

# WE ARE UNITED



FIGHTING FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION & FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN OUR COMMUNITY



## UNITED WAY OF CASCADE COUNTY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## BOARD CHAIRWOMAN MINDY KISER

As I look back on 2021, I see a year full of success. United Way has always been an organization that our community relies on. Though there were challenges, roadblocks and down-right frustrations, United Way excelled beyond expectations to support our community's needs.

**In Education:** Teachers are working hard to help students catch up from months of remote learning. United Way/RSVP recruits volunteers to provide extra classroom support. We also brought together community leaders to focus on preparing students to succeed in kindergarten and on providing struggling students mental health support.

**In Health:** Our health partners carried a heavy burden throughout the pandemic. The pandemic created additional health issues — more people are struggling with depression, substance use and obesity. Every three years, we work with our health partners to reach out to the community to ask what health issues concern people most, so we can bring together teams to address them. We planned a health symposium to share the teams' work in each health goal area. This massive effort will guide our health work for the next three years.

**In Income:** In 2021, the costs for housing, energy, gas and groceries increased, which hit already struggling families hardest. We continued to work with Opportunities Inc and a private foundation to provide direct cash assistance to families impacted by COVID. We also are working with Great Falls Transit to make public transportation easier to use and more accessible, reducing a major barrier for struggling families. We provide custom financial education to groups.

In 2021, we again brought together a hand-picked group of influencers who are passionate about advancing United Way's mission and goals to serve on the board. Our board represents all sects of our community from medical, financial, nonprofit, retail, education and many others. Led by United Way President, Gary



United Way Board Chair Mindy Kiser has been volunteering for more than 20 years, starting as a loaned executive while working at D.A. Davidson Co.

Owen, board members are actively involved in at least one committee and volunteer countless hours. The board relies on the amazing employees of United Way. Each are experts in their fields and have a desire to support our community. They work countless hours with other nonprofits, businesses and volunteers to bring people together from across our community.

United Way of Cascade County is the one organization that builds the community as a whole by investing in education, financial stability and health. We connect people who want to help to nonprofits and initiatives that impact our community. We provide for immediate and emergency need and invest in programs that work to prevent problems.

To our community, board, staff and volunteers, thank you for making Cascade County a great place to live, work and raise a family.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mindy Kiser**, Chair  
Loenbro

**Curtis Finnicum**, Chair-elect  
Stifel/H&F Financial Group

**Leanne Frost**, Vice Chair  
Great Falls College-MSU

**Paula Delaney**, Treasurer  
Embark Credit Union

**Wendy Lee**, Secretary  
Scheels

**Brad Livingston**, Past Chair

**Scott Anderson**, Opportunity Bank

**Tim Austin**, D.A. Davidson

**Lisa Blades**, General Mills

**Alicia Eatherly**, City of Great Falls

**Nic Estrada**, University of Providence

**Shane Etzwiler**, GF Area Chamber of Commerce

**Trisha Gardner**, City-County Health

**Jenel Figarella**, NeighborWorks

**Brad Garpestad**, Benefis Health Systems

**Tom Hering**, Great Falls Public Schools

**Keith Horton**, Sustainable Oils Inc.

**Wendy Lee**, Scheels

**Erin Merchant**, Schermele Films

**Paige Morgan**, Community volunteer

**Connor Murphy**, Murphy Law Offices

**Yolanda Owen-Small**, Edward Jones

**Rachel Pahut**, Great Falls Clinic

**Don Serido**, 3 Rivers Communications

**Kristy Pontet-Stroop**, Alliance for Youth

**Rob Rezek**, D.A. Davidson

**Beth Schoenen**, Remax

**Mason Walker**, Opportunity Bank

**Molly Wendland**, Little Shell Tribal Health Director

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

Curbing addiction, reducing poverty, increasing graduation rates, preventing child abuse and helping homeless families find stable housing. Our community's biggest challenges won't be tackled by one agency or nonprofit. When United Way of Cascade County shifted to a community impact organization, it stepped up to provide needed backbone support, bringing stakeholders and concerned citizens together to march toward shared, measurable goals.

