



ADVOCACY & INCLUSION MATTER of West Central Minnesota

320-231-1777 www.aimwcm.org
PO Box 214 - Willmar, MN 56201

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

SAVE THESE DATES

Sept. 11- Healthy Living Classes begin
Sept. 12- Fall Bowling League begins
Sept. 14- Barn Theatre- The Cemetery Club
Sept. 18- Tidal Wave Fundraiser for AIM
Sept. 23- AIM Fall Festival
Sept. 30- Last Day of Walking Club
Oct. 6- Annual Fudge Sale begins
Oct. 15- People First Autumn Celebration
Oct. 19- Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
Oct. TBD- Christmas Light Set-up
Oct. 23- Fall Dance- Toy Story Theme
Nov. 10- AIM Annual Meeting
Nov. 13- Warhawks Game
Nov. 19- People First Event- TBD
Dec. 17- People First Year-End Celebration
Dec. TBD- Glacial Ridge Curling Starts

Executive Director's Report

Helpful Etiquette Tips for Participants

Tip #1- Let us know if you can't make a program or event you signed up for.

Let us know ASAP! Many things we do involve ordering food or supplies. For some events we have limited tickets. If you don't make it, we still paid for your meal and someone on the waiting list would have loved getting your ticket.

Tip #2- Please don't call AIM staff on their personal phones.

AIM staff are part-time, so please respect their personal time at home. The best time to catch us in the office is during our office hours:

Monday 9am-12pm

Tuesday 8:30am-3:30pm

Thursday 8:30am-3:30pm

Friday 9am-2:30pm

Leave a voice mail 320-231-1777 or text 320-905-7302 message on the AIM phone and we'll get back to you soon.

Thank You!

AIM provides opportunities and resources to support inclusion and independence for people with disabilities.

Upcoming AIM Events and Programs

Fall Bowling League

SATURDAYS

SEPT. 12, 19, 26
OCT. 3, 10, 17, 31
NOV. 7, 14, 21
DEC. 5, 12, 19



TIME: 10:30AM - 12:00PM

\$11 PER WEEK OR \$143 FOR THE SEPT.-DEC SEASON

PUT YOUR OWN TEAM TOGETHER OR WE CAN PAIR YOU WITH
NEW TEAMMATES! REGISTER WITH THE AIM OFFICE



PRESENTS



**Monday,
September 14
7:00 pm**

**Dress Rehearsal Night
FREE at the Barn Theater**

Join us for this fun comedy

**We have limited tickets for this
event. Call the AIM office to sign up**



AIM Fall Festival

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026
5:30 - 7:00pm**

**Kandiyohi County Fairgrounds
Commercial Building / Log Cabin**

\$12 per person includes catered meal

Our annual Fall Festival is a can't miss event with
lots of great educational booths, activities and
food. Watch for more info later this summer.

To Register for AIM Activities:

- **Call 320-231-1777**
- **Register at our event tables**
- **Stop by our office. Call to make
sure we are there first!**

Christmas Light Set-up Community Service Project at Robbins Island

At the time of printing this newsletter
a date was TBD. Likely mid-October.
Check back with the AIM staff to get
signed up.



**Join us to help set up lights
with Engan & Associates staff**

Upcoming AIM Events and Programs

Glacial Ridge Adaptive Curling

Last year Curling was on Thursdays from 4-5pm, but at the time we printed this newsletter, details were not available for this season.



Check back with the AIM office

AIM Fall Dance Toy Story Theme



Friday, October 23
Willmar American Legion

6:00pm Check-in
6:30-8:30pm- Music

Cost: \$10 per consumer / \$5 per staff

Sign up by October 16

Walk-in Cost: \$15 per consumer / \$5 staff

You are welcome to dress up, but it is not required. No scary masks or inappropriate clothing.

Healthy Living Classes

Healthy Living Class- 3:45-4:45pm

Exercise Class 5:00-5:30pm

Fridays:

September 11 and 25

October 9 and 23

November 6 and 20

December 4 and 11

Cost is \$15 per person, per class

Sign up by September 4

Classes taught by Amber Silva

Willmar Warhawks Hockey

Friday, November 13, 2026

Willmar Civic Center

Doors Open & Food- 6:10pm

Game- 7:10pm

Cost \$25



Includes ticket in VIP area, soda & appetizers. Limited tickets available for VIP section!

