

January 2024

United Moments with UWYC



Resolve to Make a Difference in 2024

How do you plan on sharing your time and talents with others in 2024? This is the perfect time to get engaged in our community! If you are looking for a way to give back and make a difference, becoming a board member or committee member can help you achieve this.

Benefits of Volunteer Leadership

- Develop and enhance leadership skills.
- Learn about opportunities to shape the community.
- Strengthen your own network of contacts.
- Volunteerism enhances your resume.

Qualifications and Attributes of Volunteer Leaders

- Passion for UWYC's mission and vision.
- Desire to connect with community leaders to address complex community needs.
- Willingness to give of time, talents and treasures to make a difference.
- A clean background check.

UWYC is currently recruiting for:

- Board of Directors
- Marketing Committee
- Grant Reviewer for Community Investment
- Special Event Committee

How You Can Get Involved:

- Explore Opportunities: Download the attached list of opportunities to get started with volunteering with United Way. Click here to find out more: **Committee Descriptions**
- Sign Up: Create a volunteer profile and sign up for the opportunities that align with your interests and skills. **Click here to learn more about how you can become a volunteer**
- Attend Information Sessions: Learn more about United Way's mission, ongoing projects, and how you can contribute by attending our virtual information sessions.

Contact Kim Lewis, President & CEO at klewis@uwyellowstone.org or (406) 272-8501 for more information.

United to Solve Homelessness- A Community Conversation

As we enter the new year, we are excited to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared throughout our United to Solve Homelessness Community Conversation. From the insightful kickoff by Kim Lewis to the impactful exploration of the Jeff Bezos Day 1 Families Fund, we've collectively delved into the core values, eligible activities, and the commitment to equity that will shape our community's future. We were able to unpack the core values guiding the Day 1 Fund, emphasizing flexibility and a focus on the neediest families. We explored the five key categories of eligible activities- Outreach, Diversions, Shelter, Housing, and Services and witnessed the recurring theme of equity, fostering collaboration and inclusivity. Board members presented overviews of the 5 categories, highlighting themes of collaboration, innovation, and addressing unique needs. The prioritization activity using \$250,00 stickers allowed us to streamline ideas, identifying key areas for action. The emphasis on community collaboration, transparency in action, and a roadmap for the future positions us for transformative change. Let's continue to reflect as a community on how, collectively, we can leverage new resources and make a lasting impact. Whether it's \$2.5 million or beyond, each contribution counts, and together, we can create positive change.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated. Your time, ideas, and commitment are invaluable. Thank you for being an integral part of our community-driven initiatives. Feel free to send us your comments, questions, or ideas. We're here to honor your time and continue to the conversation. If you would like to share information and ideas or be a part of the Advisory Committee, please visit: [United to Solve Homelessness](#).

Stay tuned for more updates as we kick off 2024 with a renewed commitment to positive change. Here's to a year of collaboration, innovation, and impactful solutions!

Empowering Positive Change: Apply for our Community Investment Agency Grants!

We extend an invitation to 501(c)(3) organizations serving Yellowstone County dedicated to fostering positive change in the areas of school readiness, school success, crisis stabilization, or senior independence to apply for a Community Investment Grant. Your tireless efforts contribute significantly to our community's well-being, and we believe in supporting your initiatives for a brighter future.

Important Details to Remember:

- **Application Period:** Our website's application portal will be open for submissions starting January 15th.
- **Application Deadline:** Ensure your application is submitted by February 16th through our convenient online platform.
- **Focus Areas:** We are particularly interested in projects aligned with school readiness, school success, crisis stabilization, or senior independence.


Allocation Insight:

Our team of volunteers, working closely with staff and the board, will collaboratively review each application to ensure a comprehensive evaluation, with final decision scheduled to be announced in July. Our commitment to transparency and fairness remains unwavering.

For any questions or assistance, please reach out to Maia at 406-272-8506 or

mdickerson@uwyellowstone.org

Do you want to be a part of determining 2024 community investments?





United Way
United Way
of Yellowstone County

**Community Investment
Grant Application
Volunteer
Reviewers
Needed**

**Annually, we invest \$250,000 directly back into the community.
We need your help to identify the greatest needs.**

Reviewers will assist UWYC Board and staff in reviewing applications and allocating funding to community organizations in the focus areas of:

- School Readiness**
- School Success**
- Crisis Stabilization**
- Senior Independence**



What to Expect

Virtual Orientation - attend one

- February 26th from 1-2pm
- February 28th from 5:30-6:30pm
- March 1st from 9-10am

Reviewing Applications

- March 2 - April 1
- Applications can be reviewed at your own pace from home.

In-person Reflection

- April 8- April 12
- Your team will schedule the reflection for the day that works best for all of you.

Total Time Commitment

- 5-8 hours



Responsibilities


Attend and participate in meetings

Have computer access to complete virtual review

- If you do not have computer access, UWYC can provide it for you.


Complete review during the expected timeframe

Click [HERE](#) to apply



Qualifications

- Currently engaged or have a strong interest to engage with UWYC
- A desire to increase the welfare of the community and create change through strategic investments in local agency programs
- Able to be open-minded, unbiased, and consider each agency applying for funding equally and fairly



Questions? Contact Maia:
mdickerson@uwyellowstone.org or 406-272-8506

January is National Mentoring Month

"One mentor can change a young person's life. Celebrate the power of supportive and meaningful mentor relationships."

