

UNITED

FOR YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

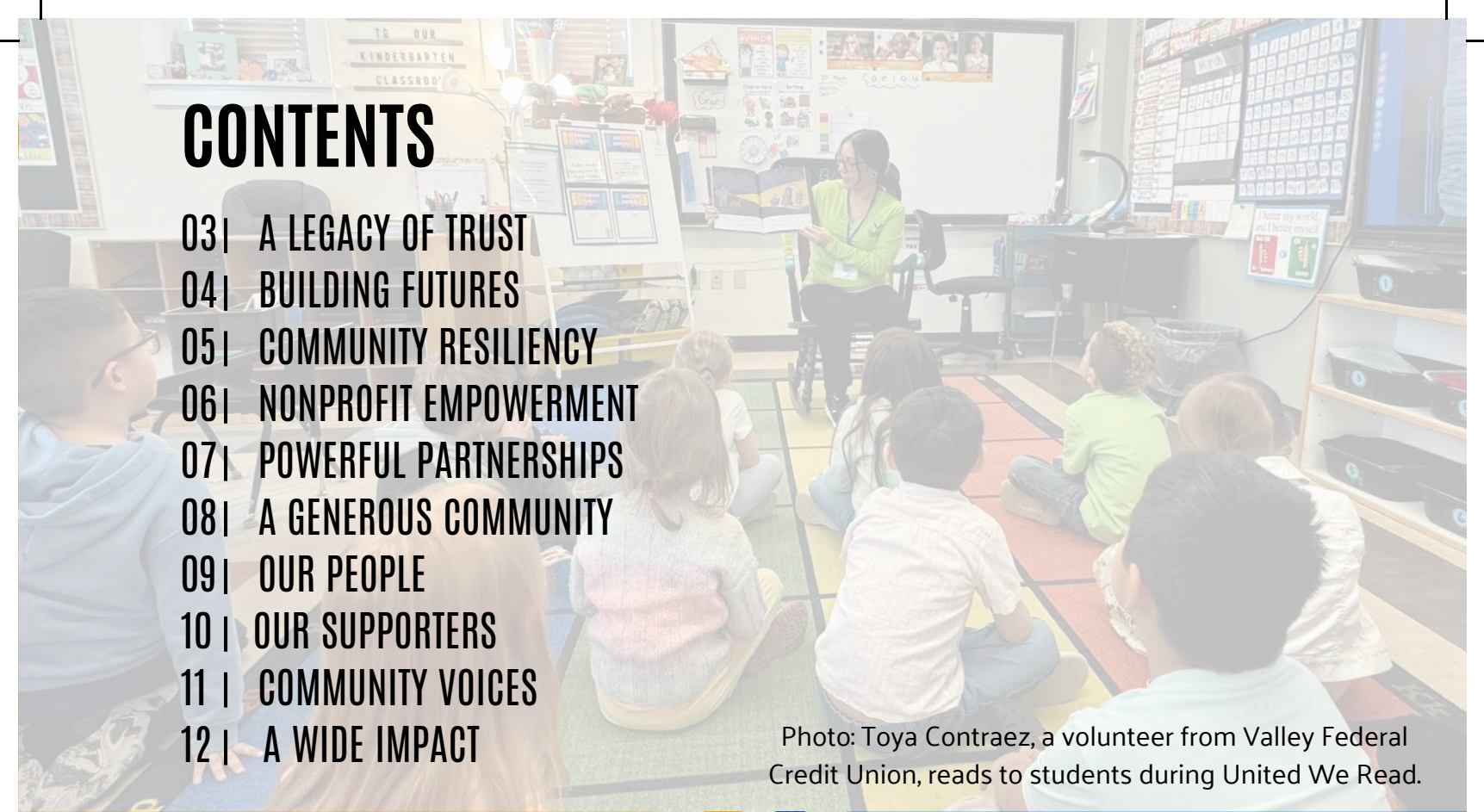


UNITED WAY
Yellowstone County

2025-26 IMPACT REPORT

**GET INVOLVED.
GIVE BACK.
TAKE ACTION.**



A photograph of a woman, Toya Contraez, sitting on a chair in a classroom and reading a book to a group of young children sitting on the floor. The classroom is decorated with various educational posters and a calendar. The text 'TO OUR KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOM' is visible on a sign in the background.

