UNITED WAY OF CASCADE COUNTY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT
FIGHTING FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION & FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN OUR COMMUNITY

UNITED WE FIGHT

UNITED WE WIN
As another year comes to a close, it’s appropriate to take a moment to thank all of our generous donors, staff, volunteers, board members and partners. Without the generosity of our community, United Way of Cascade County would not be able to continue its important work in our three goal areas of income, education and health. As we wrap up our year, there are many accomplishments to celebrate.

**Income:** In March 2016, we set a goal of placing 1,000 people on the path to financial stability in 1,000 days. Working with partners including Great Falls College MSU, Rural Dynamics, NeighborWorks, Opportunities Inc., Job Service and more, that goal was more than met within the first two years.

**Education:** This year marked our eighth year of the Graduation Matters Initiative. Over 200 volunteers worked with students in individual classrooms. They provided coaching to 8th-graders on job interview skills, helped them understand the importance of education and promoted the importance of reading. Our work will need to continue in this area in order to remove the barriers that keep our students from graduating from high school.

**Health:** For the past six years, United Way has provided critical backbone support to our health initiative. Earlier this month, we made this partnership official with the launch of the Healthy Lives Vibrant Futures initiative.

From this partnership, several encouraging efforts have grown, including a grassroots effort to give recovering addicts opportunities to be active and social and 1,000 elementary students participated in an after-school program that provided healthy snacks, nutrition education and active play.

One that is near and dear to us at Great Falls Public Schools was the opportunity for students, staff and their families to have access to low-cost health care at two school-based clinics.

In addition to the continued support of our critical work, we are excited to maintain the momentum surrounding community conversations and collaboration. The past year saw United Way’s involvement in several impact areas designed to increase relevancy and influence to support our bold goals.

I want to once again thank our community for your support of United Way. Our community’s needs continue to grow at a pace that challenges our fundraising efforts. As a community, we need to continue to come together to help others improve their lives and reach their full potential. We welcome your support, ideas and time.

On behalf of United Way of Cascade County, I want to say “thank you” to the people of this community for your continuing support of United Way’s mission.
A s early as kindergarten, Taylor Jackson knew he wanted to learn how buildings are made. During his senior year, Jackson worked with Talcott Construction, where a mentor taught him skills, but more importantly encouraged him.

United Way and Great Falls Public Schools are hoping to replicate Jackson’s success with a new pilot program called Strive 4 Success, which pairs students with career mentors during three years of high school and one year post graduation.

Assistant Superintendent Tom Moore said if proven effective, the program could be duplicated around the state. It targets students who are the first in their family to graduate high school or attend post-secondary training or college in hopes of reaching students who now slip through the cracks.

The students are paired with mentors in a field they are interested in, ranging from photography to law enforcement. Mentors will introduce students to their work environment, guide students about classes to take and skills to develop and talk to students about their plans.

Each student eventually will be awarded $500 to cover the costs of dual enrollment classes, college application fees or career expenses like work clothes.
Volunteer Focused

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

United Way has developed many avenues to make volunteering easy and to channel volunteers’ time and talents to advancing our education, income and health goals.

Currently 62 local nonprofits post their volunteer needs on our volunteer website, which averages more than 2,100 views a month. People can search for volunteer opportunities by date or that fit their interests and skills.

United Way administers the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. In Cascade County, 460 seniors volunteered 45,629 hours in 2018. Senior volunteers package and deliver meals to low-income seniors through Meals on Wheels and the Commodity Food Program. They provide critical help at FISH and St. Vincent de Paul food pantries.

Senior volunteers help students in five elementary schools, where they work with 14 teachers. Other volunteers help prepare taxes, guide tours at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, help at flu shot clinics and serve veterans.

Connect Great Falls

Connect Great Falls — United Way’s young professionals group — has grown to 160 people who are passionate about our community.

While the group is a great way for young people to meet each other, it also focuses on volunteerism and professional development.

Connect Great Falls launched professional development speaker series, and members participated in a financial futures book study.

Connect members also stepped up to volunteer at United Way events like Stuff the Bus, the Day of Caring and bought presents for low-income families at Christmas.