All Month: [CLICK HERE](#) to learn about being a United Way Success Mentor to help a student be successful.

Volunteer on January 15th with MSUB

Start your 2024 with a commitment to volunteering more, beginning with a project on January 15th to honor the American Civil Rights movement. This year, MSU-Billings and United Way of Yellowstone

County are partnering to provide several on-campus volunteering opportunities following the annual Bell Ringing Ceremony.

- Meet at the Bell on the MSUB Campus for the ceremony at 9:30am on Monday, January 15, 2024
- Snacks and beverages will be served, and volunteer opportunities will commence around 11:00am
- On-campus opportunities include making sandwiches for local agencies, crafting cards for isolated seniors, and creating a plastic bag blanket for unhoused neighbors
- Four volunteers are sought to assist with data collection at Eagle Mount
- To sign up for these opportunities, please [REGISTER HERE](#).

Add event to calendar

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Join us on January 10th for our Volunteer Engagement Session

We are inviting all community lovers and team leaders looking for a fun and meaningful way to enhance team spirit to a special event. The United Way of Yellowstone County, with a rich history of over 62 years of partnering with firms to address community challenges and link employees to causes they care about, is hosting an informational session.

- The session will be held both online via Teams and in person.
- The discussion will mainly focus on forthcoming events, including United WE CAN and Workshop Wednesday's.

For more information contact Chrissy at volcoord@uwyellowstone.org

Community Night at Hooligans

Join us on Monday January 22nd from 4pm-7pm at Hooligans. This is a unique opportunity for you to connect with our dedicated staff, board, and committee members. Engage in lively conversations, participate in a silent auction and contribute to a great cause- 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the United Way Community Fund.

Lets celebrate our community's achievements together! See you at Hooligans!

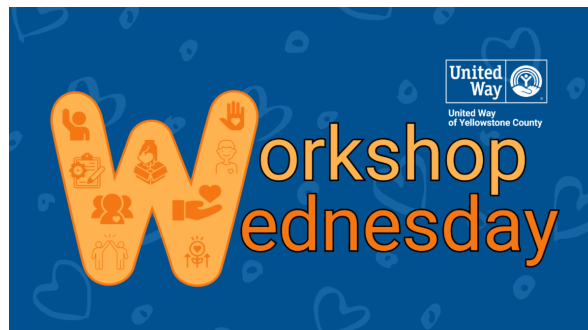
Add event to calendar

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Community Empowerment through Workshop Wednesday

The United Way of Yellowstone County recently hosted a productive and compassionate event, Workshop Wednesday. This event saw volunteers joining forces to make a significant difference in the lives of our unhoused community.

- Volunteers worked collaboratively to craft sleeping mats for the unhoused, providing much-needed comfort.
- They also sorted through donations, which will serve as life-saving resources for those in need.
- Participants also helped build furniture for United Way.



- Overall, this event highlighted the power of community collaboration in creating lasting positive change and spreading warmth in various ways.

If you want to participate in a Workshop Wednesday event reach out to Chrissy at volcoord@uwyellowstone.org



United WE CAN March 3rd



The United WE CAN event is a combined food drive and can sculpture contest happening at Rimrock Mall on March 3rd. This creative and fun initiative aims to raise awareness about food insecurity in the Billings community, while also fostering teambuilding.

- Individuals, teams, clubs and corporations will build their can sculptures on the evening of March 3rd.
- The voting period starts on March 4th. Votes are cast by donating food to the sculpture's associated box.
- All sculptures will be on display from March 4th to March 17th for public viewing.
- The winners will be announced on March 15th.
- All donated items will subsequently be given to local food pantries, Family Service, Wander Woman, Tumbleweed and Montana Rescue Mission.

Registration can be done by clicking [HERE](#).

Save the Date 2024 Day of Action



Save the date for our 2024 Day of Action on **June 19th 2024**. Day of Action is United Way's annual activation of volunteers across the globe. Be sure to mark your calendar and stay tuned for ways to get involved. Join us in making a meaningful impact- become a Day of Action Committee member, be a part of planning and organizing this meaningful day!

Contact Chrissy for more info
volcoord@uwyellowstone.org

Add event to calendar

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CARE Academy Be the Change Challenge

Holiday fun for CARE Academy and Discover Zone Staff



CARE Academy and Discover Zone staff had a great time at the United Way of Yellowstone County Holiday Party on December 12th. Games were played, food was plentiful, fun was had, and there was lots of laughter and team building. We couldn't provide a safe and secure place for the children in our community without our CARE and Discover Zone staff. We thank you all for all that you do!

Annual Affiliated Volunteers

Annual Affiliated Volunteers help run a Volunteer Reception Center. A Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) provides a place where large numbers of volunteers can be efficiently processed and referred to agencies needing their services. This process provides an easy way to document volunteers being registered, requests for volunteers, VRC staff hours worked, and expenses incurred. A VRC is a perfect staging area for volunteers to wait for their assignments during a disaster. Our next training will be held February 6, 2024 11:30-2:00. If you are interested click [here](#) to register.

Add event to calendar

[Apple](#) • [Google](#) • [Office 365](#) • [Outlook Web](#) • [Outlook](#) • [Yahoo](#)

Monthly Honor Roll

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

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Want to see your name here? Donate below!

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United Way of Yellowstone County

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