Big change takes time, but this year, we saw some great progress. Read about our work in health, education and financial stability:

### EDUCATION

The COVID closures in early 2020 impacted students academically and their mental health. In the past, 1 in 4 children entered kindergarten unprepared, last year it was nearly 1 in 3. And more students dropped out last year, though a dramatic improvement from 2010 when Graduation Matters initiative began.

In response to the need, United Way focused our education work to better prepare young children to succeed when they start school and to address substance use and mental health needs for students of all ages. United Way and Family Connections worked with community stakeholders, parents and day care providers to innovate Pre-K readiness efforts. And together with Alliance for Youth, United Way talked to teens about substance abuse and mental health issues to help identify the best ways to address these issues.

United Way supported Native American and homeless students, particularly with back-to-school supplies donated through our annual Stuff the Bus drive and grants to the Youth Resource Center.



Preschoolers at GFPS' Skyline school mix art and learning.

### HEALTH

More than 150 people are part of working teams that address the community health goals to reduce substance abuse, increase access to health care, address health weight and reduce child abuse. United Way is an active partner in each goal area and leads the communitywide steering team, which every three years reaches out to the community for direction before strategic planning.

More than 1,000 people responded to an online health survey this spring. The Healthy Lives Vibrant Futures steering team looked at the feedback and health data ranging from the leading causes of death to the number of people with dental insurance and decided to focus on three projects to work on together.

The efforts include the January health symposium to educate the public on the work being done, the Drug Endangered Children's Alliance and improving youth mental health support.

The health data revealed progress, including fewer teens smoking and vaping and more students eating vegetables and fruit.

Responding to COVID-19 hit our health partners particularly hard. Events like No More Violence Week, the community baby shower and drug endangered children training were adapted or went virtual. Other outdoor events like Get Fit's summer and winter trails days connected families to healthy activities.



Get Fit works to build healthy habits early to reduce obesity, a leading factor in our community's health problems.

### FINANCIAL STABILITY

As costs climbed in 2021, struggling families were hit hardest. United Way grants supported programs that provided food, housing assistance for renters and helped families buy and build their own homes.

United Way again partnered with Opportunities, Inc. and a private foundation to get direct assistance to people impacted by COVID-19.

Our Prosperity Matters work began in 2016 with talking to hundreds of struggling families and identified child care costs and unreliable transportation as two barriers to the financial stability.

This year, we worked with Alliance for Youth and Great Falls Transit to improve public transportation accessibility. And United Way is an active partner in efforts to start a child care collaborative for downtown employers and their employees.

Partnering with Embark, United Way offered Financial Futures classes, which is part peer-to-peer discussion, part expert guidance. United Way continues to lead a communitywide homeless initiative that has helped 117 people find and keep stable housing.



St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry saw need nearly double.



# ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS

## TAKE PRIDE IN OUR PARKS

To celebrate National Volunteerism month, more than 60 volunteers painted playground equipment, spread wood chips, raked pine needles, picked up trash and pulled weeds at six parks as part of United Way's Take Pride in Our Parks.

Having adopted a park all nine years that United Way has organized this event, General Mills recruited 10 volunteers. Scheels, Great Falls Public Schools, D.A. Davidson, Kairos Youth Services and the United Way board and staff recruited volunteer teams this year.

This event continues a great partnership with Great Falls Park & Rec that enables city employees to dedicate time to bigger projects in our city parks.



D.A. Davidson volunteers at Chowen Springs

## STUFF THE BUS

In its 11th year, United Way's Stuff the Bus school supply drive added a third bus, collecting a record 11,378 items and another \$6,000 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.

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.



Volunteers of all ages help Stuff the Bus.

## 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 Mayor Bob Kelly, firefighters, an artist, a physical therapist and television news anchors – 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 120 students got special hands-on exposure to possible careers by taking part in the Great Falls College career event or visiting Alluvion Health Center.

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



Students learn CPR from Great Falls firefighters.

## DAY OF CARING

Some 80 volunteers spent the day completing house projects that seniors and homeowners who are disabled 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 30 homeowners in Great Falls. For some, getting help with these small projects enables them to continue to live in their homes.

This year, volunteer teams picked a day during the week that worked best for their schedules.