Register and pay by November 6, 2026 at the AIM office.

AIM Fundraisers



18th Annual Charity Day

Friday, September 18, 2026

Friday, September 18, 2026

**50% of
proceeds go
to AIM!**

312 19th Ave. SE-
Willmar (Across the
street from Aldi)
Volunteers Needed

**Mark your
calendar to get
your car washed!**

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Monday, October 19, 2026

Time: 5:00-8:00PM

Thank you Willmar Pizza Ranch for hosting our AIM group! All tips and a portion of sales from dine-in and take out help support AIM programing. Mark your calendar!



ANNUAL FUDGE SALE

**HELP SELL OR BUY FUDGE TO
SUPPORT AIM PROGRAMS!**

DATES OF SALE

OCTOBER 6 TO NOVEMBER 19, 2026

**PICK-UP ORDERS ON DECEMBER 15
FROM 2-5 PM AT THE AIM OFFICE**

DELIVERY IS NOT AN OPTION

**CONTACT VALORIS AT THE AIM
OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS**

320-231-1777



Coffee Bag Fundraiser total = \$484.00

Top Sellers: 1. The Eagle Ridge Girls
2. Brenda Simning 3. Caleb Bender

Thank you to those that purchased coffee bags and to those that helped sell. Our total was 121 coffee bags sold with our summer fundraiser to help support AIM programs and events.

People First – Events & News

2026 People First Officers:

President- Brian Lippert

Vice-President- Lindsey Harms

Secretary- Caleb Bender

Treasurer- Brenda Simning

Board Member- Rianna Halverson



Brenda



Caleb

Get to know Brenda & Caleb

Brenda

Where were you Born: Granite Falls, MN

Favorite Animal: Cat

Favorite Hobby: Crossword Puzzles

Works: Subway

Favorite AIM Activity- Fall Festival

Caleb

Nick Name: Big Hoss

Where were you Born: Springfield, MN

Favorite Music: Classic Country

Works: Teals in Spicer

Favorite Movie: Meet the Zohan

**Stop by our People First booth
at the AIM Fall Festival**

**Wednesday, September 23
5:30-7:00pm**

**Meet our officers, learn more about
People First activities and take a
shot at our hole-in-one disc golf shot**

People First Year-End Party

**Thursday, December 17
6:30-7:30pm
Vinje Church
Catered Meal- Free**

**This event includes a look back at
2026 highlights, recognition awards
& bingo with lots of prizes.**

People First Autumn Celebration

**Thursday, October 15
5:30-7:00pm - Miller Park**

Free- Sponsored by People First

Includes:



- A pumpkin for everyone to carve & decorate
- Yard Games
- Caramel Apples & Cider
- Great Door Prizes
- More fall fun!

Save the Date !

**November People First Event
Thursday, November 19
6:00-7:30pm**

**Program & Location to be
determined in mid-September**

A Look Back at our Summer Events

Kandiyohi County Fair Building Clean-up

Our annual service project to get the building cleaned-up before the fair.



Minnesota Capitol & History Center Tours



A Look Back at our Summer Events



LET'S GO
FISHING



Willmar Fire Station Tour



4-H Dog & Horse Shows



Summer Dance



Dunk Tank at WillmarFest



A Look Back at Summer Fun with AIM



**People
First
Event
at Big
Kahuna**



**Thank you Little Crow
Ski Team for our AIM
night and for offering
the adaptive water
skiing program again
this summer!**



USA Special Olympics Games Trip- Thrivent Fan Fest



Bikes & BBQ- People First Event



AIM ANNUAL AWARDS

2026 NOMINATION FORM

Please circle the award category:

Advocacy

Volunteer

Professional

Community Partner

Name of Nominee: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Organization/Business Name: _____

How is the person or organization being nominated involved with AIM?

Why do you think this person or organization should be chosen for the award? You are welcome to add any additional documentation to support your nomination.

