# 2023-24 Community impact report



## \$781,538 RAISED \$3,281,147 INVESTED 4,149 VOLUNTEER HOURS

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THRIVING IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY



**UNITED WAY** of Yellowstone County

# TO OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Friends,

United Way of Yellowstone County's highest purpose is to bring our community together to drive positive change that no one sector or organization can achieve alone. Today, the role we and our community partners play is more critical than ever. We know that it takes engaged people, working with all sectors – community, business, education, government, and charitable – to improve the quality of life in our community.



We do this work to create lifelong change that transforms the entire trajectory of an individual, a family and a community: Children who enter school ready to learn are more likely to become strong readers, which in turn makes them more likely to succeed after high school. College graduates tend to earn more, which enables them to save for the future, and financially stable adults can cover the costs of healthcare and support their children's success in school. This is the virtuous cycle that the Live United movement makes possible.

This year, we experienced generosity in all shapes and sizes, as the Live United movement came together to fuel more impact than ever before. We were honored to receive a historic, unsolicited \$2.5 million investment from The Day One Families Fund – an unprecedented vote of confidence in our ability to drive measurable progress towards reducing family homelessness. Meanwhile, significant donations from six local financial institutions in partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines matching fund marked an extraordinary effort to increase our crisis stabilization efforts. We set the stage for a new chapter with the adoption of our 3-year organizational strategy. We continue to lead the way with innovative and equitable hiring practices, being recognized by JSEC (Job Service Employer Committee) as the Small Employer of the Year.

We are grateful for the visionary leadership of our United Way team, the unwavering dedication of our board of directors, and the steadfast support of Yellowstone County. Together, we have exemplified the transformative power of compassion, enriching the lives of countless individuals and families in our midst.

Your generous support has produced strong results, moving us closer to our vision of a Yellowstone County where all people have access to the opportunities to achieve their full potential.

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President and CEO United Way of Yellowstone County

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kim Degword

Board Chair Montana State University Billings Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Success



\$1 IS DONATED TO UWYC 85¢ TO PROGRAMS 15¢ TO FUNDRAISING & ADMINISTRATION WE ADD VALUE volunteer hours additional fundraising grant research program operations



# NEW HORIZONS, SAME VALUES

Throughout 2023 and 2024, we worked to realign our organizational strategy to the needs of our community. This included input from staff, committees, board members, and the wider community. We adopted our tri-annual strategic plan in July, but the lion's share of the work occurred earlier. This plan will guide the work of UWYC – empowering us to become better leaders and stronger partners as we continue to build a thriving community.

You'll see some of our language change, reinforcing that our commitment to Yellowstone County is stronger than ever. We'll be rolling out our new mission, impact areas, and a new aspirational impact goal, all guided by three new strategic goal areas: Organizational Visibility, Fundraising Modernization, and Programmatic Streamlining.

### Mission

To address the needs of Yellowstone County and to improve lives by connecting and collaborating for a thriving community.

### Vision

We envision a community where every person has the resources to reach their potential.

### Aspirational Goal

Move 1,000 households from barely surviving to financially thriving.

# Impact Areas Building Futures Community Resiliency Non-Profit Empowerment Impact Areas Impact Areas

We'll look a little different, too. We'll have a new logo, new colors, and a new website. It's part of United Way Worldwide's global brand refresh – a chance to better reflect who we are and to highlight our community impact. We'll elevate community voices and engage with our supporters on a new level, shining a light on the challenges and opportunities that await us. We'll roll out a new brand awareness campaign, "United is the Way," and new calls to action – "Get Involved," "Give Back," and "Take Action." This brand refresh is about much more than a logo – it's about how we infuse the hope, excitement and inclusion that powers United Way into everything we do.





United, we show the way United, we lead the way United is the way United is the way United is the way we come together

# **OUR PEOPLE**

#### **Board of Directors**

**Executive Committee** 

Kim Hayworth, PhD, Chair Vice Chancellor for Student Access & Success Montana State University Billings

> **Eric Owen, Chair Elect** VP, Public Health & Clinical Services RiverStone Health

> > Casey Klein, Treasurer CEO Valley Credit Union

Nathan Hirsch, Past Chair Commercial Relationship Manager First Interstate Bank

#### Directors

**Terri Blevins** Associate Dean of Student Affairs RVU Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine

rs Vice President, Refining <sup>ne</sup> CHS, Inc.