General Mills, Cogswell Insurance, Northwest Farm Credit Services, United Way board and staff and Great Falls Public Schools recruited teams this year. And students from Intertribal Strong, Paris Gibson Education Center and Kairos Youth Services also formed teams to tackle projects at homes across Great Falls.



Mike Bisak recruited a Day of Caring team.



## 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 79 local nonprofits post their volunteer needs on our [volunteergreatfalls.org](http://volunteergreatfalls.org) website, which averaged 2,450 views a month. People can search for volunteer opportunities based on their schedule or find opportunities that fit their interests and skills.

United Way also administers the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. Working safely within coronavirus restrictions, 182 seniors volunteered 13,056 hours in 2021. Many nonprofits adapted operations to not rely on volunteers as a COVID-10 precaution.

Senior volunteers package and deliver meals to homebound seniors, provide extra classroom support in local schools and are critical support at FISH and St. Vincent de Paul food pantries. Other senior volunteers transport blood for the American Red Cross, work with animals at the Maclean Animal Adoption Center, give out soup at St. Ann's and guide tours at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.



Brian Hopkins volunteers in the classroom where his daughter teaches.

## PLEASE SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENTS - VISIT [WWW.VOLUNTEERGREATFALLS.ORG](http://WWW.VOLUNTEERGREATFALLS.ORG)

## UNITED WAY EMERGING LEADERS

United Way of Cascade County's Emerging Leaders Society is an affinity group that brings together United Way donors who are professionals 40 years and younger and give at least \$240 per year (or are employed at a Pacesetter\* company). Philanthropy, professional development, volunteerism and networking are the core of the Emerging Leaders Society.

To learn more, please reach out to Trace Richburg, Chief Development Officer, [trace@uwccmt.org](mailto:trace@uwccmt.org) or text/call 406-788-9672.

### THE FOLLOWING EMERGING LEADERS DONATED AT A LEADERSHIP LEVEL

Jeremy Bates	Adrienne Culliton	Danielle Hogan	Joe Maroney	Thomas Risberg	Stacy Vine
Jessamy Blomgren	Michael Engellant	Michael Holcomb	Jessica May	Joseph Sclafani	Ashley Whitney
Jessica Briggs	Grace Ann Fleming	Kevin Holt	Cody McRady	Zach Sessions	Amanda Williams
Zach Buechler	Karen Gessaman	Trevor Johnson	Tyler Muzzana	Rebecca Smith	Jeff Yoder
Caralina Carlson	Leon Green	Katie Johnson	Whitney Olson	Cayl Starz	Tim Yuhas
Patrick Chippewa	Josh Greer	Justin Jones	Gage Pickering	Keeana Taylor	
Shawn Christofferson	Abraham Griffith	Jordan Karls	Amy Pulliam	Cooper Thomas	
Mark Coppinger	Rachel Grimshaw	Brittany Light	Vanessa Rapkoch	Crystal Thompson	
Brandon Coryell	Kimberly Halsey	Amanda Manuel	Colton Rasmussen	Mariah Jo Tyler	

Cindy Hammon followed her mother's footsteps to find a second family at Valley View Elementary School. Just like her mom before her, Cindy spends her days helping students with math and reading as a volunteer with the Foster Grandparents program.

And just as importantly, she gives lots and lots of hugs.

Cindy was unable to have children of her own, but the classroom kids become family. Once when she was sick in the hospital, she received 24 get-well cards from students.

"It gives you goosebumps, knowing that they do love you and they appreciate what you're doing," Cindy said. "It's something that I didn't have before, be-

cause I love them all."

Because of school closures and COVID-19 precautions, Cindy was kept from the classroom for nearly a year and a half. The time away was tough, especially knowing that struggling students needed her more than ever.

Cindy was thrilled to go back to the classroom and her students at the start of the 2021-22 school year. Students who struggled before COVID-19 led to remote learning are now further behind. And many other students need additional classroom support. Having someone, like Cindy, who teachers can count on daily is critical.

"Throughout the year, you can really see an improvement in a lot of them. That makes you feel good," she said.



"They give you hugs every day. They do love their hugs," says Foster Grandma Cindy Hammon, who thanks to United Way grants, gives students & teachers extra classroom help.