Name of person making the nomination: _____

Phone: _____

Send this form to AIM: PO Box 214, Willmar, MN 56201 or email: contact@aimwcm.org

Deadline for nominations is Friday, October 23, 2026.



Award Categories

**Winners recognized at the AIM Annual Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2026 - 6pm at Heritage Bank-Willmar**

Mary Rhude Advocacy Award:

The recipient of this award is someone who has advocated for inclusion and/or independent living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Kandiyohi County. This person can also be someone who has demonstrated leadership skills within the self-advocacy group, People First. This award is in honor of Mary Rhude, who was a former executive director of Arc Kandiyohi County and worked diligently with law makers to ensure quality services for people with disabilities.

Anne Miller Volunteer Award:

Volunteers are the heart and soul behind AIM's programs! We have so many events throughout the year that would not be possible without our supporters donating their time. The recipient of this award is someone who goes above and beyond to help make AIM programs a success. This award is in honor of Anne Miller, who was a former board member of Arc Kandiyohi County and a long-time People First volunteer. She also helped with People First members through the Senior Companion Program at Lutheran Social Services.

Ruth Mossberg Professional in Disability Services Award:

The recipient of this award is someone who excels in providing services for people with intellectual and developmental disability services. This person could be a direct care staff, an employment specialist, job coach, county worker, or anyone who works to provide person centered services to make Willmar a great place to live! This award is named in honor of Ruth Mossberg, who worked at REM. She was a long-time dedicated volunteer for the Arc Rec & Leisure Committee, and AIM also has a recreational scholarship named after her for all she did to provide social inclusion programs to those she served.

Community Partner Award:

Community partnerships are vital in helping a small nonprofit like AIM thrive! This award goes to a business or agency that has demonstrated dedication to AIM's success. This support can be shown in such ways as hosting events, sponsorships, or volunteering.

AIM Donor Recognitions

Corporate Sponsorships

AIM's sponsorship program to help support our mission. Whether you're a business, an individual, or part of a service group, there's a place for you to get involved and make a difference.

Advocate ★

Gold

\$1,000 +

Advocate ★

Silver

\$600

Advocate ★

Bronze

\$300



Joel & Patty Gratz
Willmar American Legion

**Heritage Exteriors
Marcus Construction**

Grants Received



Willmar Elks Lodge



The Catholic Area Faith Community of
JESUS OUR LIVING WATER
*Sharing the life of Christ
Being the love of Christ*



thrivent®



**Special
Olympics**
Minnesota



Various Donations- May 15 - Aug. 5, 2026

**In Memory of Tasha Pickle
Mark & Lynn Stier
Dan & Deb Hanson
Bev Kingman
Raymond's Lions Club
Paul & Jenell Johnson**

AIM ORDER FORM 2026

Order Due Friday, October 30, 2026

Gildan DryBlend 50 Cotton/50 Poly T-Shirt

- 5.5-ounce, 50 US cotton/50 poly
- DryBlend moisture-wicking properties
- Non-topstitched, classic width, rib collar
- Taped neck and shoulders
- Classic fit, seamless body
- Recycled, high-performing black tear-away label



SIZE

☐	ADULT SMALL	\$10.00
☐	ADULT MEDIUM	\$10.00
☐	ADULT LARGE	\$10.00
☐	ADULT XL	\$10.00
☐	ADULT 2XL	\$12.00
☐	ADULT 3XL	\$13.00
☐	ADULT 4XL	\$14.00
☐	ADULT 5XL	\$15.00

TOTAL: _____

Gildan DryBlend 50 Cotton/50 Poly Long Sleeve T-Shirt

- 5.5-ounce, 50/50 U.S. cotton/polyester
- DryBlend moisture-wicking properties
- Non-topstitched, classic width, rib collar
- Taped neck and shoulders
- Rib knit cuffs
- Classic fit, seamless body
- Recycled, high-performing black tear-away label



SIZE

☐	ADULT SMALL	\$15.00
☐	ADULT MEDIUM	\$15.00
☐	ADULT LARGE	\$15.00
☐	ADULT XL	\$15.00
☐	ADULT 2XL	\$17.00
☐	ADULT 3XL	\$18.00