CONNECT GREAT FALLS MEMBERS

The following young professionals donated at a leadership level of at least $240

Frank Adams  Shawn Christofferson  Bryce Graft  Dylan Lencioni  Amy Pennington  Cara Smith
Tara Arno  Brandon Correll  Kellie Grandone  Amanda Manuel  Kelsey Jo Petro  Karissa Strending
Anna Attaway  Douglas Cox  Josh Greer  Joelle Marko  Peter Philippi  Brandon Thompson
Nik Barber  Sharresa Drahos  Rachel Grimshaw  Ashley McKenzie  Gage Pickering  Crystal Thompson
Ryan Beam  Nicole Dunlap  Patricia Herring  Brenda McKenzie  Karie Pietrykowski  Jordan Van Voast
Lacey Beaumont  Isabelle Earl  Charlie Hibi  Lindsay Nichols  Cameron Pilling  Tyler VanAken
Jessamy Blomgren  Michael Engellant  Michael Holcomb  Jace Oeleis  Jason Porter  Jeff Yoder
Matt Brusati  Michaela Fraser  Aime Houtz  Millie Olsen  Amy Pulliam  Timothy Yuhas
Stacey Byrne  Brooke Garness  Caralina Julian  Ryan Osterman  Sara Reiss  Cassie Zimms
Lew Card  Chase Gazzero  Brandon Kerkes  Jamie Overturf  Jon Rubin  Colton Scharberg
Chrissie Carpenter  Karen Gessaman  Leah Lawler  Dave Paranteau  Colton Scharberg

Please share your time and talents – visit www.volunteergreatfalls.org

Between RSVP, Connect Great Falls and volunteergreatfalls.org, United Way now offers a one-stop spot for hundreds of volunteers of all ages and nonprofits seeking volunteers.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TAKE PRIDE IN OUR PARKS

To celebrate National Volunteerism month, more than 150 volunteers painted playground equipment, spread wood chips, raked pine needles, picked up trash and stained benches at 21 parks as part of United Way’s Take Pride in Our Parks.

Having adopted a park all seven years that United Way has organized this event, General Mills recruited 10 volunteers. Scheels and Benefis recruited enough volunteers to tackle two parks. Northwest Farm Credit Services, Target and Blue Cross Blue Shield also adopted parks.

Great Falls Public School’s Intertribal Strong student team adopted Noah’s Ark Park. Roosevelt School is adopting Roosevelt, North Kiwanis and Memorial parks.

Lion’s Club, Lincoln students and school administrators took on Lion’s.

This year, United Way partnered with NeighborWorks Great Falls to better coordinated with Neighborhood Councils who adopted three more parks.

STUFF THE BUS

In its ninth year, United Way’s Stuff the Bus school supply drive added a third bus, collecting a record 15,197 items and another $5,450 in cash and gift card donations. More than 100 volunteers made the event possible.

Supplies were given to local children through nonprofits like the Great Falls Rescue Mission, Boys & Girls Club and the Great Falls Children’s Receiving Home. A third of the supplies were given to students through the Great Falls School District and still more supplies were given to children in foster care.

Great partners Big Sky Bus Lines, Target and Walmart made it possible. This year, D.A. Davidson employees helped unload and organize supplies. Stuff the Bus is a wonderful reminder that Great Falls leaps at the chance to help its neighbors.

8TH-GRADE CAREER FAIR

East and North middle school students got a glimpse into their possible futures at career fairs organized by the school district and United Way. More than 100 community and business leaders volunteered to talk about their professions showing students how what they learn in the classroom translates to their future careers.

Students listened to speakers, including writer Jamie Ford, firefighters, a veterinarian, a doctor, city employees, television news anchors and radio station managers — to name a few. The speakers shared information about their jobs, but also talked about the education, training and “soft skills” required to be successful in life.

Roughly 180 students got special hands-on exposure to possible careers by taking part in the Great Falls College career event or visiting Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Every student also took part in mock job interviews, which teachers and students declared an event highlight.

DAY OF CARING

Some 80 volunteers spent the day completing house projects that seniors and disabled homeowners are unable to do on United Way’s annual Day of Caring.

Volunteers rake leaves, trim trees, clean gutters and do some light home maintenance for 45 elderly or disabled Great Falls homeowners in Great Falls.

For some, getting help with these small projects enables them to continue to live in their homes.