United Way of Cascade County

# FIGHTING FOR HEALTH, E



32,278

PEOPLE HELPED  
in Cascade County



15,000

PEOPLE IN NEED GIVEN  
FOOD BOXES

Helping feed families &  
improving financial stability.

998  
VOLUNTEERS



PEOPLE BATTLING ADDICTION  
RECEIVED COURT-SUPERVISED  
TREATMENT

Improving employability & long-term  
sobriety.



165  
FAMILIES RECEIVED EVIDENCED-BASED  
PARENTING EDUCATION

Reducing child abuse and neglect.



PEOPLE RECOVERING FROM ADDICTION  
FOUND SOCIAL SUPPORT

Preventing relapse and providing family stability.



117,000

MEALS DELIVERED TO 450  
VULNERABLE SENIORS

Preventing hunger, improving wellness &  
keeping them in their homes longer.



172

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES ACHIEVE  
AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING

Stabilizing family budgets, increasing social



# EDUCATION & FINANCIAL STABILITY



**20,280  
HOURS**

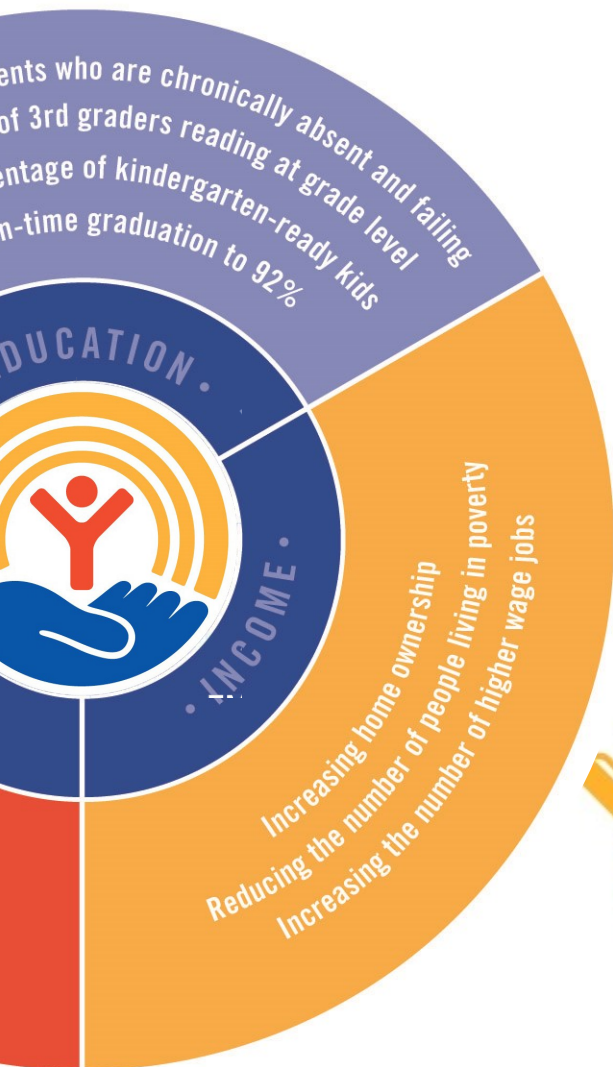


**37**  
**SPECIAL NEEDS PRESCHOOLERS  
RECEIVED EXTRA SUPPORT**  
Building skills to succeed & providing parents extra tools.



**1,025**

**STUDENTS STAYED IN  
SCHOOL TO GRADUATE IN  
11 YRS OF GRAD MATTERS**  
Increasing their opportunities at  
better paying jobs, home  
ownership and future success.



**860**

**BOOKS GIVEN TO LOCAL  
2ND-GRADERS IN READ 2  
ME CHALLENGE**  
Improving reading skills critical  
to future learning success.



**24**

**PREGNANT OR PARENTING  
TEENS GRADUATED**  
Improving employability and  
family stability.



**1,770**

**STUDENTS RECEIVED EXTRA ACADEMIC HELP**  
Improving grades, decreasing achievement gaps,  
building emotional development

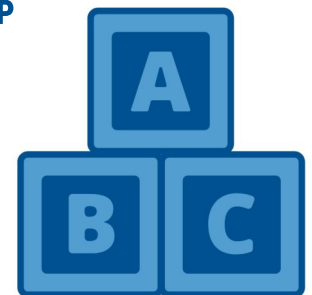


**117**

**HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES FOUND  
& REMAINED IN STABLE HOUSING**  
Improving family stability and economic security.

