

March 2024

## Feeling Lucky to Support our Community: March Updates from United Way of Yellowstone County



**Celebrating our community leaders at our 2024  
Community Leaders Luncheon**



# Thank you for joining us for our 2024 Community Leaders Luncheon!



In February we hosted our annual Community Leaders Luncheon where we had the profound honor of celebrating the unparalleled commitment and support of 19 distinguished organizations towards our shared goals for a better community. This gathering was not just an event, but a powerful expression of unity and collective action, attended by a diverse and vibrant group of volunteers, donors, CEO's, Employee Campaign Coordinators, partner agencies, elected officials and the heart and soul of our efforts- our staff and board. The awards presented by our Community Relations Committee were a highlight, symbolizing our deep appreciation for those who have tirelessly championed the cause of connecting people to possibilities and amplifying the impact of our collective voice. The luncheon underscored the essence of our partnerships and the crucial role each stakeholder plays in fostering a community where everyone can

thrive. With a special mention of the Bezos Grant and our strategic focus on United to End Homelessness, the event was a poignant reminder of our shared responsibility to address the most pressing challenges of our time. From tackling homelessness and poverty, as starkly illustrated by the statistics in Yellowstone County, to advocating for education, financial stability, and health, we reaffirmed our commitment to fighting for every individual's potential to be realized. The remarkable success of our recent campaign, raising almost \$923,000 thanks to the concerted effort of over 600 employee donors, 124 corporate donors, and countless volunteers, stands as a testament to what we can achieve together. This luncheon was not just a celebration but a call to action – to continue giving, advocating, and volunteering for the betterment of our community. United, we create a formidable force for change, proving that together, we can confront any challenge and transform lives in Yellowstone County.

If you are interested in making a difference, and want to learn more about how you and your organization can get involved, please contact Steph Brazill at [campaign@uywellowstone.org](mailto:campaign@uywellowstone.org)

The logo for Scheels, featuring the word "SCHEELS" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

A huge thank you and shout out to Scheels for sponsoring lunch for our 2024 Community Leaders Luncheon. We're so grateful for your continued support.

Thanks a latte Mazevo, for providing coffee at our 2024 Community Leaders Luncheon! Your generous donation kept our event brewing with energy and warmth!



**Help is 3 Numbers Away**

# Help is 3 Numbers Away



**211** maintains a comprehensive database of community resources and provides information and referrals for essential needs like:

- Food
- Housing and Shelter
- Utility Assistance
- Healthcare Services
- Government Services

**211** also can connect people with information and referrals for:

- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Support Groups
- Disaster Aftercare

**988** provides crisis support for:

- Thoughts of Suicide
- Mental Health Crisis
- Substance Use Crisis
- Emotional Distress

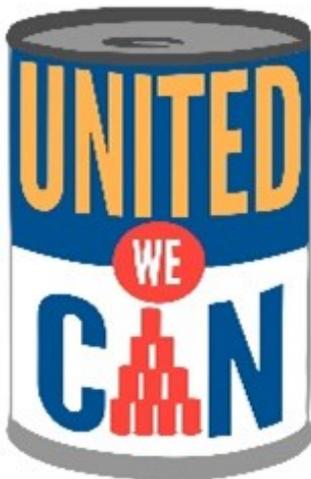
**911** provides first responder dispatch for:

- Medical Emergency
- Fire
- Reporting a Crime
- Disaster Response
- Life Threatening Situation



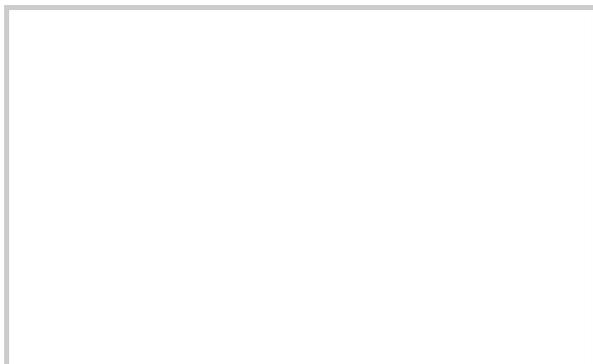
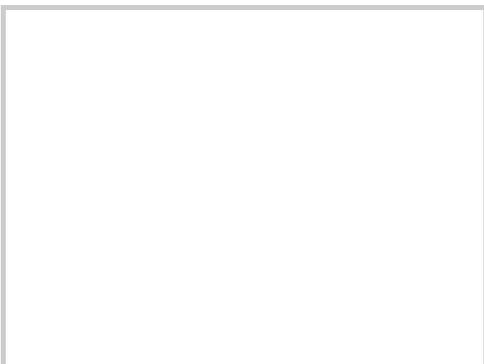
211 connects community members for non-emergency needs to social services and government agencies who can assist people with basic needs such as mental health providers, food, housing resources and so much more. Dial 211 to get connected, or visit [www.montana211.org](http://www.montana211.org).

