

There's something special about a community that shows up for one another, not just in the big moments but in the everyday, meaningful ways that remind us we're all connected. At Bank of Lake Mills, Power of Community Week is more than just a calendar event. It's a chance for us to roll up our sleeves, step out of the office, and pour a little time and heart back into the neighborhoods we call home. From local parks to elementary classrooms and even warm fleece blankets tied with care, our team came together to make a difference right here where it matters most.

This year's efforts kicked off with a little sunshine, a lot of teamwork, and a few trash bags. Our employees headed out to clean up some of our favorite spots: Bartel's Beach and Millpond Trail, Tyranena Park, and Brandt Quirk Park. The work was simple, picking up litter and tidying up well-loved areas, but the impact was anything but small. There's a quiet satisfaction in knowing your afternoon helped create cleaner, safer, and more beautiful spaces for families, neighbors, and visitors to enjoy.



Back at the office, the giving spirit continued. A group of employees gathered to make fleece tie blankets for Project Linus, an organization that provides handmade blankets to children in need. We had a mix of seasoned pros and first timers, some who could whip out a perfect knot in their sleep and others learning on the fly. Together, they created 30 blankets, each one tied with care and a lot of heart. The blankets will be shared with kids in Jefferson and Dodge counties, offering a bit of warmth and comfort when they need it most.

Meanwhile, five employees took our core value of Financial Literacy Education out into the community by visiting Lake Mills Elementary School. Over the course of the week, they led 15 classroom presentations for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders on how to save, share, and spend money wisely. The students were curious and enthusiastic, and the lessons sparked great conversations about how money works and how to make smart choices. These early lessons are a



meaningful way we invest in the future of our community by helping the next generation build confidence and good habits with money.

In total, our team recorded 114 hours of volunteer service during Power of Community Week. It was a week filled with smiles, teamwork, and shared purpose. Whether we were tidying up parks, knotting together fleece and compassion, or teaching young minds about money, every moment reflected the heart of who we are as a community bank. We're proud of what our team accomplished and even prouder to be part of a community that gives back together.

As Power of Community Week came to a close, we were reminded that the most meaningful impact often comes from simple acts done with heart. At Bank of Lake Mills, we don't do these things for recognition. We do them because we believe in the power of local effort, the strength of working together, and the importance of giving back to the communities that trust us every day. We're proud of our employees not just for what they accomplished during this week but for the way they carry that spirit into everything they do. Community isn't just where we are. It's who we are.