**100**

**PRESCHOOLERS GIVEN BOOKS MONTHLY TO  
HELP THEM SUCCEED IN KINDERGARTEN**  
Promoting positive parent and child interactions and  
setting students up for academic greatness.





## UNITED WAY 2021 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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This year, nearly 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 campaign cabinet, the United Way staff is able to coordinate campaigns at nearly 200 area businesses.

We want to especially thank our best business partners, our Pacesetters. **The 34 businesses in bold below account for 70 percent of our overall campaign.** Beyond that, they donate their time and work with us to advance our community goals.

Outside of workplace campaigns, more than 300 individuals invest in United Way.

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$150,000 and above

**D.A. Davidson Companies**

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$50,000 to \$100,000

**Calumet Montana Refining**

**General Mills**

**Great Falls Public Schools**

**Scheels**

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$30,000 to \$49,999

**Benefis Health System**

**Centene Corporation**

**City Motor Company**

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$20,000 to \$29,999

**Bison Motors**

**United Parcel Service**

**Walmart**

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$15,000 to \$19,999

**Anderson ZurMuehlen**

**Montana Credit Union**

**Pacific Steel & Recycling**

**Wells Fargo**

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$10,000 to \$14,999

**Bravera Bank**

**Embark Credit Union**

**Hoven Equipment**

**United Way of Cascade County**

**Cascade County**

**Energy West**

**NorthWestern Energy**

**City of Great Falls**

**Great Falls College-MSU**

**Stockman Bank**

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$5,000 to \$9,999

**BNSF Foundation**

**Douglas Wilson & Co.**

**LPW Architecture**

**US Bank**

**FedEx**

**HUB International Great Falls**

**Target**

**First Interstate Bank**

**JCCS**

**University of Providence**

### EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$1,000 to \$4,999

**3 Rivers Communications**

**Credit Associates Inc.**

**JC Penney**

**Sheffels Farms, Inc.**

**Alliance for Youth**

**Davis Hatley, Haffeman & Tighe PC**

**Kairos Youth Services**

**Taylor's Auto Max**

**Alluvion Healthcare**

**Ed Boland Construction**

**Loenbro**

**Thelma H. & John J. Zeller Inc.**

**Central Plumbing, Heating & Excavation**

**Fagenstrom Company**

**NeighborWorks GF**

**United Materials**

**Church, Harris, Johnson & Williams**

**Flower Farm**

**O'Connor Funeral Home**

**Zoller Farms**

**Cogswell Insurance**

**Great Falls Ace Hardware**

**PayneWest Insurance**

**Columbia Grain**

**Great Falls Chamber of Commerce**

**Peak Health & Wellness**

## 2021 CAMPAIGN CABINET

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Curtis Finnicum, Chair

Stifel Investment Services H&F Financial Group

Susan Wolff, Vice Chair

Great Falls College-MSU

Sherrie Arey, NeighborWorks Great Falls

Mike Bicsak, Cogswell Insurance

Lynn Compton, Community advocate

Rebecca Engum, Great Falls Tourism

Nicole Forte, First Interstate Bank

Bill Harp, General Mills

Abigail Hill, City-County Health Dept.

Eric Hinebaugh, Hinebaugh Agency

Kaitlin Hood, Stockman Bank

Becky Nelson, Great Falls Public Schools

Andrew Stucker, Nelson Architects

Cooper Thomas, City Motor Company

Amanda Tucker, Fit Republic



# MOUNTAIN PEAKS SOCIETY

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Donors who give \$10,000 and above also are recognized nationally by United Way Worldwide