CONTENTS

- 03 | A LEGACY OF TRUST
- 04 | BUILDING FUTURES
- 05 | COMMUNITY RESILIENCY
- 06 | NONPROFIT EMPOWERMENT
- 07 | POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS
- 08 | A GENEROUS COMMUNITY
- 09 | OUR PEOPLE
- 10 | OUR SUPPORTERS
- 11 | COMMUNITY VOICES
- 12 | A WIDE IMPACT

Photo: Toya Contraez, a volunteer from Valley Federal Credit Union, reads to students during United We Read.

OUR WORK

Our work focuses in three impact areas: **Building Futures**, which covers education, early literacy and childhood supports; **Community Resiliency**, which includes housing support, crisis support, and aid to overcome barriers; **Nonprofit Empowerment**, which helps our larger nonprofit community become more effective.

We collaborate with community partners to address these areas. This includes grants to nonprofits who are experts in a specific area and the creation of new resources in collaboration with other organizations.

All of this feeds into our mission: to address the needs of Yellowstone County and to improve lives by connecting and collaborating for a thriving community.

We envision a community where every person has the resources to reach their potential. We hope you'll join us.

OUR COMMUNITY

Yellowstone County is home to about 172,000 people, ranging from rural ranchlands to Billings' urban core. It's a place of great opportunity that also has challenges.

Approximately 10% of people live below the poverty threshold – an income of \$31,200 for a family of four. But many more people struggle to get by as the cost of housing and basic necessities continues to go up.

More than one-third of people in Yellowstone County make less than enough to meet all of their needs; for example, a family of four with housing costs, car payments, and two kids in childcares requires about \$90,000 in income to make ends meet. More than half of people still are faced with difficult financial choices.

CONTINUING A LEGACY OF TRUST

A letter to our
community



Trust takes many forms.

It is the trust people place in us when they turn to United Way for resources to overcome barriers. It is the trust donors demonstrate when they invest their hard-earned dollars in our work. It is the trust our nonprofit, business, and community partners extend when they join us in pursuing shared goals.

For 65 years, United Way of Yellowstone County has been entrusted with bringing people and resources together to strengthen our community. Trust is not something we simply inherit from those who came before us—it is something we must continue to earn. Over the past year, we worked to earn that trust in many ways:

- Through United to Solve Homelessness, and in partnership with three local nonprofits, more than 70 families have secured housing, while dozens more have been placed on a path toward long-term housing stability.
- We have worked behind-the-scenes to make 211, our local resource hotline, more efficient and effective for both people seeking assistance and the organizations providing it, while maintaining current services.
- Our literacy programs distributed more than 68,000 free books to local children through efforts ranging from direct-mail delivery to neighborhood book libraries located in laundromats and other community spaces.
- Once again, volunteers contributed thousands of hours to projects that support our neighbors. Community supply drives collected warm clothing for people in need, school supplies to help students succeed, and diapers to ease the financial burden on local families.
- Our grant partners continued their critical work – supporting veterans, survivors of domestic violence, children in foster care, families facing financial hardship, and many others navigating difficult circumstances.

We know that when one person or family is able to overcome a challenge, the impact reaches far beyond them. Children are better positioned to succeed. Families become more stable. Neighborhoods grow stronger. Our entire community moves forward.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to being worthy of the trust placed in us. With your continued partnership, we will keep earning that trust—and putting it to work for Yellowstone County—for generations to come.

