1	12.9	4.3	.8	2.4	1.89
<b>Residents understand the risks associated with being overweight or obese.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	4.3	16.1	<b>38.3</b>	23.6	7.5	10.2	3.45
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	33.0	<b>35.7</b>	20.1	7.8	1.9	1.6	2.15
<b>All Becker County residents are encouraged to lead healthy and fit lifestyles.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	6.4	18.5	<b>39.1</b>	20.6	6.4	8.8	3.29
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>35.6</b>	34.5	19.1	7.8	1.3	1.6	2.10

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<b>Reliable transportation is available to all adults and children.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	4.9	20.3	44.9	15.1	2.4	12.4	3.27
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	23.4	41.0	27.2	5.2	.8	2.4	2.26
<b>Affordable housing is available to all families.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	2.2	11.9	43.6	23.0	5.4	13.8	3.59
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	34.0	39.1	20.1	3.0	.8	3.0	2.07
<b>Quality, affordable child care is available.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	2.5	15.5	39.2	19.6	4.9	18.3	3.64
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	37.3	39.2	17.2	2.7	.3	3.3	1.99
<b>Quality, affordable child care is available for sick care, night shifts, etc.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	1.4	6.3	18.5	32.2	14.4	27.2	4.34
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	32.9	38.0	17.7	4.9	1.4	5.2	2.19
<b>Professionals and citizens recognize and prevent child abuse.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	5.4	31.3	42.1	9.0	2.2	10.1	3.01
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	48.9	37.2	10.6	1.6	0	1.6	1.71

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<b>Our communities are prepared to respond to emergencies or disasters.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	13.6	<b>45.9</b>	27.4	3.3	1.1	8.7	2.58
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>41.7</b>	41.5	13.0	1.9	0	1.9	1.83

<b>Parents have adequate skills and training to be good parents.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	1.9	14.6	<b>42.0</b>	25.5	5.1	10.8	3.50
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>43.3</b>	35.3	14.8	3.8	.3	2.5	1.9

<b>Senior citizens have access to appropriate levels of care.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	10.3	29.2	<b>37.3</b>	6.2	1.4	15.7	3.06
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>40.4</b>	38.5	15.4	2.2	0	3.5	1.93

<b>Residents do NOT experience any form of discrimination (ethnic, racial, age, sex, disability, economic level, etc.) as a citizen of Becker County.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	3.3	19.0	<b>37.7</b>	17.9	8.1	14.1	3.51
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>37.4</b>	36.9	17.9	3.8	.8	3.3	2.04

<b>Victims of domestic violence have access to appropriate levels of service.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	8.1	33.9	<b>35.8</b>	6.2	.5	15.4	3.04
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>46.6</b>	36.7	12.3	1.9	.3	2.2	1.79

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<b>Individuals have access to further education and training to improve employment skills.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	7.6	34.4	<b>38.8</b>	7.9	1.6	9.8	2.91
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	29.7	<b>46.0</b>	19.6	2.2	.3	2.2	2.04
<b>Becker County residents have enough food to satisfy their hunger.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	4.3	18.8	<b>46.2</b>	15.2	2.7	12.8	3.32
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	<b>46.6</b>	37.1	12.5	1.9	0	1.9	1.77
<b>Individuals/families know where to seek help if someone needs assistance from a social service or human service agency.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	7.3	27.2	<b>38.6</b>	11.4	1.9	13.6	3.14
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	35.7	<b>42.8</b>	16.1	2.5	.5	2.5	1.97
<b>Respite care is available for someone taking care of an elderly or disabled person.</b>							
	Very Well	Well	OK	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know	Average Rating
How well are we addressing this issue in our community?	6.3	21.0	<b>36.1</b>	9.0	2.7	24.9	3.55
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	Don't Know	Average Rating
How important is this issue to our community?	32.4	<b>39.0</b>	20.7	2.5	.3	5.2	2.15

United Way of Becker County – 2010 Community Assessment Results

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**Questions Added to 2010 Survey at Request of Board of Directors:**

