

April 2024

Spring into Action with United Way of Yellowstone County

A poster titled "GET CONNECTED with volunteer opportunities" for Spring 2024. It lists five events: April 3 Workshop Wednesday (kindness rock garden), April 19 Diaper Drive (Community Diaper Bank), May 15 Workshop Wednesday (CARE Academy/Discover Zone carnival), May 17 CARE Academy/Discover Zone Carnival, and June 19 Day of Action (Annual Day of Action at Dover Park). The poster includes the United Way logo and the website unitedwayyellowstone.org.

GET CONNECTED
with volunteer opportunities

Spring 2024

April 3 **Workshop Wednesday-** Come help us grow our kindness rock garden. This is your chance to let your creative juices flow by decorating some rocks.

April 19 **Diaper Drive-** Support the Community Diaper Bank housed by Family Promise from 11 am - 6 pm, help us reach our goal of collecting 50,000 diapers! Size 4 and 5 most needed.

May 15 **Workshop Wednesday-** 10 am - 12 noon we will be preparing for our CARE Academy/ Discover Zone carnival.

May 17 **CARE Academy/ Discover Zone Carnival-** Volunteers are needed from 4 pm - 7:30 pm to help whoop it up and say goodbye to the school year with a blast of games, food , and a whole lot of fun.

June 19 **Day of Action-** We Need YOU! Join us for our Annual Day of Action out at Dover Park from 1 pm - 4 pm with a post-event celebration at Tiny's Tavern.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
unitedwayyellowstone.org

United Way
United Way of Yellowstone County

If you or your organization is interested in volunteering please reach out to Chrissy at volcoord@uwyyellowstone.org.

Celebrating Volunteers: Global Volunteer Month



April is recognized as Global Volunteer Month, an opportunity to celebrate the efforts of individuals who dedicate their time and resources to causes they care about. This annual event shines a light on the unsung heroes working tirelessly to make the world a better place. This occasion provides an excellent opportunity to express our gratitude to the dedicated citizens of Yellowstone County who have taken on the challenge of addressing the community's pressing issues.

Volunteerism is the embodiment of goodwill, demonstrating the capacity to lead, provide support, and initiate action for causes that matter. Nonprofits could not exist without these volunteers that LIVE UNITED.

Global Volunteer Month is not just about recognizing the work of existing volunteers; it also aims to encourage others to lend their time and talents. Volunteering allows you to contribute to a cause that is close to your heart while also providing an opportunity to learn new skills, meet like-minded individuals, and gain valuable experiences.

One way to get involved in volunteering in Yellowstone County is to explore the [YouCanVolunteer](#) site. This platform offers information on over 80 groups serving the public good. Whether you have a few hours to spare or the desire to embark on a long-term commitment, there is always a way to help.

As we express our gratitude to volunteers, let's not forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. So, **THANK A VOLUNTEER! BE A VOLUNTEER!** Your actions can inspire others, and together, we can create a ripple effect of positive change



Volunteer Engagement Session – April 10th 10:00 am – 10:30 am

This is an invitation to a unique engagement information session, designed to boost team spirit while also offering a chance to contribute to the community. This session can be attended virtually or in person, adding an element of convenience to the participants.

- The focus of the session will be the introduction of upcoming events, which includes the Community Diaper Drive and the 'Workshop Wednesday's' series.
- These initiatives are not just community services, they also offer volunteers a chance to learn and grow on a personal and professional level.
- The session is open to anyone interested in participating, and in case you are unable to attend, a recorded version will be available.

Add event to calendar

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Celebrating Community: Thank you RiverStone Health



Kim Lewis & Chrissy Brese - UWYC, sharing all things United Way of Yellowstone County at RiverStone Health's Campaign Kick-off



Steph Brazill - UWYC & Heather Fink Stambaugh - RiverStone Health

Thank you, RiverStone Health, for inviting us to participate in your United Way Workplace Giving Campaign Kick-off. It was a pleasure meeting members of your team and discussing the positive impact we are creating together.