With respect and gratitude,

Andrew Konkel
UWYC President & CEO

Eric Owen
UWYC 25-26 Board Chair

BUILDING FUTURES

Literacy Programs

We know how important early reading is for kids, even before they can read on their own. Being read to by an adult helps kids build literacy skills and strengthens family bonds. We distributed about 68,000 books over the last fiscal year through programs like:

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Bubbles and Books
- Reach Out and Read
- United We Read



**68,000 BOOKS TO
LOCAL KIDS!**

CARE Academy & Discover Zone

Our out-of-school time programs served about 350 kids again this year, providing a safe, educational and fun environment. We distributed \$77,000 in scholarships and emergency assistance to families.

In addition to giving kids an educational boost, these programs bolster our local workforce.

**\$77,000 IN CARE
SCHOLARSHIPS TO
LOCAL FAMILIES**



Gearing up

Operation School Supply collected thousands of schools supplies and backpacks and distributed them to more than 500 local kids. We know that kids who start school with supplies feel more confident and are more likely to succeed.

Our Community Diaper Drive, in partnership with Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley, collected more than 60,000 diapers and 110,000 wipes, plus raised thousands of dollars to purchase diapers. Fresh diapers and wipes help keep both kids and caregivers healthy.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

United to Solve Homelessness

In less than a year, more than 70 families who were previously homeless were housed and on a sustainable path forward. Another 157 families have worked with Community Housing Navigators to overcome barriers, and even more were helped by our Housing Solutions Fund. CHN's are funded by United Way and employed by Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley, HRDC District 7, and Homefront – agencies that already have experience and success in our community.



**70 FAMILIES IN
SUSTAINABLE HOUSING**

Montana 211

The local resource hotline received 757 calls and 5462 website visits. Top categories of assistance were housing, financial services, mental health, and food access. We've also helped lead an overhaul of the 211 database to create a system that's more efficient both for people seeking help and agencies that provide resources.

Volunteer Power

Our volunteers assisted in both United Way projects and other community initiatives, like Day of Action, United We Read, community Disaster Simulations, and much more. More than 3,400 volunteer hours created an impact of more than \$120,000 in our community!



**3,423 VOLUNTEER HOURS
ON COMMUNITY
PROJECTS**



NONPROFIT EMPOWERMENT

Community Investment Grants

We awarded grants to eight local non-profits to support their programs for a three-year cycle. Grant applications were reviewed by community members on our Impact Committee and approved by our full board. Learn more about our grantee programs on the next page.

**\$3.1 MILLION IN
GRANTS SINCE 2012**



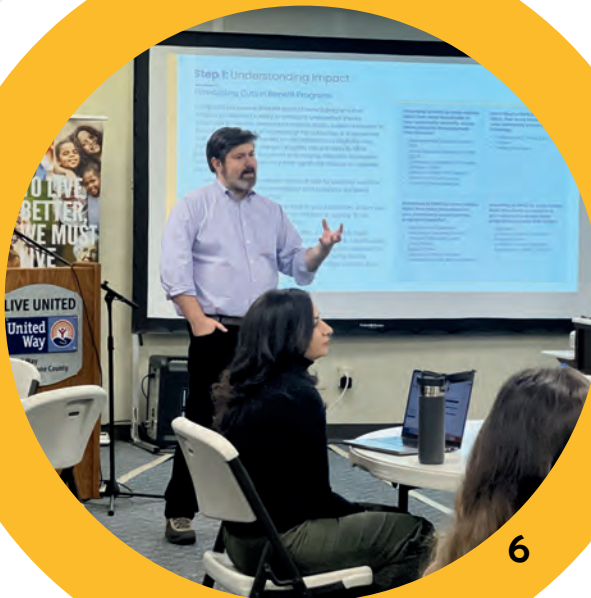
Building knowledge

Nonprofit empowerment isn't just about financial support. It's about working together to become a more effective, efficient nonprofit community. We were honored to offer our first Nonprofit Leadership Training Cohort, bringing together local nonprofit leaders, and to partner with the Billings Chamber of Commerce for the Nonprofit Roundtable series. We also hosted specialty trainings for topics like grant writing, our poverty simulations, and offered space for other nonprofits to host events and training.