In addition to 20 Malmstrom volunteers, D.A. Davidson Companies, Great Falls Public School District administrators, NeighborWorks Great Falls, Kelley Imaging (pictured left.) Northwest Farm Credit Services, Great Falls Clinic, St. Vincent de Paul, and ADF had volunteer teams to tackle house projects.
FIGHTING FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND JOBS

United Way of Cascade County

1,976 volunteers

83,000 meals for seniors

26,322 people helped in Cascade County

1,627 kids played, learned to eat healthier

79 people learn to be better parents

220 kids given a safe place to stay

169 families found affordable homes

110 people received financial assistance

Reducing the number of students
Increasing the number of
Increasing the percentage

EDUCATION

Proving services to our community's most vulnerable
Reducing substance use and abuse

HEALTH

Improving access to healthcare

JOBS

Increasing the number of people who are a healthy weight
52,943 HOURS

855 STUDENTS received extra academic help

GRADUATION MATTERS

8 YEARS = 759 FEWER STUDENTS DROPPED OUT

4,709 books given to students
67,132 minutes read

WWW.UWCCMT.ORG
United Way 2018 Fundraising Campaign

This year, more than 3,000 people gave to United Way of Cascade County—most donating a few dollars a paycheck because they know they are helping their neighbors and are a part of building our community.

With the help of our board of directors and employees who are loaned to us during the campaign by three Pacesetters, the United Way staff is able to coordinate campaigns at more than 200 area businesses. Outside of workplace campaigns, more than 300 individuals invest in United Way.

Each year, we work to refine and advance our fundraising strategies to make it easier for more people and businesses to give.

United Way Pacesetters

Anderson ZurMuehlen
Benefits Health System
Bison Ford
Cascade County
Centene Corporation
City Motor Company
City of Great Falls
Columbia Grain
D.A. Davidson Companies
Embark Credit Union

Energy West
FedEx
First Interstate Bank
General Mills
Great Falls Clinic
Great Falls College—MSU
Great Falls Public Schools
Hoven Equipment
Hub International
Montana Federal Credit Union

NorthWestern Energy
Pacific Steel & Recycling
Peak Health & Wellness Center
Scheels
Stockman Bank
Target
UPS
US Bank
Walmart
Wells Fargo

PaceSetters Key to Campaign

Other businesses
24%

Individuals
13%

Pacesetters
63%

Highest Overall Contributor
DA Davidson Companies: $127,428

Highest Participation
Anderson ZurMuehlen: 100%

Highest Contributor Per Employee
General Mills: $1,175
## MOUNTAIN PEAKS SOCIETY
Donors who give $10,000 and above also are recognized nationally by United Way Worldwide

### SUMMIT CLUB — $15,000 and above
The Gerhart Foundation
Robert Jorgenson

### ALEXIS DE TOQUEVILLE SOCIETY — $10,000 to $14,999
Davidson Family Foundation
Gerry & Chuck Jennings
Dick & Debbie Olson
Judy Weissbach Trust

### FOUNDER’S CLUB — $5,000 to $9,999
Tom & Diane Nelson
Gary Owen & Diane Wright
Brad Talcott & Linda Caricaburu
Robert & Gladyce Oakland

### PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE — $3,000 to $4,999
Charlie & Sydne Abernathy
Jason Huestis
Thor Swensson
Karen & Benny Brandvold
Leslie Oakland Thomas & John Thomas
Dr. Susan J. Wolff
Steve Condon
Whitney Olson & Doug Little
Jim & Cari Yturri
Andrew & Wendy Davidson
Brenda & Joe Skornogoski

### HORIZON CLUB — $2,000 to $2,999
Dennis & Marianne Granlie
Kim Skornogoski & Matt Ochsner
Robert Grasseschi
Jim & Lynda Morin

### BASE CAMP — $1,000 to $1,999
Mark Andrews
Trisha Gardner
James Larson
Michele Russell
Tim & Jill Austin
Dennis & Marianne Granlie
Morgan & Mindy Leach
Alice & Larry Schultz
Myra & Vince Bakke
Pam Guschausky
John Leaf
Keenan & Denise Schneider
Tammy Beaver
Karl Guter & Colleen Marron
Sharid & Wendy Lee
Keith & Chrissy Schneider
Jackie Beauprez
Eric Gysler
Douglas Lineberry
Dale & Judy Schwanke
Debra M. Chibroski
Thomas A. Kopp
Bill Quast
John Sheffels
Jeff & Julie Demarais
Tammy Lacey
Ed & Beth Schoenen
Christina Yuhas
Deb Evans
Brad Livingston
Kim Skornogoski & Matt Ochsner
Dennis & Marianne Granlie
Larry & Anne Martinez