Congratulations to Joey Verlanic and Wendi Lewis for participating in workplace giving, they were entered into a drawing and won United Way of Yellowstone County Beverage BOGO cards!

We appreciate the contributions of the RiverStone team and the meaningful work they do to improve Yellowstone County. Thank you for your support!

United Way of Yellowstone County receives Employer of Choice recognition!



We are excited to announce we have been selected to receive the 2024 Employer of Choice Award! We were selected from the small employer category with 50 or less employees.

"This is an exciting accolade to receive! Thanks to our staff team for your hard work and

dedication to our mission and commitment to constant improvement and growth with our culture. Thanks to our Board of Directors for being generous and forward-thinking with our incredible benefits package.

We have a great team doing great things for our community. What a joy it is to work for this amazing organization!" Kim Lewis, President & CEO

UWYC Program Spotlight: Out-Of-School-Time Programs

National Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week

April 22-26



CARE Academy staff canvas painting night

April 22-26, 2024, marks Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week, a special time to honor, appreciate and advocate for the individuals who dedicate their time and energy to working with young people during out-of-school hours. At United Way of Yellowstone County, we proudly recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of our CARE Academy and Discover Zone staff, who play a crucial role in the lives of 348 students in Billings and Laurel.

Our CARE Academy, an elementary Out-Of-School-Time program, and Discover Zone, our middle school program, provide a safe and enriching environment for children after school and during the summer. We are thrilled to announce the addition of a 12th location, expanding our reach and impact in the community. During the summer, 141 kids benefit from our programs, which offer affordable, quality childcare that parents can rely on.

This Afterschool Professionals Appreciation week, we extend our gratitude to our dedicated staff for their commitment to the children and families we serve. Join us in recognizing and celebrating the incredible work of the afterschool professionals who

make a difference in the lives of young people every day!



Volunteer, share a skill, or host a booth at our annual CARE Academy/Discover Zone Carnival



Our Out-Of-School-Time Family Night for this quarter is our annual CARE Academy/Discover Zone Carnival which will be held on May 17th from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the United Way campus! We're going to celebrate the end of the school year with a party including lots of games, snacks, walking tacos, and lots of FUN!

We need your help to make the carnival a success! If you can donate goods, prizes, volunteer your time or share a unique skill (like face painting etc.) we would appreciate your support. Any of our non-profit partners are welcome to host a booth with a fun game and information about your program.

Please bring your kids, friends, and neighbors for a fun event and a chance to come together as a community.

We can't wait to celebrate with you! We will see you May 17th.

[Sign-up Here](#)

Collection Drive: United We CAN

This year we wanted to help address food insecurity by asking for donations of canned food and other nonperishable items to share with our local food pantries. What better way to get our community engaged and creative than to build a can sculpture!

We know there are children who are going to bed hungry every night. Our elderly community is faced with choosing between food and prescriptions. Hunger is real and it impacts our neighbor.

Thank you to the Billings YMCA, MARS of Billings, Wood's Powr-Grip, Walmart in Laurel and Walmart in Billings Heights for hosting drop off locations. Thanks to our generous community for donating over 800 items to distribute to local food pantries. Special thanks to our creative construction participants and congratulations to Wood's Powr-Grip for winning this years United We CAN Sculpture Contest!



Wood's Powr-Grip celebrating their 60th Birthday with a slice of birthday cake.



United Way of Yellowstone County erasing hunger.



Tumbleweed's slice of pumpkin pie



Tumbleweed
Lasting Change for Vulnerable Youth



Walmart

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



In April we bring awareness to the prevention of child abuse and the agencies in our community on the front lines advocating for the children and families navigating these heartbreaking situations. Here are some upcoming events to help support the cause!

- April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Blue Monday: Wear blue in support of prevention.
- April 5 at 11:00am - Pinwheel planting on the Courthouse Lawn, the Mayor and County Commissioner will proclaim April Child Abuse Prevention Month. .
- April 11 6:00pm - Reception and ceremony at Family Tree Nurturing Center to honor

those in our community that have supported in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Tour the center and enjoy light refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres.