Standing together

We participated in a variety of community events and advocated for our wider nonprofit community. That included issuing a statement of support alongside the Chamber of Commerce and Billings Community Foundation and work through a variety of coalitions that bring nonprofits together to tackle major issues. We also hosted experts from the National Alliance to End Homelessness as they studied Billings as a model for mid-sized cities and connected them with local nonprofit leaders.



POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

Our **Community Investment Grants** harness the power of collaboration to help people in Yellowstone County. A committee of community members recommends grantees whose work in our impact areas is trusted and effective.

YWCA Billings provides trauma-informed, victim centered services including shelter, case management, legal advocacy, and housing assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking.



Veterans Navigation Network uses proactive strategies to prevent significant crises in the lives of up to 250 veteran service members and their families each year. This crisis prevention will include outreach, assessment, case management, peer mentorship, and connection to community resources, as well as follow up for improved outcomes.

Love and SONshine Ministries assists pregnant women and their dependent children, providing critical services like housing assistance and connections to community resources that will help lift them out of poverty and stabilize their current situations that require immediate intervention. LASM's focus is on women aged 16-24 who are homeless, pregnant, or parenting young children.



Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley helps families with children overcome poverty by creating intensive case management plans with each family unit to reach independence and sustainability. Families entering FPYV's Emergency Shelter program and Self Sufficiency Matrix receive assistance and training covering topics like, housing, employment, income, education, healthcare, and more.

CASA of Yellowstone County funds specialized staff to take on foster care system cases too challenging for volunteers, providing more robust support for children in the foster system while maintaining its volunteer-supported efforts for hundreds of children in foster care.



Allies in Aging expanded its intensive Case Management Services to address housing instability among elderly populations in Yellowstone County. This expansion will provide comprehensive support to seniors at risk of homelessness, enhancing their ability to age in place with dignity and security.

Friends of the Children - Eastern MT hired two additional staff members for their mentorship model, increasing the total number of youth served from 32 to 48. When including caregivers and family members, this expansion would reach over 300 individuals, amplifying the community impact.



The Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools serves additional kids through its mobile food program, providing a vital lifeline for food-insecure children and ensuring they receive the nutrition they need when school meals and other community resources are unavailable.

A GENEROUS COMMUNITY

Outstanding Campaign Champion

Allyson Songstad from Billings Federal Credit Union became our first Outstanding Campaign Champion. She orchestrated an exceptional employee workplace campaign, inspiring more than half of her colleagues to donate to United Way. Allyson is also a regular at United Way events and helps coordinate volunteer efforts for Billings Federal Credit Union employees.



A Big Swing

The Phillips 66 Billings Refinery was again our top workplace giving company this year! They stepped up their efforts by naming United Way as the beneficiary of their bi-annual golf tournament for the first time, raising an additional \$65,000. That's on top of fundraising events like chili cook offs and flag-raising contests. Thank you to everyone at the Phillips 66 Billings Refinery for your generosity!

Campaign Champions

Our partnerships with local businesses don't work without support from amazing employees at those businesses. Our campaign champions lead workplace giving campaigns, coordinate volunteer efforts, and go the extra mile to help their workplace support our shared mission - to help everyone in Yellowstone County thrive.