### BASE CAMP — $1,000 to $1,999
Robert & Gladyce Oakland

### BASE CAMP — $1,000 to $1,999
Richard Bennett
Jed Henthorne
Mary Malsam
Jen Haldeman
Jason Huestis
Nancy & Bob Maynard
Jon & Gloria Tovson
Lisa & Mark Blades
James Hinde
Ken Moss
Ruth Uecker
Alexander Blawett
Shannon & James Hooland
Ingrid Neuberger
Desirae Starling
Roberta Boylan
Dan & Lara Jo Huestis
Monica McSweeney
Justin Talley
Gregory Bushman
Shannon & James Hooland
Nancy & Bob Maynard
Carol & Kirk Wetzel
Gail Carter
Braden Hoven
Thomas Moore
William Records
Dave Cerotzke
Brian Hoven
Elfrida Neber
Anonymous donors
Tina Cope
Warren & Judith Johnson
Michael Nichols
Dan & Verna Vuckovich
Karlin Dehn
Kreg Jones
Tom & Barbara Nicholson
Sue Warren
Stacey Dobbins
Carlen & Brett Keaster
Bruce Ortisi
Carol & Kirk Wetzel
Paul Dolan
Steven & Carla King
Gary & Debbie Petrini
William Records
Theresa Drake
Tom & Katy Kotynski
Karie Pietrykowski
Anonymous donors
Jeff Ferguson
Michael & Heather Kubas
Rick & Carrie Reisig
Anonymous donors
Richard Fox
Kent & Laura Kupfner
Rob Rezek
Anonymous donors
2018 UNITED WAY NONPROFIT PARTNERS & PROGRAMS

Adult Drug Court supports people charged with drug-related crimes get treatment, ongoing counseling, and jobs.

Alliance for Youth’s parenting program coaches parents on underlying family issues that lead to problem behavior to prevent child abuse. A second program trains agencies how to best work with traumatized children. The Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance works to reduce drug, alcohol and tobacco use in adults and teens. C.M. Russell students are trained to help students who are struggling with bullying.

Boys & Girls Club of Cascade County offers after-school tutoring and educational programs in a safe place to learn and grow with the supervision of caring, adult professionals.

CASA-CAN pairs volunteer advocates with children who are in the court system or removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.

Cascade County Law Clinic recruits volunteer attorneys and provides paralegal services for low-income residents with family law problems and offers court orientation and guidance.

CASA-CAN volunteers act as court guardians in youth in need of care cases

Center for Mental Health will be able to continue home outreach to struggling families.

Eagle Mount provides therapeutic and recreational activities for people with disabilities.

Family Connections provides age-appropriate curriculum and training to area day care providers and educates families on the skills kids need to be successful once they start school.

Family Promise of Great Falls is a partnership of several Great Falls churches that provides homeless families with three daily meals, a warm, safe place to sleep and help finding permanent housing and employment.

Foster Grandparents places low-income seniors in classrooms where they give loving attention to children, enhancing self-esteem for both generations.

Get Fit Great Falls organized active play afterschool program in 13 elementary schools and brought art projects and Park Pals organized kids’ activities in three city parks in the summer.

Great Falls Children’s Receiving Home provides a temporary home, food, security and compassion to abused, neglected and abandoned children of our community.

GFPS Playwright program will help Paris Gibson students create and share a video that shares the stories of struggling students.

GFPS Summer Read 6 gives books to kids throughout the summer to prevent summer learning loss.

Great Falls Senior Center provides healthy meals and exercise opportunities to seniors.

Habitat for Humanity works to break the poverty cycle by providing no-interest, no-profit home loans to hard-working, low-income families. Homeownership helps families build equity and strengthen their credit rating.

Juvenile Drug Court gives kids charged with drug-related crimes the counseling, support and structure they need to end their drug use, complete their education and get work.