<b>Day of Caring</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
I have heard of Day of Caring.	<b>76.6</b>	16.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	3.3	1.45
Day of Caring makes a difference in the community.	<b>54.6</b>	31.8	6.0	1.4	.5	5.7	1.79
I know how to access Day of Caring if I needed assistance.	<b>40.2</b>	20.9	9.8	13.0	4.3	11.7	2.55
I know how to volunteer for Day of Caring.	<b>43.8</b>	24.7	7.9	11.1	4.1	8.4	2.32
<b>Backpack Program</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
I have heard of the Backpack Food Program.	<b>49.9</b>	19.1	2.4	11.3	6.5	10.8	2.38
The Backpack Program is making a difference in the community.	<b>37.0</b>	17.6	11.4	1.9	2.2	30.0	3.05
I know how to access the Backpack Program.	<b>30.1</b>	14.4	13.0	14.9	8.7	19.0	3.15
<b>Mental Health</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
I have heard of the Minnesota Consortium for Advanced Rural Psychology Training (MCARPT) program.	22.1	11.9	4.0	<b>22.4</b>	17.5	22.1	3.68
I am aware of at least one agency that is a partner in the MCARPT program.	21.3	9.2	4.6	<b>24.0</b>	17.3	23.7	3.78
I know how to make a referral to the MCARPT program.	12.7	7.9	5.7	<b>29.3</b>	18.4	26.0	4.11
<b>Dental Health</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
I know how to access the AppleTree Dental Clinic when it comes to Detroit Lakes or White Earth.	11.9	17.0	6.8	<b>27.3</b>	15.1	21.9	3.82
I know how to make a referral to the dental program.	9.8	14.6	8.9	<b>27.4</b>	17.1	22.2	3.94

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<b>United Way</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree or Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>Average Rating</b>
I have heard of the United Way of Becker County.	<b>81.7</b>	15.6	.3	1.1	.3	1.1	1.26
I have personally donated money to United Way of Becker County.	<b>70.5</b>	15.1	2.2	7.8	2.7	1.6	1.62
I have personally donated time to United Way of Becker County.	<b>40.5</b>	10.6	13.0	24.5	6.3	5.2	2.61
I would contact United Way if I needed and service and didn't know who else to call.	<b>37.0</b>	25.4	19.2	7.6	3.0	7.6	2.38