## SUMMIT CLUB — \$15,000 and above

General Mills Foundation

The Gerhart Foundation

Robert Jorgensen

## ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY — \$10,000 to \$14,999

Andrew & Wendy Davidson  
Ian & Nancy Davidson  
Davidson Family Foundation

Kristine Houtonen  
Gerry & Chuck Jennings  
Dick & Debbie Olson

Whitney Olson & Doug Little  
Cooper Thomas

## FOUNDER'S CLUB — \$5,000 to \$9,999

Ronald Colwell  
Stacy Lowry

Thomas Kopp  
Gary Owen & Diane Wright

Ashley & Richie Whitney

## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE — \$3,000 to \$4,999

Tim & Jill Austin  
Bill Beecher  
Lisa & Mark Blades  
Karen & Benny Brandvold  
Deb Evans  
Bill & Kelly Harp

Larry & Anne Martinez  
Jim & Lynda Morin  
Tom & Barbara Nicholson  
Bob & Bonnie Pancich  
Rob Rezek  
Trace Richburg

Ed & Beth Schoenen  
Brenda & Joe Skornogoski  
Kim Skornogoski & Matt Ochsner  
Pat Sletten  
Joe Sullivan  
Robert & Janet Thomson

## HORIZON CLUB — \$2,000 to \$2,999

Leslie & Dan Brady  
Gail Carter  
Dave Cerotzke  
John Goodnow  
Dennis & Marianne Granlie  
Pam Guschausky  
Karl Guter & Colleen Marron

Shannon & James Hoiland  
Brian Hoven  
Dan & Lara Jo Huestis  
Steven & Carla King  
Tom & Katie Kotynski  
Brad Livingston  
Erik & Carmen Madsen

Doug & Paige Nicholson  
Errol & Stacy Rice  
David R. Runkel  
Steve & Annie Taylor  
Shirley Wilson  
Dr. Susan J. Wolff  
Christina Yuhas

## BASE CAMP — \$1,000 to \$1,999

Charlie & Sydne Abernathy  
Tamra Anderegg  
McCall Angstead  
Sherrie Arey  
Myra & Vince Bakke  
Zander & Andrea Blewett  
Brenda Byrnes  
Carolina Carlson  
Joel Chapman  
Jeff & Julie Demarais  
Paul Dolan  
Brittany Ensminger  
Shane & Debbie Etzweiler  
James Filipowicz  
Curtis & Katie Finnicum  
Maurice Frey  
Trisha Gardner  
Karen Gessaman  
Robert Grasseschi

Paul Haffeman  
Carey Ann Haight  
Patrick Hapeman  
Jane Hashley  
Jed Henthorne  
Tom Hering  
Steve & Patsi Herrig  
Kathleen Hilbig  
James Hinde & Lynn O'Malley  
Karen & Jim Hoffmann  
Kevin & Delene Hollingworth  
Jodi Huhn  
Carlen & Brett Keaster  
Mindy Kiser  
Deborah Kottel  
Heather & Michael Kubas  
Stacey Lamy  
James Larson  
John Leaf

Sharid & Wendy Lee  
Douglas Lineberry  
Keith Luoma  
Amanda Manuel  
Nancy & Bob Maynard  
Susie McIntyre  
Cody McRady  
Charla Merja  
Thomas & Rhonda Moore  
Kenneth & Faye Moss  
Tyler Muzzana  
Elfriede Neber  
Ron & Becky Nelson  
Bruce Ortisi  
Mattie Paddock  
Gary & Debbie Petrini  
Bill & Kay Quast  
Rick & Carrie Reisig  
Thomas Risberg

Wendy Roehm  
Bill Salina  
Keenan & Denise Schnider  
Keith & Chrissy Schnider  
Jacie Schoenen  
Lynette Scriver-Colburn  
John Sheffels  
Marilyn Sheffels  
Brett & Sarah Stanger  
Kim Thiel-Schaaf  
Shirley Tonkin  
Jon & Gloria Tovson  
Ruth & Drew Uecker  
Dan & Verna Vuckovich  
Mason Walker  
Rhonda Zobrack  
Anonymous donors

## 2021 UNITED WAY NONPROFIT PARTNERS & PROGRAMS

**Alliance for Youth's** parenting program coaches parents on underlying family issues that lead to problem behavior to prevent child abuse and family conflict. The Sober Life provides opportunities for recovering addicts to be social, active and volunteer. A youth resource center connects homeless and struggling teens with community resources, laundry facilities, homework help and meals.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters** provides one-on-one mentorship for local kids.

