

April 2022

United Moments with UWYC



Kim's Corner

Flowers blooming, trees growing, days getting longer...all those wonderful things you expect as we welcome spring. Spring means change. But, change doesn't just happen; it is created! Made in a moment, when we choose to help, to show up, to reach out, to raise our hand. Created from compassion and generosity, to make it possible for everyone to recover from a crisis, rebuild what was lost, to reimagine a new kind of future. What we each do to create change doesn't have to be big or amplified because one action UNITED with another multiplies. And that's how a single moment creates a world where everyone thrives and one where we all LIVE UNITED. Happy Spring!

[Connect with Kim](#)

VNN's Blake Fuhriman receives award from Gianforte



Governor Gianforte presented the Governor's Veterans Commendation to Blake Fuhriman, RiverStone Health Clinic director of quality and innovation. Blake was nominated for the award by his fellow veterans for his service as a U.S. Army Ranger, including three deployments in Afghanistan, and for starting the Veterans Navigation Network (VNN) in Billings to help veterans successfully transition from the military back to civilian life. VNN shares space at the United Way offices and we are proud of you Blake! Blake was the first veteran in Montana to receive this inaugural award!



2022

Thursday, September 15

4:30-7PM

2173 Overland Ave

A community gathering to celebrate Days of Caring and Operation Supply Drive, as well as to Kick-Off the Annual Workplace Campaign.

Join us and enjoy:



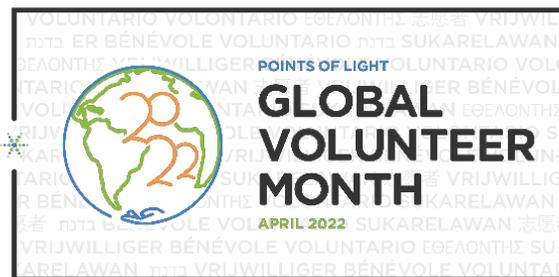
Community Leaders Luncheon

Our Community Leader Luncheon recognized a number of companies that participated in our Annual Workplace Campaign in 2021 that went above and beyond to embody the spirit of the campaign with their support and commitment. These companies along with the other 90 companies that ran a local workplace campaign last year, raised nearly \$750,000, exceeding our goal by \$15,000! Without these dedicated companies, United Way of Yellowstone County would not be able to continue to create lasting change in the community. We would like to extend a congratulations to the following companies who ran a stellar campaign and increased employee participation:

- Alternatives, Inc.
- Anvil
- Billings Federal Credit Union
- Billings Public Schools
- BMO Harris Bank
- CHS
- DOWL Engineering
- Eide Baily, LLP
- Montana Dakota Utilities Co.
- NorthWestern Energy
- PayneWest Insurance
- Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
- Philips 66 Billings Refinery
- RBC Wealth Management
- Sanderson Stewart
- Scheels
- St. Vincent's Health Care
- YWCA

If you would like to learn more about our supporting companies, you can click on their names above to be directed to their website.

April is Global Volunteer Month



Global Volunteer Month celebrates individuals and the power of people who tackle society's greatest challenges to build stronger, more vibrant communities through everyday actions. Take time to thank someone who is making a meaningful difference in Yellowstone County. **Nominate** them for a Daily Point of Light award.

Check out ways **YouCanVolunteer** to make a difference In Yellowstone County.

You can also check out this special global-focused opportunity, **Yarning for Peace**, organized by our good friends at the Alliance Volunteer Program.

YARNING FOR PEACE



A FUN,
UNEXPECTED
& BEAUTIFUL
HUMANITARIAN
EVENT TO
SUPPORT THE
PEOPLE OF
UKRAINE

Live By Doing... Live by Serving



Support students, make money for college, and build your resume

Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) has approved proposals for UWYC to host five (5) VISTA Summer Associates from June 6 – August 14. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and a United States citizen.

Their work will focus on maintaining and enhancing the academic and social/emotional learning of elementary or middle school children. Four will work with the CARE Academy summer program and one will work with engagement staff and Youth Volunteer Corps members (ages 11-18).

Are you or do you know of a college student that will be in Billings this summer who would be interested in this opportunity? More information can be found at **Summer AmeriCorps** and **FAQ** or contact volunteer@uwyellowstone.org or call 406-272-8510.

Tax Day is April 18th

Get the full tax refund you deserve!	 	With United Way's free online platform, filing is simple and easy. DON'T MISS OUT
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Tax Day is quickly approaching, but there's no need to stress. Use **MyFreeTaxes.com** to file state and federal returns for free — in under an hour!