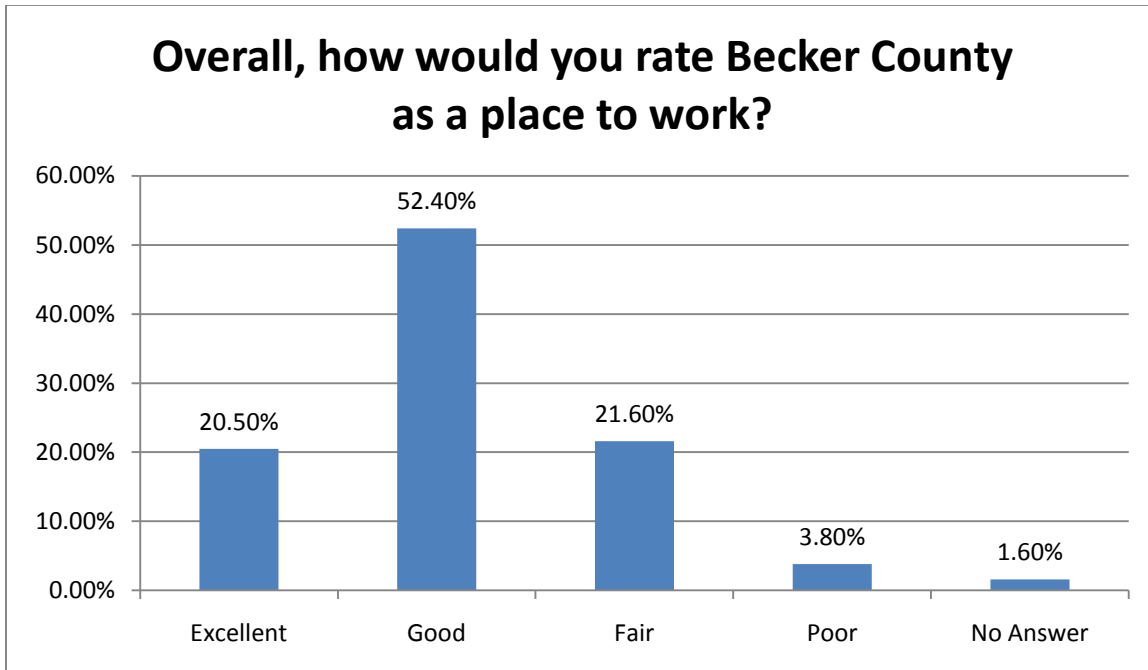
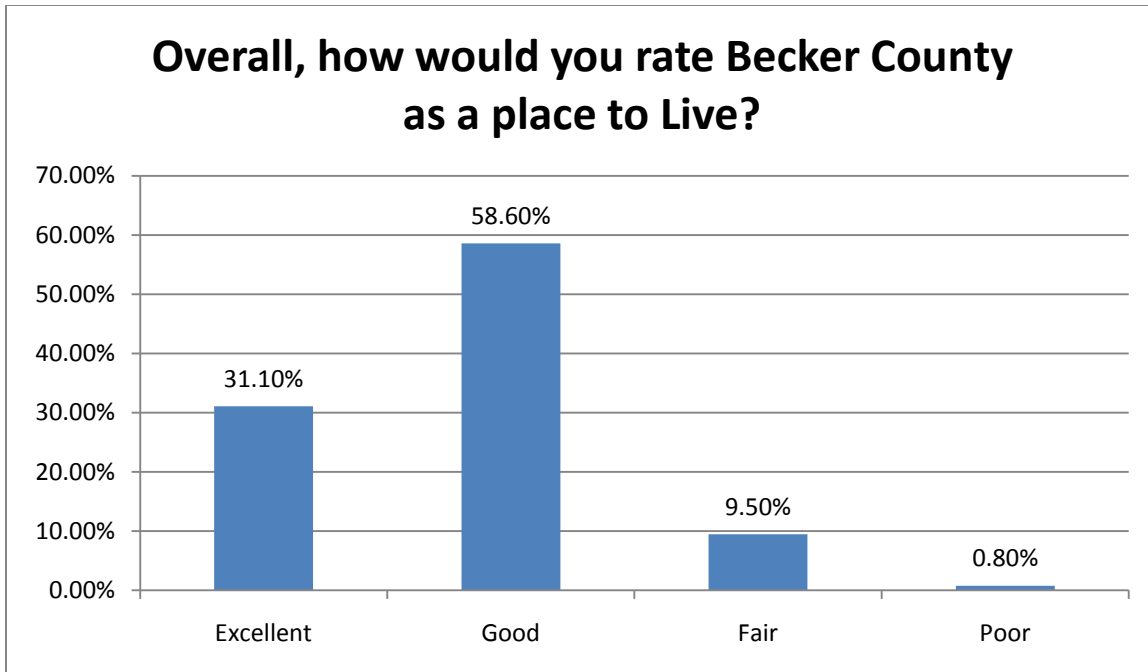


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### Self-Identified Top 20 Issues/Concerns Expressed by Survey Respondents

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	<b>Issue/Need/Problem</b>
<b>1</b>	505	Mental health access and availability (children and adults)
<b>2</b>	454	Need for a living wage and jobs with benefits/unemployment
<b>3</b>	434	Nutrition/hunger/food availability
<b>4</b>	402	Health care access/insurance/affordable health care
<b>5</b>	294	Affordable housing/homelessness
<b>6</b>	285	Lack of/need for parenting skills training
<b>7</b>	187	School readiness/K-12 education needs
<b>8</b>	177	Domestic violence
<b>9</b>	167	Affordable/accessible child care
<b>10</b>	143	Dental access
<b>11</b>	111	Child abuse
<b>12</b>	99	Poverty
<b>13</b>	92	Need for fitness opportunities/childhood obesity
<b>14</b>	82	Need for home to be a safe place
<b>15</b>	77	Need for afterschool and leisure activity opportunities
<b>16</b>	72	Transportation
<b>17</b>	61	Domestic Violence shelter
<b>18</b>	59	Racism/Need for racial equality
<b>19</b>	52	Safety in school
<b>20</b>	31	Preparing for Aging/Eldercare/End of Life care