OUR PEOPLE

UWYC STAFF



Andrew Konkel
President & CEO



Stephanie Brazil (right)
Director of Resource Development



Dean Wells
Director of Operations



Haiven Hayes (left)
Senior Out-of-school Time Manager



Brenda Ludwig (right)
Community Impact Coordinator



Parker Scott (left)
Community Impact Coordinator



Geneva Singh (left)
Finance Coordinator/
CRM coordinator



Maia Dickerson
Director of Community Impact



Michelle Lamberson
Director of Out-of-School Time Programs



Chrissy Brese (right)
Engagement and Event Coordinator/
Relationship Coordinator



Sheila Veatch
Out-of-school Time Manager



Matt Hoffman (left)
Marketing Coordinator/
Relationship Coordinator



Emily Pratt
Community Impact Coordinator

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Owen, Chair
VP Public Health & Clinical Services
RiverStone Health

D'Vaughn Hayes, Chair Elect
Field Marketing Manager
TDS Fiber

Kim Hayworth, PhD, Past Chair
Vice Chancellor for Student Access & Success
Montana State University Billings

Steven Lybbert, Treasurer
Manager, Lending & Operations
Green Dot Bank

Robbie Neihart, P.E., Secretary
Project Manager
Performance Engineering

Jennifer "JJ" Carmody
Director of Reimbursement & Health Policy
Billings Clinic

Janet Hardy
Community Relations
Phillips 66

Dominic Neameyer
Project Engineer
Sanbell

Chris Olszewski, PhD
Executive Director of Curriculum
Billings Public Schools

Shane LaCasse
Vice President Refining Energy
CHS

Kelsie Ophus
Exec. Dir. of Performance Improvement
Billings Clinic

Heather Brenden
Sr. Director Human Resources
Intermountain Health

Casey Klein
CEO
Valley Credit Union

Kimberly Guy
AMC/Guy Racing

Terri Blevins
Associate Dean of Student Affairs
Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine

Jim Hernjak
Suncour

OUR SUPPORTERS

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE AWARDEES

Community Impact

Leader Award:

Phillips 66 Billings Refinery

United in

Service Award:

Wells Fargo

Spirit of

Yellowstone

Award:

Valley Credit Union



Champion of
Change Award:
Family Service

Outstanding Campaign
Champion:
Allyson Songstad

Rising Star
Award:
**RBC Wealth
Management**

Humble Hero
Award:
Jan Ross

LEADERSHIP DONORS

SUMMIT MEMBERS: \$5,000-\$9,999

Stacy & Deanna Emmett
Cynthia Foster
Jamie Ohl

ALPINE MEMBERS: \$2,500-\$4,999

Dr. Bruce & Mrs. Susan Barrow
Jill Hoffman
Casey R. Klein
Margie Murry
Charity Peplinski
James Sannon
Dr. Stewart Taylor
Anne-Marie Wade

TIMBERLINE MEMBERS: \$1000-\$2,499

Jerry & Wanda Anderson
Anonymous
Donald & Elizabeth Arendt
David Armstrong
Julie Asher
Matt Boschert
Douglas R. Calvert
Jennifer Carmody
Heather Descant
Tom & Pam Dimich
Danielle Dunn

Darrell & Sally Ehrlick
Jon Forte
Janet Hardy
Meagan Hester
Shayne & Theresa Hinz
Mark Horn
David S. Kelley
Andrew Konkel
Gareld Krieg
Chris A. Kukulski
Lindsey Lawrence
Joseph W. Lierow

Herbert and Gerry Mangis
Kathleen Nordahl
Chris Olszewski, PhD
Brian D. Petty
Dr. Mark & Mrs. Christine Randak
Jim & Lin Roscoe
Robert & Pamela Sanderson
Tom A. Snyder
Blake Underiner
William & Mary Underiner
Josephine Verlanic
Charles Wittnam

GENEROUS BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

\$100,000+

Phillips 66 Billings Refinery

\$20,000+

Par Montana
Valley Federal Credit Union

\$10,000+

First Interstate Bank
Mercedes Benz of Billings
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co.
ONEOK, Inc.

\$2,500-\$4,999

RiverStone
Billings Clinic
Billings Federal Credit Union
BMO Transportation Finance
Marsh McLennan Agency
RBC Wealth Management
Trans America

\$5,000-\$9,999

BNSF Railway Foundation
CHS, Inc.
David & Judy Johnson Charitable Trust
Family Service, Inc.
Intermountain Health St. Vincent Regional Hospital
Molly Ward Disability Law, PC
Montana Dakota Utilities Co.