**JJ Carmody** Director of Health Policy Billings Clinic

> **Kimberly Guy** Executive Assistant DOWL

**D'Vaughn Hayes** Commercial Sales Manager TDS Fiber

**Janet Hardy** Director of Communication Phillips 66

**Jim Hernjak** Refinery Mechanical Manager Par Montana **Tyler Nash** Co-Owner Mazevo Coffee Co.

Jim Irwin

Dominic Neameyer Project Engineer Sanbel

**Robbie Neihart, P.E.** Project Manager Performance Engineering

**Chris Olszewski, PhD** Executive Director of Curriculum Billings Public Schools

**Jill Quade** Community Volunteer Retired, Exxon Mobil

#### Staff

Steph Brazill Director of Community Relations

> Chrissy Brese Engagement Coordinator

Elizabeth Chappell Community Impact Coordinator

> Sonja Clayton Director of Finance

**Jennifer Cuellar** Office Administrator

Marjorie Damschen 211 Assistant

Maia Dickerson Community Impact Coordinator

> Sharon Fiscus Finance Coordinator

Haiven Hayes CARE Manager

Matt Hoffman Marketing Coordinator

Michelle Lamberson Out-of-School Time Director

> Kim Lewis President and CEO

Brenda Ludwig Community Impact Coordinator

> Sheila Veatch CARE Manager

**Dean Wells** Director of Impact and Operations









# OUR IMPACT

### \$300,000 IN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANTS

13 local non-profits working in school success and readiness, crisis stabilization, and senior independence.

- Adult Resource Alliance
- Billings Family YMCA
- CASA of Yellowstone County
- Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools
- Family Service
- Friends of the Children Eastern Montana
- Head Start, Inc.
- HRDC 7
- Special Olympics Montana
- Tumbleweed
- Veterans Navigation Network
- Young Families Early Head Start
- YWCA Billings







### 6,500+ USERS 1,000+ RESOURCES

211 is a hotline and website with local resources on topics to help people overcome challenges.

Education • Housing and Shelter • Food • Addictions Transportation • Legal Aid • Mental Health • Utilities Veterans and Service Members • Tribal Resources Children and Families • Aging and Senior Services Crisis and Emergency • Disability Services • and more!

### 1,800+ ACTIVE USERS 2,400+ KIDS REGISTERED

Bright by Text delivers parenting advice and local event information to parents via text message for ages 0-11.





### MORE THAN 6,800 BOOKS GIVEN TO KIDS

Reach Out & Read ensures every kid has the chance to read by partnering with The Children's Clinic, and Intermountain Health's Lockwood and Laurel Clinics.

### 30 MENTORS PAIRED WITH 45 KIDS

Success Mentors work to improve academic, social, and emotional outcomes for kids in 13 schools.



# OUR IMPACT



### 376 KIDS SERVED \$40,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS 2,300 HOURS OF CARE

CARE Academy and Discover Zone are before-and-after-school and summer programs that provide a safe, educational environment for kids that give them a boost in school and keeps parents in our local workforce.

# SUPPLY DRIVES: HARNESSING THE POWER OF COMMUNITY



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### **DIAPER DRIVE**

We collected 34,000 diapers and 20,000 wipes in partnership with Family Promise, which reached hundreds of babies.



### **OPERATION SCHOOL SUPPLY**

We partnered with Family Service, the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools, and the Laurel Education Foundation to collect 25,000 supplies and 1,000 backpacks. More than 800 kids from 54 different schools got geared up.



### SOCKTOBERFEST

We collected nearly 3,500 pairs of socks for non-profits to distribute to people in need.



### STUFF THE SLEIGH

We collected 674 warm items like coats, sleeping bags, hats and gloves for our unhoused neighbors.

### UNITED WE CAN

Seven organizations collected almost 1,000 food items that were donated to local aid agencies.



### \$36,000+ IN EMERGENCY FOOD & SHELTER AID

We coordinate the distribution of funds for Yellowstone County to aid agencies including St. Vincent De Paul, Family Service, Montana Rescue Mission, Native American Development Corporation, and the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools.

### \$2.5 MILLION GRANT TO SUPPORT HOMELESS FAMILIES

We continued planning for how to best use the \$2.5 million grant to solve family homelessness in Yellowstone County. We helped fund a new coordinator position for the Continuum of Care, a coalition of local non-profits dedicated to finding solutions to homelessness. United to Solve We provided almost \$25,000 in stabilization funding and more than \$10,000 to help those at risk of homeless keep their housing or get back into housing.



### WE ADVOCATE

We promoted UWYC programs at dozens of events. We hosted workshops, trainings, and more. We organized poverty simulations, which give participants the chance to get a taste of the hard choices that poverty forces – and to understand the importance of community support.

# **OUR SUPPORTERS**

Our donors are a force for good whose generosity fuels a brighter future for Yellowstone County. This small display of appreciation cannot express our gratitude for their support. Thank you for believing that we can build a community where everyone thrives.

#### TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY MEMBERS: \$10,000+

CHS, Inc.

First Federal Bank and Trust First Interstate Bank of Billings Fortin Foundation of Florida Inc. Green Dot Bank Intermountain Children's Home JPMorgan Chase & Co. Bank Montana Dakota Utilities Co. Par Montana Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. Phillips 66 Billings Refinery Scheels Valley Credit Union Wells Fargo

#### SUMMIT MEMBERS: \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous **Billings Federal Credit Union BNSF Railway Foundation** Richard & Ericka Brown **Catholic Social Services** John & Taylor Herr Muryl & Lu Myhre Foundation Jamie Ohl Dr. Michelle Spenny & Andy Boetticher Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

#### Assets

Current Assets: \$892,780 Net Property and Equipment: \$1,166,823 Other Assets: \$4,768,549 Current total net assets: \$6,828,152

Liabilities and Net Assets Total Liabilities: \$741,073 Board Designated: \$930,164 Unrestricted: \$1,996,816 Donor Restricted: \$3,160,099 Total Net Assets: \$6,087,079 Total Liabilities and Net Assets: \$6,828,152 Anonymous **Ballard Petroleum** Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Barrow **Border States Electric** Cory Bruce The Childrens Clinic Costco Wholesale Stacy D. and Deanna Emmett James G. Hernjak Hoiness Family Foundation

#### ALPINE MEMBERS: \$2,500-\$4,999

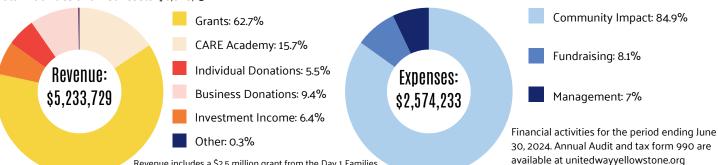
- **Duane Algaard**
- Intermountain Health St Vincent **Regional Hospital** Casey Klein Kim & Pat Lewis Dr. Benjamin & Mary Lou Marchello Margie & Bill Murry Pacific Source **RBC Wealth Management RiverStone Health** Karin & Ronald Smith Bill & Mary Underriner Ann-Marie Wade & John Stoddart

### TIMBERLINE MEMBERS: \$1000-\$2,499

Anonymous Anvil Don & Libby Arendt Michael D. Bertram **BMO Transportation Finance** Tom & Angela Boos Craig Burke Doug & Sarah Calvert Tom & Pam Dimich Doc Harper's Tavern LLC Federal Express Frank & Margo Kelley Donor Advised Fund Derek & Shawn Hinz Shavne & Theresa Hinz Nathan Hirsch Chris & Tracy Hoiness Mark Horn Dr. Robert Hurd Kim & Bryce Jakub Judith S. Johnson David Kelley Gareld Krieg Chris A. Kukulski

Rhonda Laughman Joseph Lierow Malcolm & Karen Long Marsh McLennan Agency (fmr PayneWest) Herbert & Gerry Mangis **RVU Medical College of Montana Brittany Ann Minhas Missoula County Public Health** Morgan Stanley Mutual of America Life Insurance Company Alex Nunan Daniel Oakes Brian Petty Jill & Garth Quade Dr. Mark & Mrs. Christine Randak Royal & Norma Johnson Charitable Foundation Michael Sanderson Sibanye Stillwater Dr. & Mrs. Stewart Taylor Dr. Charles Wittnam & Ms. Patricia Payne Zonta Club of Billings

This is our donor list as of 12/16/24. If we missed you, we apologize for the oversight. Please know that your support is invaluable to us and that we'll work to ensure your recognition in the future.



Revenue includes a \$2.5 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund that will be spread over 5 years but was reported in FY24

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

#### Messages of Gratitude and Hope

"I don't know where to start. I can't even sit here and write a sentence without tearing up... My husband has a rare and extremely painful neurological disease that required an invasive brain surgery.

It was a huge blessing for (our kids) to attend CARE until 6 pm. Thank you for helping take care of our precious girls while I helped ensure (my husband) was getting the best medical care."

#### KJ, CARE Academy Parent and scholarship recipient





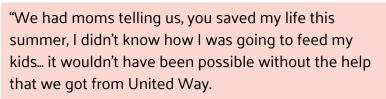




- "I'm trying to take care of all the basic needs... you really do feel helpless."
- "It gave me a little more compassion."
- "It's easy for us to say, 'oh, just do this.' But that's not realistic."

Feedback from poverty simulation participants





Stuff the Sleia

We know it was making a difference. We fed 275 children every single week."

Kelly McCandless, Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools, which received a grant to help fund their summer lunch program, The Munch Machine Community Investment Grants