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

**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.

**Dandelion Foundation** will train professionals and community members to identify and prevent child abuse and neglect.

**Eagle Mount** provides accessible activities for people of all ages and abilities.

**Family Promise** helps homeless families find stable long-term housing.

**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 Park Pals organized kids' activities in four 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 Raising Readers** program gives books monthly to babies and preschoolers to develop word skills and improve school readiness.

**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.

**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 after they complete financial coaching and credit repair classes.

**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.

**St. Vincent de Paul's** food program provides nutritious food to low-income families. Homeless veterans at the Grace Home will get mentoring and wrap-around support. Another program provides outreach to homeless people living on the streets.

**Toby's House** prevents child abuse by providing immediate care in its new crisis nursery.

**Veterans' Treatment Court** helps vets charged with drug-related crimes get treatment, ongoing counseling and jobs.

**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

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**Jessica Briggs**  
RSVP Coordinator

**Lacey Hallett**  
Community Impact  
Coordinator

**Gary Owen**  
President

**Trace Richburg**  
Chief Development  
Officer

**Lynette Scriver-Colburn**  
Volunteer Program Manager

**Kim Skornogowski**  
Marketing Director

## SPECIAL THANKS

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United Way of Cascade County would like to thank several area businesses and individuals for their in-kind donations throughout the year. Their gifts and sponsorships keep administrative costs low, ensuring donated dollars are put to work.

The Great Falls Tribune shared our stories during the campaign. Television stations KRTV and KFBB and STAR Radio and Cherry Creek Radio donated air time for United Way's public service announcements. STAR Radio also aired weekly profiles on United Way's partners throughout the campaign. Lamar Outdoor Advertising provided free billboard space. D.A. Davidson, General Mills and Scheels sponsored the production of our campaign video and television public service announcements. D.A. Davidson Companies also covered the cost of banners that hang on downtown light poles.

Nick Daniels lent his time and design talents to produce our brochure, billboards and other materials.





The odds were already stacked against Hannah Parker, who after more than two years in high school had earned only four credits. Few people in her extended family graduated high school. Then she found out she was pregnant. Nationally, half of parenting teens never graduate high school. But thankfully Great Falls pregnant and parenting teens have the support of the Young Parents Education Center. Nearly 90 percent of teens who receive help from YPEC graduate.

While Hannah attended classes at Paris Gibson Education Center, her daughter had quality child care at YPEC just down the hall. The nonprofit supported Hannah with everything from extra tutoring and financial planning to diapers and formula.

YPEC also connected Hannah to prenatal health care and provided parenting classes, that helped Hannah learn how to engage with her daughter through reading books to her and gave her skills to cope with late nights and crying. Hannah said she can already see how the classes have helped her talkative daughter's vocabulary and social skills.

"I worked harder and harder to graduate. I knew that if I didn't work hard, I wouldn't be able to give my daughter the life I want for her."

That drive helped Hannah not only graduate, but graduate early. She's now working toward a career in forensics.

## PAST BOARD CHAIRS

Joe Irwin, 1969  
Carter Williams, 1970-71  
Earle Garrison, 1972  
John Alsip/Ian Davidson, 1973  
Norman Wilson, 1974  
Paul Johnson, 1975-77  
Pat Sheffels, 1978  
John Riechel, 1979  
John Stephenson Jr., 1980

Chuck Pederson, 1981  
Larry D. Geske, 1982  
Jerry Joy, 1983  
W. A. "Bill" Harp, 1984  
Terry Srenar, 1985  
William J. Quast, 1986  
Ardi Aiken, 1987  
George Walker, 1988  
Lon Holden, 1989  
Gerry Jennings, 1990

Sheila Rice, 1991  
Herb Waltermire, 1992  
Cliff Lawrence, 1993  
Iver Johnson, 1994  
Tim Culliton, 1995  
Laura Goldhahn, 1996  
Peggy Bourne, 1997  
Richard G. Fisher, 1998  
Colleen Kunz, 1999  
Deb Evans, 2000

Rick Reisig, 2001  
Sharla Hinman, 2002  
Clay Gehring, 2003  
Tim McInerney, 2004  
Dan McLaughlin, 2005  
Mary Sheehy Moe, 2006  
Marianne Granlie, 2007  
Mark Willmarth, 2008  
Gregg Smith, 2009  
Steve Taylor, 2010

