

February 2022

## United Moments with UWYC



### Kim's Corner

Have you ever thought about being the joy that matters in someone else's life? Joy is something we get to choose. There is much to be joyous and grateful about. For me, it is the warm sunshine, making someone else laugh, and cuddling with my dog.

Joy fills our hearts and lifts our spirit. So how can you best bring joy to other people? This month, we are celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Day. I challenge you to give yourself and others the gift of joy!

"Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy, and keep choosing it every day."  
~Henri J.M. Nouwen

[Connect with Kim](#)

### Random Acts of Kindness Day



Thursday, February 17 is Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Day, a special day designated each year to encourage global kindness and remind people to "make kindness the norm."

What will you do on February 17 to share kindness and positivity with others? Perhaps you will leave a cute note in your child's lunch box or compliment your coworker on a job well done. Maybe you can bake some tasty treats for your neighbor or write an appreciative note to a loved one. There are hundreds of ways, and there are thousands of opportunities.

Take this time to show the world that you care. Share your kindness with others, no matter the method.

[More Ideas on Spreading the Love](#)

## National 2•1•1 Day



# Did You Know

Montana 211 can help you find rent assistance, child care, free meals, and a plethora of other health and human service resources?

**Saturday, February 11th is National 211 Day.**

**From Hello to Help.** It's amazing how much a single phone conversation can accomplish. If that call is to 211, it can connect people with food, one of the top requests from callers. 211 is here to help every person in every community find food, pay for housing and bills, and connect to other essential services.

In a crisis, in a disaster, or even in a pandemic, 211 is here to help every person in Yellowstone County.

211 provides connections to many kinds of resources and services, including crisis and emergency counseling for mental health concerns, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, unemployment services, and veteran services.

You can dial 2-1-1 on your phone or you can browse local resources on [www.montana211.org](http://www.montana211.org)

"People who contact 211 want someone who can listen to them, provide them with resources, and assist them to keep hope alive," said Kim Lewis, President and CEO of UWYC.

## Veterans Navigation Network

**Veterans Resource Fair**

Veterans Navigation Network is hosting a Resource Fair on Saturday, February 12.

If you wonder about resources accessible to military veterans, then this is the event for you! Visit the Veterans Resource Fair to ask questions, learn about their mission, and connect with other veterans in Yellowstone County!

This event will be located at the United Way campus, 2173 Overland Ave, from 11am - 1pm and will give veterans the opportunity to learn more about the amazing help available in Yellowstone County.



[View Event Page](#)

[Learn More About VNN](#)

## Sweet Updates from CARE Academy



CARE Academy would like to share Valentine's wishes upon you and your loved ones this February.

Additionally, a new CARE Academy logo was created based on a drawing contest that CARE Academy members participated in last month. The winning drawing was submitted by Ms. Abby Remington, the Program Assistant at Meadowlark.

**How many years have you spent with CARE Academy?**

6 years in October

**What three words would you use to define yourself?**

Funny, passionate, and kind

**What inspired you to get involved with CARE Academy?**

I enjoy working with kids

**What's your favorite quote?**

*"All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you."*

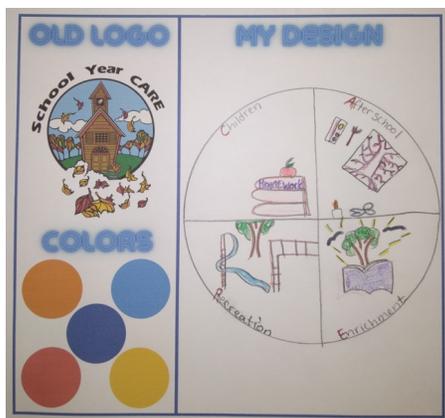
~The Lord of the Rings

**How has your experience been with CARE Academy?**

It's been great!

**What's your favorite song?**

Larger Than Life by The Backstreet Boys



Abby's inspired art concept for the new CARE Academy logo.

The new CARE Academy logo based on Abby's creativity.

## Celebrating Our Community's Success

Thanks to generous donors like you, the 2021 Annual Campaign raised \$607,091, 83% of the \$735,000 goal, for education, health, and financial stability programs in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

Additionally, United Way of Yellowstone County would like to acknowledge and congratulate **Best Beginnings** for the hard work supporting parents in **Parent Connect** in 2021, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December.

According to the 2021 Parent Connect Report, there were...

- 1260 parents contacted
- 899 surveys taken
- 414 phone calls received
- 442 emails sent
- 436 texts read
- 1415 monthly topic emails delivered

Thank you **Best Beginnings** for all of the time and effort you dedicate to improving our community!

## Free Tax Services



Get the full tax refund you deserve!

**myfree taxes.com**

With United Way's free online platform, filing is simple and easy.

**DON'T MISS OUT**

United Way is excited to announce the launch of this tax season's MyFreeTaxes service. United Way is providing free online tax filing software to help taxpayers easily and accurately file their taxes from their computer or smartphone.

MyFreeTaxes is a free and easy way to file federal return and state tax returns. No matter your income, MyFreeTaxes can help you take advantage of all the tax credits and deductions you qualify for!

Key features include:

- Screening for credit and deduction eligibility such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit to ensure you receive your maximum tax refund
- Showing how and why your refund amount is changing in real time
- Live tax assistance from IRS-certified specialists

MyFreeTaxes is the largest free, online tax filing product offered by a nonprofit. United Way provides the service as part of our fight for the financial stability of every person in every community. By using MyFreeTaxes, you can complete your return in under an hour and save an average of \$200 in tax preparation fees.

## Gold Star Recipients

**Thank you for going above and beyond to help further United Way's mission in Yellowstone County!**

United Way of Yellowstone County would like to give



## UWYC GOLD STAR AWARD

a huge shoutout to Mandy Berens, the Owner and Operator at **Kountry Kare Preschool and Child Care Center**. UWYC is so grateful for Mandy's presence in Yellowstone County. Mandy has been instrumental in the success of School Readiness initiatives all over Yellowstone County and she consistently promotes **Best Beginnings** initiatives such as **Bright By Text** and **Parent Connect**.

## Monthly Honor Role

**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!**

Travis Adolph	Cynthia A. Greene	Brian L. Petersen
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See Your Name Here Next Month



**YOU CAN!**

Visit  
[www.YouCanVolunteer.org](http://www.YouCanVolunteer.org)  
for current volunteer opportunities!

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](mailto:psanderson@uwyellowstone.org) or 406.272.8510

DONATE

# United Way of Yellowstone County

United  
Way



**United Way of Yellowstone County**

406.252.3839

[www.uwyellowstone.org](http://www.uwyellowstone.org)

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