## United we CAN: Food drive & can sculpture contest



Food is a basic necessity, yet there are many families and individuals in our community who face the challenge of food insecurity every day. But what if we could address this issue in a fun and engaging way? This is where our Food Drive and Can Sculpture Contest come into play.

From March 3rd to March 17th, we invite you to be part of our initiative titled "United We Can." This event has been organized with the dual purpose of helping address food insecurity in our community while also fostering creativity and community spirit. The event is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to a great cause and have a fun time while you're at it.





Tumbleweed Canstruction



Woods Power Grip Canstruction celebrating 60 years!

### Announcement of Winners

On March 15th, at 12pm, we will announce the "Canstruction" winners!

It's not too late to participate in the contest, or donate!

For more details about the event, feel free to scan the provided QR code, or click [HERE](#).

We look forward to your participation in this event and appreciate your invaluable contribution towards addressing food insecurity in our community. Remember, united we can make a difference.



Drop your canned food off at one of these locations:

**United Way of Yellowstone County** 2173 Overland Ave 8:00am-4:00pm

**MARS of Billings** 2904 Gabel Rd 7:30am-5:30pm M-F 9:00am-1:00pm Saturday

**Woods Power Grip** 908 W Main St Laurel 8:00am-5:00pm M-F

**Walmart -Heights** 1649 Main St. 6:00am-11:00pm 7 days/week

**Walmart -Laurel** 101 Bernhardt Rd, 6:00am-11:00pm 7 days/week

**Family Night at United Way**



Our February CARE Academy and Discover Zone Family Night was filled with creativity and compassion. Families came together to create fun Valentines, some for Big Sky Senior Services and others for them to share themselves.

As the kiddos enjoyed a movie and nachos, they put their artistic skills to work, crafting the cutest valentines you've ever seen! So fun to see their smiles as they created something special for others.

## UWYC Community Investment Grants

We received 28 Community Investment grant applications for the 2024-25 cycle. Our volunteer review committee is in the process of reviewing these applications and recommendations will go on to our Community Impact Committee and then the Board of Directors for final approval in May. Stay tuned...we will be announcing our 2024-25 Community Investment Partner Agencies in July!



## UWYC Partner Agency Spotlight



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

This month, we shine the spotlight on one of our valued partner agencies, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, a beacon of hope and growth for the youth in our community. Through their partnership with UWYC, the Boys & Girls Clubs is dedicated to nurturing the potential of every child, with a strong emphasis on educational success and personal development. Their mission aligns with our goals of supporting youth to stay on track, meet crucial milestones and ultimately, graduate from high school.

Key to their approach is improving school attendance by strengthening connections with members and their families, fostering an inclusive and safe environment, and ensuring sustained success through positive adult relationships. A testament to their impact is the story of a Special Event Manager at the club, who, having grown up in the Lockwood clubhouse, has come full circle. Starting as a junior staff member and continuing her engagement through high school, she twice earned the title of Youth of the Year for Montana. Overcoming numerous challenges, she pursued higher education in Oregon, only to return to her roots at the club, exemplifying the lasting influence of the Boys & Girls Clubs on its members.

Moreover, the club has innovatively integrated dog therapy into its programming. Introducing a beloved therapy dog named Baloo. Serving as both a playmate and a comforting presence, Baloo has become a cornerstone of the club's culture, offering unconditional support to members in need. This initiative underscores the club's commitment to holistic well-being, highlighting the profound and diverse ways in which the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County enriches the lives of young people.

We are proud to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, celebrating their remarkable contributions to our community and the lives they

## UWYC Program Spotlight: Reach Out & Read



**6,639 Books**  
Distributed via Reach Out and Read.



**3 Pediatric Clinics**

Participated as Reach Out and Read: The Children's Clinic, Intermountain Health- Lockwood Clinic Family Medicine, Intermountain Health-Laurel Clinic-Family Medicine.