TOTAL: _____

Gildan Heavy Blend Crewneck Sweatshirt

- 8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly
- Double-needle stitching at waistband and cuffs
- 1x1 rib knit collar, cuffs and waistband with spandex



SIZE

☐	ADULT SMALL	\$20.00
☐	ADULT MEDIUM	\$20.00
☐	ADULT LARGE	\$20.00
☐	ADULT XL	\$20.00
☐	ADULT 2XL	\$22.00
☐	ADULT 3XL	\$23.00
☐	ADULT 4XL	\$24.00
☐	ADULT 5XL	\$25.00

TOTAL: _____

Gildan Heavy Blend Hooded Sweatshirt

- 8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly
- Double-needle stitching at waistband and cuffs
- Double-lined hood with dyed-to-match drawcord
- 1x1 rib knit cuffs and waistband with spandex
- Front pouch pocket



SIZE

☐	ADULT SMALL	\$25.00
☐	ADULT MEDIUM	\$25.00
☐	ADULT LARGE	\$25.00
☐	ADULT XL	\$25.00
☐	ADULT 2XL	\$27.00
☐	ADULT 3XL	\$28.00
☐	ADULT 4XL	\$29.00
☐	ADULT 5XL	\$30.00

TOTAL: _____

AIM ORDER FORM 2026

Port Authority Wearever Performance Pique 1/4-Zip

- 4.4-ounce, 100% polyester pique
- Moisture-wicking
- Snag-resistant
- Cadet collar
- Curved forward shoulder
- Dyed-to-match coil zipper and pull
- Self-turned cuffs and hem



FIT

- ☐ MENS
☐ LADIES

SIZE

- ☐ ADULT SMALL \$25.00
☐ ADULT MEDIUM \$25.00
☐ ADULT LARGE \$25.00
☐ ADULT XL \$25.00
☐ ADULT 2XL \$27.00
☐ ADULT 3XL \$28.00
☐ ADULT 4XL \$29.00

TOTAL: _____

District Perfect Tri Fleece Jogger

- 7.1-ounce (240 GSM)
- 54/40/6 polyester/combed ring spun cotton/rayon, 3-end fleece
- 2x1 rib knit waistband
- Dyed-to-match exterior drawcord with metal tips
- Side seam pockets
- Right patch pocket on back with rib knit trim
- 2x1 rib knit cuffs
- Side seamed
- Tear-away label



SIZE

- ☐ ADULT SMALL \$30.00
☐ ADULT MEDIUM \$30.00
☐ ADULT LARGE \$30.00
☐ ADULT XL \$30.00
☐ ADULT 2XL \$32.00
☐ ADULT 3XL \$33.00
☐ ADULT 4XL \$34.00

TOTAL: _____

Port Authority Snapback Trucker Cap

- 100% cotton twill front panels and bill
- Structured
- Mid-profile
- 7-position adjustable snapback closure



SIZE

- ☐ ONE SIZE \$15.00

TOTAL: _____

Port Authority Core Soft Shell Jacket

- 100% polyester woven shell bonded to a water-resistant film insert and a 100% polyester microfleece lining
- 1000MM fabric waterproof rating & 1000G/M² fabric breathability rating*
- Wind-resistant, water-repellent
- Zip-through cadet collar with chin guard
- Reverse coil zippers
- Front zippered pockets



FIT

- ☐ MENS
☐ LADIES

SIZE

- ☐ ADULT X-SMALL \$40.00
☐ ADULT SMALL \$40.00
☐ ADULT MEDIUM \$40.00
☐ ADULT LARGE \$40.00
☐ ADULT XL \$40.00
☐ ADULT 2XL \$42.00
☐ ADULT 3XL \$43.00
☐ ADULT 4XL \$44.00

TOTAL: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO HANSEN ADVERTISING. PLEASE STAPLE CHECK OR CASH TO ORDER FORM. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER. PLEASE TURN IN ORDER ON TIME. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE ORDERS.

GRAND TOTAL: _____

NAME: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____
PLEASE PRINT



Thank You!

PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS: 320-235-4754

OFFICE USE ONLY
PAID _____
CHECK NUMBER _____



PO Box 214
Willmar, MN 56201

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #667
WILLMAR, MN