\$1,000-\$2,499

Blue Cross Blue Shield
Big Sky Speedway
Costco Wholesale
DA Davidson,
Costco Wholesale
First Federal Bank and Trust

Fair View Foundation
Frank & Margo Kelley Donor Advised Fund
Guy Racing
Royal & Norma Johnson Charitable Foundation
Western Security Bank

COMMUNITY VOICES

Thanks to United Way, we have been able to dramatically expand the scope of our services.

-Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley
Executive Director Felicia Burg,
on housing support for families

“We all fall down and sometimes need help to get back up... United Way is definitely that saving grace, if you will.”

-2025 Workplace Campaign Donor

It was a lifesaver... We wouldn't have been able to afford childcare, and we have to work.

-CARE Academy scholarship awardee - emergency medical circumstances.

United Way's support has been transformative.

-TJ Rogers, Veterans Navigation Network



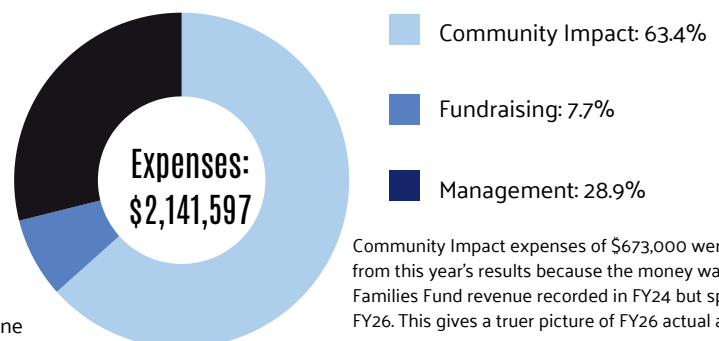
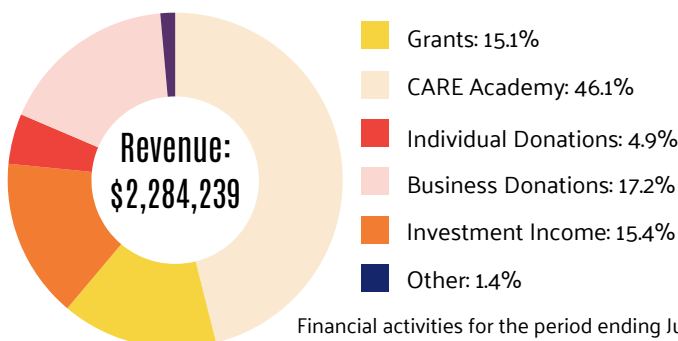
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Liabilities and Net Assets

Total Liabilities: \$541,481
Board Designated: \$950,164
Unrestricted: \$1,735,299
Donor Restricted: \$2,521,180
Total Net Assets: \$5,206,643
Total Liabilities and Net Assets: \$5,748,123

Assets

Current Assets: \$2,363,195
Net Property and Equipment: \$1,131,825
Other Assets: \$2,253,103
Current total net assets: \$5,748,123



Financial activities for the period ending June 30, 2026. Annual Audit and tax form 990 are available at unitedwayyellowstone.org

Community Impact expenses of \$673,000 were excluded from this year's results because the money was Day 1 Families Fund revenue recorded in FY24 but spent in FY26. This gives a truer picture of FY26 actual activity.

WE HELP 1 OUT OF
EVERY 4 PEOPLE IN
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

We housed 70
people who were
previously
unhoused

Our supply
drives, like
Operation
School Supply,
help more than
1,000 local
families

We distributed
68,000 books
to local children

Our grants aided
8 local nonprofits,
reaching
thousands of local
people

WE IMPROVE LIVES FOR **EVERYONE** IN OUR COMMUNITY



UNITED WAY

Yellowstone County

WWW.UNITEDWAYYELLOWSTONE.ORG