## United Way of Becker County – 2010 Community Assessment Results

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**Respondents were given the opportunity to express comments or concerns about issues not listed on the survey, or to add any other comments. The following list reflects the actual comments without editing made by respondents. There was only one comment removed because the language would be inappropriate for this document.**

- Thank you for all you do with United Way ... you do so much! Just because we have continued issues...doesn't mean we don't appreciate everything UW does! Thank you!
- As a teacher, my biggest frustration is in the seemingly overloaded social workers/counselors. Seems like not enough is being done to prevent the neglecting, abusive parents. Students come to us with such baggage and we can only do so much. One-fourth of my students this year had major issues at home, many that went uncorrected. I know that they try to keep kids with parents, but I wonder at what cost. I also know that there are few foster homes available, but that is not an excuse to keep a child in unsafe, unhealthy living conditions. Many times older siblings are "caring for" younger siblings. They shouldn't have to carry that burden, nor are they good at it. They are not old enough or skilled enough to take on that important task. I don't know the answers, but I know that these are major concerns and major roadblocks to a student's school success.
- In many of the questions asked, there are at least two levels of situations in families. Many are very well off financially and there are many that are not. This fact makes it difficult to answer the questions.
- The Becker County Museum should have more evening hours when working people and school children can enjoy the museum and be more involved in the activities. In this day of technology, the museum could be accumulating a library of short documentary films on local history of important events, produced by local residents. Perhaps obtain a grant for a media class at the Tech School or high school to produce some local history on film.
- I believe it is important for the community to know where to access Case Management for mentally ill adults and children to assist them in navigating the system.
- I am concerned that our present Governor does not understand how tough our communities and schools have it in Becker County. He does not seem to be supportive of the health care or education system.
- Rating Becker County as a place to live depends on where in Becker County you live. I don't see the United Way doing work in northern Becker County. Is there representation from northern Becker County on the Board or committees?
- I appreciate your desire to gather comprehensive information but the length of the survey was rather daunting and the repetitive nature of the design was hard to engage.
- A Family Wellness Center that takes care of the whole family and not just individual members. A place to go when done with treatment instead of back to the same sick environment they left.
- Keep up the great work, and being a big visible part of our community in making Becker County a great place to live!
- Taxation is out of control – too much spending in Minnesota.
- It was always my understanding that United Way was an organization to give to so that you wouldn't be solicited by the agencies receiving money from United Way. That must not be the case anymore because I get solicited from many agencies that do receive funding from United Way.
- Many families have been asking for a support group for autism or other disabilities.
- Low pay scale in Becker County.
- Many of the areas addressed above are available in Becker County but they are all expensive. Becker County has 2 types of people: 1) people with money, life is good for, 2) poor people who struggle on a daily basis. Very uneven distribution of wealth.
- Would like to see Becker County pave ALL the roads in Callaway – it's the only city in Becker County that doesn't have paved roads – residents really have a time in the bad weather and a mess in the summers.