- April 28 - Blue Sunday visit www.bluesunday.org



UWYC Staff Blue Monday



UWYC Staff planting pinwheels

United Way of Yellowstone County Partner Agency Spotlight

This month, we are thrilled to spotlight two organizations dedicated to promoting senior independence. The Billings Family YMCA's Enhance Fitness program and Big Sky Senior Services Helping Hands and Prevention of Elder Abuse programs, supported by our grants, exemplify their commitment to enhancing the lives of seniors in our community.



Through our Partner Grant, YMCA has been able to offer this life-changing program for free for 150 participants who register, leading to a remarkable 40% increase in participant numbers. Enhance fitness is designed to improve the quality of life for older adults living with arthritis and other health issues. By promoting the class at healthcare facilities and sharing on social media platforms, the YMCA expects an even greater number of participants by June.

In addition, they have provided 25 scholarships a month at a 50% discount for seniors needing financial assistance to join the Y and benefit from the Enhance Fitness program. In January, 48 low-income seniors received scholarships to join the Y and engage in programs that promote overall wellness: mentally, physically, and socially.

The Billings Family YMCA has been providing programs and services to meet the ever-changing needs of the community since 1905. They serve 10,000 members from diverse populations, promoting overall wellness. Their mission is "to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind, and body for all."

They focus on Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility, believing that everyone should have the same opportunities to be a part of the Y family, regardless of ethnicity, religion, economic status, gender, age, and/or limited liabilities.



We also support Big Sky Senior Services through their Senior Helping Hands and Prevention of Elder Abuse programs. Our grant helps to deliver essential services to seniors in need. Senior Helping Hands provides essential support services to seniors in their homes, including safety checks, recommendations to remove fall risks, and home services such as cleaning, laundry, grocery shopping, and transposition. Seniors also receive in-home services from caregivers, certified nurse's aides, and registered nurses.

The Prevention of Elder Abuse program supports payee services for financial management, case management to prevent abuse and ensure seniors remain in their homes, and volunteer guardianship for those without support. They also offer educational training on preventing elder abuse, financial exploitation, and dementia-friendly practices.

Big Sky Senior Services collaborates with Billings Clinic Community Health to provide housing support to seniors, ensuring they can remain in their homes safely.



Par Tee of Fore!

Our United Way team "Par Tee of Fore" enjoyed Putting our way around Laurel in the Laurel Chamber's St. Patrick's Day Mini Golf event!

Thank you Laurel Chamber for hosting and the businesses that participated!

Mark Your Calendars!

April 19th 11:00am-6:00pm

COMMUNITY DIAPER DRIVE

A promotional graphic for the Community Diaper Drive. It features a baby wearing a red superhero mask and cape on the left. The background is blue with white text. On the right, there is a stack of white diapers and a small yellow duck. Below the main text are three QR codes for volunteering, purchasing, and monetary donations, followed by logos for Family Promise and United Way of Yellowstone County.

**HELP UNITED WAY FILL
THE COMMUNITY DIAPER
BANK HOUSED BY
FAMILY PROMISE**

**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES**

**AMAZON
PURCHASING**

**MONETARY
DONATION**

**Family Promise
FP
of Yellowstone Valley**

**United Way
United Way
of Yellowstone County**

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- In 2023 the Diaper Bank handed out diapers to 1,156 unique families.
- Family Promise has helped unhoused families achieve and sustain independence in Yellowstone County since 2004.
- This is the sixth year United Way has hosted the Community Diaper Drive.
- The Community Diaper Bank is able to purchase 3 diapers for the cost of one making monetary donations just as valued.
- Family Promise Community Diaper Bank is on Tuesdays from 3:30pm-5:30pm at 10 S. 26th St.
- The need for diapers have doubled and will continue to grow.
- Family Promise handed out over 215,000 diapers in 2023
- If interested in volunteering at the Diaper Bank or other volunteer opportunities at Family Promise scan the QR Code above or go to **YouCanVolunteer**.