Kairos Youth Services gives teenagers in crisis food, shelter, education and counseling at three homes.

Meals on Wheels provides a nutritious meal five days a week to homebound senior citizens and the disabled, enabling seniors to stay in their homes longer and checking the wellness of isolated seniors.

NeighborWorks Great Falls provides matching money for future homeowners who are saving for a down payment. The savings program provides up to $4,000 when a homeowner saves $1,000.

Opportunities Inc. offers funding for emergency and long-term shelter to low-income citizens of Cascade County.

Peace Place Respite Care provides parents a safe place to take their physically and developmentally disabled children.

Rural Dynamics’ financial literacy program helps high school students and adults who are struggling financially become good money managers. One-on-one coaching to low- and moderate-income people to address their financial issues.

St. Vincent de Paul provides free food to low-income families who are screened by Opportunities Inc. An additional grant this year allows SVP to deliver food throughout Cascade County. Through the newly opened Grace Home, the nonprofit is providing intense wrap-around services to help homeless veterans gain job skills and sustain employment.

Sunburst Unlimited taught kids to grow and eat fresh fruits and vegetables.

Voices of Hope operates a 24-hour crisis line at 453-HELP and the 2-1-1 information line directing callers to services.

Young Parents Education Center assists pregnant and parenting teens to complete their high school education by offering child care, parenting education, vocational planning and pregnancy prevention.

YWCA Mercy Home is a safe place for abused women and children, offering emergency services 24 hours a day.

STAFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gary Owen</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thor Swensson</td>
<td>Development Director</td>
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<td>Kim Skornogoski</td>
<td>Marketing Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lacey Hallett</td>
<td>Community Impact Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynette Scrivener-Colburn</td>
<td>Volunteer Program Manager</td>
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<td>Jessica Briggs</td>
<td>RSVP Coordinator</td>
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In May, Tranell Blazio will graduate from the University of Providence with a degree, a car payment and $20,000 in college debt. "There are a lot of unknowns after I graduate. Getting a job, getting a car, paying off student loans... it’s intimidating."

Thanks to United Way’s new Financial Futures program, Blazio and her husband built a budget and have a plan that makes the future more certain.

Financial Futures is part book club, part peer discussion group and part expert instruction. United Way reached out to Embark Credit Union to help build the peer-to-peer book club to target young adults as they are making financial decisions that could impact their futures.

One person improved her credit score by 77 points, another discovered an app to better track spending, cutting her grocery bill by $100 to $200 a month. After listening to the participants’ questions and fears, United Way brings in experts who share advice on retirement investing, finding the best insurance for their needs and tips for paying down loans.

“I feel like we go to school and learn to add and subtract.” fellow senior Grace Wright said, “but you don’t learn if you can afford to buy a house, or a car or a credit card. Everyone should take part in this.”
At least once and as many as three times a day, Paris Principal Drew Uecker or one of his staff hop in the school van to take a student to see a doctor. Some students have a cold, some need to see a mental health specialist. For Paris Gibson staff, the rides are one more way to keep kids healthy and in school.

While school district leaders struggled to address student attendance problems, the Community Health Care Center was trying to find ways to make it easier for people to get health care services. Both credit United Way of Cascade County with connecting the dots between the two goals. Last spring, the CHCC opened its first school-based clinic at Paris and this fall it opened a second school satellite at Giant Springs Elementary.

The Community Health Care Center provides the services; the school provides the space. "United Way brought us both to the table and quickly the dream became a reality," Assistant Superintendent Ruth Uecker said. "This is the perfect illustration of community impact. It’s about a community coming together to provide services to make this a better place to live."

Having the school-based clinics also opened the door for the CHCC to step in when the school district needed to make cuts in the wake of the failed levy. Now the CHCC pays the salaries of two behavior health specialists who work in the middle and high schools. Because the health care center can bill insurance for those services, as the need grows, they can grow their staff, which is something the district can’t do. CHCC addiction specialists are also available as needed.

"It’s immediate healthcare," Drew Uecker said. "The quicker students can get treatment, the more likely it is that they can stay in school. I just met with a parent this morning who has been trying to get their child into a doctor for two months. I said, ‘let me walk you down the hall right now.’"