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- Becker County has made many improvements in the past 10 years, but there is still a big divide between the haves and the have nots, from those with a positive outlook on life and those who have lost hope and motivation. A progressive, caring environment in the fields of education, health care, children's services, and business have been growing and must continue to flourish! A healthy relationship between governments must also continue to improve between the Tribal government, county officials, and city personnel.
- Need more people who actually do the work they're supposed to do!!! Stop making excuses and blaming the parents!!! We are all in this together!!! No one person is better than the next.
- Services targeted for the Reservation need to be provided on the Reservation by qualified individuals associated with the Tribe; not from outside sources that don't understand how to deal with our people.
- I no longer donate to or volunteer for the Becker County United Way because of its failure to support Boy Scouts, I will not support or promote United Way until that position changes. I will discourage others from donating to the Becker County United Way for the same reason.
- As elsewhere, the wealthy who run the town remain blithely ignorant of the issues that the economically challenged face.
- Need more transportation, especially nights and weekends, more housing, and dentists that accept MA.
- Becker County is a great place to live, but could be better for professional and skilled jobs available. DL schools are far too lenient with student accountability and discipline. Labels and programs are utilized instead of correcting the problems and attitudes. Also, School staff has direct insight into student family lives and could be better enabled to help direct Community Services to families in need.
- I would like to see the United Way support the Imagination Book Club.
- High cost of housing is not commensurate with wages.
- How will the survey results be used and shared with the public.
- Why would we buy a mountain when families don't have enough food; families are living in cars because of no housing and closed waiting lists.
- I think we live in a community that has challenges. Poor, single income, single parent, poor health care coverage... a lot of things added up causes stress not only to individuals, but to couples and their relationships not only with each other, but their families as a whole. I think there are opportunities for people to grasp, but they also need the motivation to become better or stronger and seek those "chances" when they present themselves. We need organizations like yours that can "help" the people in Becker County to be the best that we can!
- Becker County is very lucky to have so many great people who have donated their time and/or money to many wonderful causes. We appreciate all the work the different agencies (United Way) has done.
- Dentists need to address uninsured patients.
- I think two big challenges in our county are communication and transportation. Many services may be available that aren't being utilized because people don't know about it or how to access the services or can't get to where the service is provided.
- It's a poor place to live due to lack of wages comparable to cost of living. Lack of jobs and industry. Lack of incentives besides the beauty of the land itself to stay in this poverty area.
- We need to work on the jobs that are here to bring them up to today's cost of living.
- Our access to social services for youth is low, low, low... constantly a waiting list to get kids in crisis in for help. Referrals regarding concerns regarding kids are often unaddressed due to unavailability of staff and personnel to service/attend to concerns or reports.
- I work with the lower income residents. The community is an excellent area for average income families.

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- WAGES TOO LOW, HARD FOR FAMILIES WITH PETS TO FIND A PLACE TO LIVE, PETS ARE IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE.
- If you are not from here people are not very friendly. Detroit Lakes is not a very friendly town.
- The city of DL needs more apartments available for people who have an income! Nearly ALL apartments available are LOW income or income based! Where are the people who have a college degree and a good job supposed to live?
- Transportation – Becker County Transit only serves Detroit Lakes M-F, the outlying county needs their help.
- Children exposed to internet without supervision.
- I wish United Way would resume support for the Boy Scouts. I don't agree with withdrawing support based on individual board member bias.
- Detroit Lakes has many businesses that I would love to frequent but as someone that works 8:30 am – 5:00 pm they are never open when I can frequent them. If they want my business they need to extend their hours.
- We have many people, especially seniors, whose income is too high to qualify for services through any state government programs but are unable to cover the cost of the services they need to either stay in their own home or to move into a senior housing complex. Often they go without services or limited services and even medication because they just can't afford the cost of living even in some of the subsidized housing that only charge 30% of their income. If they have high medicine and hit the donut hole, they suffer, often at the cost of food and other necessities.
- Becker County Government does not support full time employment; they have instead gone to a system of part time; no benefitted employees. Full time employees that are retiring/leaving employment with Becker County are being replaced with one or more part time employees. What kind of message does this send to our County?
- Children get mixed messages about alcohol when they are told the dangers, but see a general culture that encourages the “party” atmosphere. Seniors often do not seek services until they experience a sentinel event, and then it is often too late to keep them in their homes.
- Local business forced to drop health insurance for employee's coverage due to rising costs in health insurance.
- Many of the questions I know what my responses would be, but I either believe the community does not rate them very high, otherwise they would be taken care of, or I don't know how the community rates these issues.
- Health insurance is offered to many employees, but is still not affordable between monthly premiums, deductibles and co-insurance. Even for one of the largest employers in the county.
- I have a child with ADHD too smart to receive anything more than – if you are feeling unable to concentrate, you can go to the counselors office and you can turn work in late if needed. I know he is not the only one to fall into this category. I think more needs to be done for those kids that do not fit the norm and do not fit into the “special needs” group either. His school experience, on the whole is not a positive one.
- I am not sure what the 5 issue I would be would be, but I am a single mother who works a 40+ hour a week job making \$15.00 an hour and yet feel that I am almost punished for earning that. When I take my daycare and taxes out, I am taking home maybe \$9.00. Yes, I don't qualify for help in any manner. We need to get some help for those that don't want to live off a system but could use a little push here or there to help them take those steps forward. I think it is sad that these are the ones we forget about. I wish we had more programs out there for people trying to do better rather than people who just want the free handouts.
- United Way is a super organization and has made a HUGE difference in many people's lives. I am very grateful we have such a proactive United Way in our city.
- Your survey is too long—repetitive questions.