United Way's free filing software uses best-in-class standards to safeguard taxpayer information, guarantee your tax returns are accurate, and ensure you receive your maximum refund.

Don't wait any longer to check taxes off your list.

Literacy Matters!

Reading is critical to success in school, work and life.



Research shows that students who are strong readers by the end of 3rd grade are more likely to graduate high school.

UWYC supports School Success with several childhood literacy initiatives. Through the Barnes and Noble book drive, UWYC distributed over 1,300 books to partner agencies for distribution to their youngest clients. Reach Out and Read, a program that integrates reading into well-child pediatric visits for ages 6 months through 5, provided 6,000 books to Children's Clinic and St. Vincent Healthcare Laurel Family Practice patients.

United we can help young children develop a love of reading helping them to build a foundation for success in school, work and life. **Find out how!**

Volunteer as a board member at a nonprofit you believe in!



If you are looking for a way to give back and make a huge difference in our community, becoming a board or committee member of a nonprofit can help you to achieve this. If you are eager to make a difference by helping to align business resources to the complex and growing needs of our most vulnerable in the community—United Way of Yellowstone County may be a good match for you. A board or committee member is responsible for defining and supporting the nonprofit's vision, goals and mission by setting sound policies. Board members are vitally important to helping effectively steer the organization to greatness and towards a sustainable and brighter future. They also carefully oversee the nonprofit's budget and are responsible for helping to set new budgets. Board or committee members are vitally important to helping effectively steer the organization to greatness and towards a sustainable and brighter future while ensuring that the organization has sufficient resources and funds to continue to create an impact in the communities they serve.

Not only does a nonprofit board or committee member add value to the organization, but the opportunity works both ways. A nonprofit can actually help leaders improve their soft skills. For example, teamwork, problem-solving, and analytical skills can be further honed by serving as a board member, regardless of your experience level or age. It can be an ideal opportunity for a young professional to help a great cause while gaining an additional community perspective. Joining a nonprofit board or committee is a great way to expand your network and connections from around the region and across industries.

For more information on volunteering as a Board or Committee member, contact **Kim Lewis**.

[Learn More Here](#)

Locks for Middle School Transition

Thanks to generous support from King's Ace Hardware and RiverStone Health, schools across Yellowstone County will receive locks to help with elementary to middle school transitions as part of United Way of Yellowstone County's school success focus area. Preparing for a successful transition means providing schools with tools that address student concerns such as having the confidence to open their locker on the first day of middle school. Learn more about **School Success!**



Connecting you to a better life®



The helpful place.

CARE Academy Summer Carnival



Save the date for our CARE Academy and Success Mentoring Summer Carnival being held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the United Way campus! We're going to celebrate the end of the school year with a party including lots of games, snacks, a barbeque, and lots of **FUN**.

We need your **help** to make the carnival a success! **If you can donate goods, games, or prizes, volunteer your time or share a unique skill (like face painting)** we would appreciate your support. Please bring your kids, friends, and neighbors for a fun night and a chance to come together as a community. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

For more information or if you can donate please email Michelle Lamberson at:
CAREmanager@uwyellowstone.org.

Monthly Honor Roll

Shout out to these donors who have invested in Yellowstone County's health, education, and financial stability efforts this month! We appreciate your support and generosity!

Arrowhead PTA, Inc.
Associated Food Stores
AT&T
Billings Public Schools
BMO Transportation Finance
Burlington Northern Santa Fe
DOWL HKM
ExxonMobil
HDR Engineering, Inc.
IBM Corp.

John Deer Sales & Training
L3 Harris Technologies
Montana Dakota Utilities Co.
New York Life Insurance Co.
NorthWestern Energy
O'Reilly Auto Parts
ONEOK, Inc.
Phillips 66 Billings Refinery
Raytheon
RBC Wealth Management

Steven Restad
RiverStone Health
Schutz Foss Architects, P.C.
Target Stores
Wal-Mart Stores
Wells Fargo, N.A.
Western Security Bank

See Your Name Here Next Month



Does your family, service organization, social group or company want to give back to our community through volunteering? Click the picture above to view current volunteer opportunities in Yellowstone County!

If you would like your organization's opportunities listed, contact Pam at
psanderson@uwyellowstone.org or 406.272.8510

DONATE

**United Way of
Yellowstone County**



United Way of Yellowstone County
406.252.3839
www.uwyellowstone.org

Connect with us