Drop off diapers at these churches from Mid April - Mother's Day

- Shiloh Methodist Church - 1810 Shiloh Rd
- Hope United Methodist - 244 Wicks Ln
- Grace United Methodist - 1935 Avenue B
- First United Methodist - 2800 4th Ave N

Drop off diapers at any of these businesses April 1-April 19

- Faithful Disaster Restoration - 1450 S 32nd St W
- Billings Public Library - 510 N Broadway
- CHS, Inc. - 803 US-212 South Laurel, MT
- Valley Federal Credit Union - 1541 Custer Ave
- United Way of Yellowstone County - 2173 Overland Ave

Save the Date:



United Way
of Yellowstone County



Warmer weather is finally on the way and it's time to stretch those legs and enjoy the great outdoors. What better way to embrace the changing seasons than by participating in a summer clean-up with co-workers, neighbors and friends? Day of Action 2024 provides the perfect chance for your company to get out and give back to our community.

Day of Action is United Way's annual community-wide volunteer mobilization effort. This year's project will take place the afternoon of Wednesday, June 19 from 1:00pm-4:00pm at Dover Park in Partnership with Yellowstone River Parks Association. Then join us for the after party at Tiny's!

This experience plants seeds for importance of volunteerism, mental health and the great outdoors. We are looking to mobilize as many volunteers as possible this year, and we need your help! There are many projects that are in need of volunteers. Please consider volunteering to help and spread the word to your friends. More details about Day of Action can be found [here](#). Help us build a better place to live, work and play!

For more information contact Chrissy at volcoord@uwyellowstone.org,

Add event to calendar

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Sip for a Cause: Introducing the Black Orchid Mimosa



Sophie's Kitchen is dedicated to giving back to the community that supports them so they have partnered with locally owned businesses Black Orchid Yoga + Cycle and Fresco Juice Co. to do so. Order a Black Orchid Mimosa, made fresh with a specially curated Fresco Juice Co. blend and each business will donate \$1 to United Way of Yellowstone County. Bonus - Black Orchid is giving away 3 free classes to each patron that orders this specialty drink (some exclusions apply).



@sophieskitchenbillings @frescojuiceco
@liveblackorchid

We are thrilled to announce a delightful partnership that not only tantalizes your taste buds but also supports a great cause! Sophie's Kitchen, in collaboration with Fresco Juice Co. and Black Orchid Yoga, presents the Black Orchid Mimosa, available throughout the month of April.

Join us in raising a glass to Sophie's Kitchen, Fresco Juice Co, and Black Orchid Yoga for their commitment to supporting our community.

Stop by Sophie's Kitchen this April to enjoy a refreshing Black Orchid Mimosa and make a difference in the lives of those in need. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Visit www.uwyellowstone.org for more information on ways to Give, Advocate, and Volunteer. Or, click the donate button below to make your donation today!

[Donate](#)


Sip, Support, Save:
Beverage BOGO discount card available soon!

**Watch for more details on the
exciting BOGO deals!**

**For just \$25, United Way of Yellowstone
County's Beverage BOGO Discount
Card gets you access to BOGO deals at
the best bars, breweries, wineries and
coffee houses throughout Yellowstone
County.**

Valued at over \$100, the Beverage Bingo
Discount Card is perfect for summer
gatherings and you help a great cause!

Promotion runs July 19th through
September 14th.



**BEVERAGE
BINGO**
BINGO WITH BENEFITS

United Way
Yellowstone County

A few of our partners include:

- Aloha Coffee
- American Legion
- Canyon Creek Brewing
- Carlton Depot
- Levity
- Magic City Casino
- Mazevo Coffee
- Meadowlark Brewing
- Palace Bar
- Polly's Place Coffee
- The Den
- The Sapphire Lounge
- Thirsty Street Brewing
- Tiny's
- Yellowstone Cellars & Winery

Partner Agency Events



Community Appreciation Open House

Family Service invites you to their facility for a
behind the scenes tour to see all the good work
being done!