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- If you ask about one program (MCARPT) you should ask about all. Otherwise it is like a leading question allows for only the answers sought.
- I value the services United Way offers and I recognize it is hard to reach all the needs.
- I have frustration with some of the questions and issues. People have a hard time taking responsibility for their actions...it's always someone else's responsibility to bail them out, find them work, pay for their childcare even though they aren't married and are having children...we need to attempt to make people responsible for their own actions and face their consequence...hard task, but it needs to get turned around.
- Employment with healthcare benefits is tough to find in Detroit Lakes, as well as affordable housing. Jobs are seasonal and even some of the professional jobs do not include health care.
- The phrasing "how well are we addressing" and "how important are these issue" is confusing and vague. Perhaps reversing the order of the "addressing" and "how important" sections and adding words that clarify and personalize the questions, i.e. "To what extend do you think/feel these issues should be addressed in Becker County" and "How well do you think/feel we are addressing these issues in Becker County". With the aforementioned exceptions, it is a well written survey. Thank you. P.S. Perhaps the survey wordsmiths can advise on whether or use "think" or "feel."
- There is no middle class in Becker County – those that "think" they are middle class are actually upper class if the graph was drawn based on wage/socio-economic status, etc. – we are missing a big chunk of middle class in this country and it shows in so many ways.
- Thank you to the United Way for doing this. I hope they share it with agencies and elected officials.

## SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

Mosaic Consulting, Inc. completed a detailed analysis of the 380 survey responses as they related to:

- Community Asset Rating
- Relative Importance as Viewed by Survey Respondents
- Self-Identified Listings of “Top Five Needs” as Determined By Survey Respondents
- Secondary Data from multiple data sources including: U.S. Census, Minnesota Kid’s Count, Mahube Community Council 2010 Community Needs Assessment, Children’s Defense Fund, State of Minnesota Demographer’s Office, and other state and federal sources.

No one single category determined the identification of the top five concerns – it was the cumulative analysis of each of the responses and supporting evidence/documentation available. The five top concerns of 2010 were determined to be:

1. Mental health services and access to services
2. Hungry children and families
3. Access to Affordable Health Care/Health Insurance
4. Need for adequate employment (livable wage and benefits)
5. Housing/Homelessness

Many of the issues identified in terms of need and with respect to how well our community is addressing the need were very close in terms of relative importance. It is clear that Becker County has a number of assets which are credited as enhancing the quality of life in the area. It is also clear that quality of life perceptions have a lot to do with where you are at on that continuum. It was widely felt that not all assets are available to all residents, which provides opportunities for improvement in the community.

It was also clear that the community prides itself on truly excellent helping agencies. There are also opportunities for volunteer support and engagement in the communities. While agencies share the community’s pride in their services, agencies are strapped financially and have been in a difficult cycle for several years of having to do more with less. Given the state of the federal and state budgets, it is likely that this trend will continue for some time into the future. It is of great concern to agencies providing the essential community helping services as to how long they can continue to do more with less.

The top issues consistent with the 2005 findings were in the area of mental health and hungry children. Although statistically the results were very close, perhaps it is a sign of the economic times that the basic human needs for shelter/housing, employment, and health insurance/health care access surpassed some of the previously identified community priorities.

And, a final observation is the United Way of Becker County is highly regarded for its work, professionalism, volunteerism and the difference it makes in the lives of area agencies and those it serves.