United Way of Yellowstone County is a proud supporter of literacy here in Yellowstone County. Through our holiday book drive in partnership with Barnes and Noble, books were collected and redistributed to our partner agencies. UWYC also gave out 6,639 books through our Reach Out and Read program. Children aged 6 months to 5 years are given an age-appropriate book at their well child check-up at the Children's Clinic, Intermountain Health-Lockwood Clinic Family Medicine, Intermountain Health-Laurel Clinic-Family Medicine. These distributions would not be possible without the support of generous donors such as the Hoiness Family Foundation, the Children's Clinic, and First Interstate Bank. Also, a big shout out to volunteers from JPMorgan Chase who volunteer their time reading to our CARE students. Thank you to awesome partners in literacy!

If you would like to make a donation to Reach Out & Read, please click the button below. If you have books and would like to donate those please contact Elizabeth at [Echappell@uwyellowstone.org](mailto:Echappell@uwyellowstone.org)

**Donate to Reach Out & Read**

If you are interested in volunteering to read to kiddos at one of our CARE Academy sites, please contact Michelle at [ostdirector@uwyellowstone.org](mailto:ostdirector@uwyellowstone.org)

## Celebrating a Legacy of Service: Thank you, Pete Buchanan



Pete Buchanan & Terri Blevins enjoying the outdoors at a Volunteer Engagement Committee meeting.

On behalf of United Way of Yellowstone County, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to Pete Buchanan for the incredible support and dedication during your time on our Board. Your contributions, not only as a Board member but also as a valuable member of our Volunteer Engagement Committee and Impact Committee, have made a lasting impact on our organization and the community we serve. We will miss your leadership and enthusiasm!

Thank you once again for your exceptional service and support.

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## Pint Night at Thirsty Street!



Shout out to Thirsty Street Brewing Co. for hosting our annual United Way Pint Night, and huge thanks to those who joined us! It's always a great time connecting and supporting our community!

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**Mark Your Calendar!**

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**Save the Date: April 19**



UWYC is teaming up once again with Family Promise to host our annual Community Diaper Drive! Now more than ever, the Diaper Bank needs our help. Join us by donating diapers, wipes, hosting a diaper drive with your business or making a monetary donation, to help us fill the Community Diaper Bank. Our goal is 50,000 diapers! Diaper sizes 4 & 5 most needed, wipes, and monetary donations will be accepted.

**When:** April 19 11am-6pm

**Where:** United Way 2173 Overland Ave

Would you or your organization like to participate?

Contact Chrissy at [volcoord@uwyellowstone.org](mailto:volcoord@uwyellowstone.org) to host a drive at your organization or volunteer.

Add event to calendar

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

**Save the Date: June 19**



Get ready to roll up your sleeves and make a difference! United Way's Day of Action is back on June 19, 2024, bringing together volunteers from around the community for a day of impactful service. It's our annual rallying cry for change, a chance to join hands and hearts to create lasting positive impact in our community. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for exciting ways to get involved.

Together, we can make a difference!

Add event to calendar

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

## Partner Agency Events



### 2024 BE GREAT Ball

**Date:** Friday March 22

**Time:** 5:00pm

**Where:** Billings Hotel & Convention Center 1223 Mallowney Ln.

Get ready for a silent auction, Gordon Eldredge Dinner, unforgettable program, mystery wine pull, live auction and so much more!

Click **HERE** for more info.

### Healthy Kids Day

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

**Date:** Friday April 28

**Time:** 5:30-7:30pm

**Where:** Billings YMCA 404 N 32nd St



## 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.

Alex C. Nunan

Bryan S. Alexander

Kari Andren

Brett M. Bates

Michael D. Bertram

Border States Electric

Cory Bruce

Craig Burke

Douglas R. Calvert

Krystal Chamberlin

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Lindsey Lawrence

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Kimberli Martin

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Cynthia McGinnis

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Moss Mansion: Billings Preservation Society

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Amy L. Schneider  
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Michelle Spenny  
Matthew W Thompson  
Raquel Thompson  
James J. Vokral  
Ada Califano Wassmann  
Brian Widhagen  
John Zier

Want to see your name here? Donate below!

[DONATE](#)

**United Way of  
Yellowstone County**



**United Way of Yellowstone County**

406.252.3839

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

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**Connect with us**



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