Date: Wednesday April 17

Time: 4:30pm

Where: 3927 1st Avenue South

Healthy Kids Day

A free family event with food trucks, cool vendors, a
bouncy house, kids yoga and Zumba, pool board rides and
much more!

Date: Friday April 28

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Billings Family YMCA



Dancing with the Big Sky Stars

"Boots & Bling" Fundraiser

A tip of the hat to the TV show, "Dancing with the
Stars," this event features local celebrities who are
matched with professional dance instructors to



THE WORKFORCE BEHIND THE WORKFORCE

Child Care Community Conversation

Join us for a gathering of business leaders, childcare professionals, employees, and advocates to discuss the link between workforce shortages and childcare issues.

Jason Nitschke & Shelby Whelan

From Zero to Five will present local childcare data, family friendly business practices, information on employer sponsored childcare tax credit incentives, followed by small group discussion.

Don't miss this important event shaping the future of workforce and our economy!

April 23 | 1 - 3 pm

United Way of Yellowstone County
2173 Overland Ave.



SCAN TO REGISTER

PRESENTED BY:



POWERED BY



a Day of COMMUNITY SERVICE

Billings, Montana
and surrounding areas

Building Unity through Community Service

For Individuals:

• **SIGN-UP**
at JustServe.org

• **SERVE**
in a project

• **SHARE**
the experience

Volunteers include:
individuals, families,
service clubs,
faith organizations,
your neighbors,
youth and
student groups...

Saturday April 27, 2024
9:00am-12:00pm



 **JUSTSERVE.org**



Monthly Honor Roll

Associated Food Stores

Carol L. Atchison

AT & T

Marquice Barnett

Eliza Bayliss

Best Beginnings

Billings Public Schools

Shaun Biggerstaff

BMO Transportation Finance

Brooke Bloomenrader

Stephanie Bond

BNSF Railway Foundation

Stephanie Brazill

Cory Bruce

Brandi L. Caldwell

Michelle Callicott

Michael Card

Children's Endowment Fund - Warren Vaughan

CHS, Inc.

Sonja Clayton

COP Construction LLC

Kim Jones

April E. Keippel

Jana Keller

Corrie Knodel

Angela Kunz

Jeffrey Madsen

Kimberli Martin

Matthew A. Martin

Missoula County Public Health

Joshua Monson

Montana Carpenters Local Union 82

Montana Dakota Utilities Co.

Anthony Morales

Christopher R. Nava

Anne M. Nelson

Courtney Jo Nelson

Par Montana/formerly ExxonMobil

Mark W. Petesch

Phillips 66 Billings Refinery

Chelsi Podoll

Ariel Popelka

Costco Wholesale

Tawnyia Crotty

John Deere

Renee K. Dyer

Delorees Ellis

Deanna Emmett

Stacy D. Emmett

Kobe French

Kortney Gairrett

Sandra Gatica

Lisa Gernant

Xavreia E. Grass

Eric G. Halverson

Jennifer Hammontree

Sean Haney

Judith Heckler

Jason Hiatt

Lisa Hillis

Theresa M. Hinz

Nathan Hirsch

Mark Horn

Jerry Hutchins

Jacob Iverson

Raytheon

Luke Reinschmidt

Ryan Reitz

Steven Restad

Rebecca J. Richardson

Angela Sanders-Gordon

Shalom Santos

Lori R. Sawicki

Scheels All Sports

Kristy Schneidt

Donna R. See

Frank Shepard

Craig Smart

Michelle Spenny

Paul R. Staub

Zachery Sverdrup

Troy Taylor

Thirsty Street Brewing Co.

UPS, Montana

Kirsten A. Wiest

Delquez Williams Deerig

Shane Z. Zumbrun

Thank you to the following donors for contributing to improving lives through health, education, and crisis stabilization for those in Yellowstone County.

Want to see your name here? Donate below!

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**United Way of
Yellowstone County**



United Way of Yellowstone County

406.252.3839

www.uwyellowstone.org

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