Steve King, 2011  
Keith Schnider, 2012  
Julie Duffy, 2013  
Bill Harp, 2014  
Heather Palermo, 2015  
Susan Wolff, 2016  
Justin Talley, 2017  
Ruth Uecker, 2018  
Don Serido, 2019  
Brad Livingston, 2020

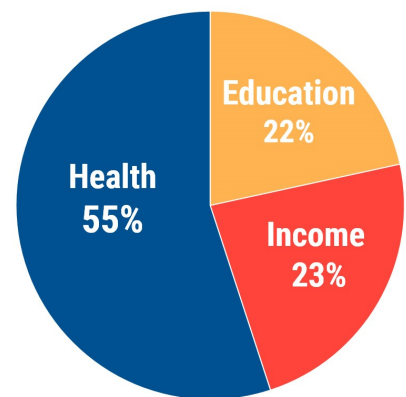
## FINANCIAL REPORT

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

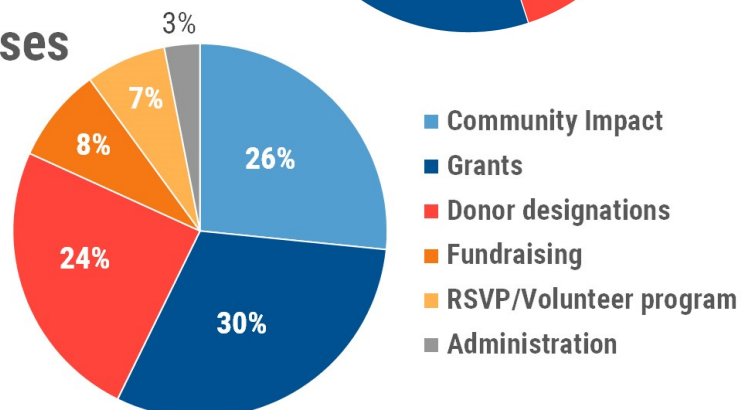
REVENUE	
Campaign	\$1,204,483
Grants	\$387,728
COVID-19 Relief Contributions	\$35,445
Change in net assets	\$305,303
Interest & investment income	\$7,777
Donated services	\$19,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,654,933</b>

EXPENSES	
Funds granted to nonprofit partners	\$402,022
Donor designations	\$324,471
Community impact/program services	\$354,100
Fundraising	\$104,663
RSVP/volunteer management	\$91,662
Administration	\$41,864
Uncollected pledges	\$30,848
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,349,630</b>

### COMMUNITY IMPACT INVESTMENTS



### Expenses



To see our full audit & IRS 990, click the "about us" link on our website: [www.uwccmt.org](http://www.uwccmt.org)



United Way of Cascade County

PO Box 1343  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
[www.uwccmt.org](http://www.uwccmt.org)

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# THANK YOU

## United Way's early investment key to Sober Life success

Jimmy Hendon was given his first drink at age 2. At 14, he drank to erase his shyness. By the time he joined the Air Force and moved to Montana, his drinking was a big enough issue for him to land in rehab for the first time. As the years went on, Hendon was drinking daily, which he hid from his wife and three children. Alcohol controlled his life. He grew angry and jealous to the point that he threatened to hurt others, and himself.

"I had taken everything I had and destroyed it. It was 31 years, since I was 14, until I went into treatment. The only thing I knew how to do was drink and party. AA taught me how to get sober. But it didn't teach me how to live sober." Fortunately, he found out about a new program called Sober Life for people in recovery to socialize and stay with out substances. The idea for Sober Life sprung from Alliance for Youth focus groups talking to people new in recovery.

In fall 2018, Sober Life had 40 people at its first event. Now more than 500 people are members and their regular activities range from volleyball to Native American drumming. Sober Life activities fall into one of three categories – fitness, volunteer opportunities and family friendly events – all of which are key to keeping people sober.

Most importantly, Snow said is all events are free to people in recovery and their families. People new to recovery often have destroyed their finances and need to focus on paying for basic needs. United Way invested in Sober Life early, seeing the need and the impact of the program.

"Without the United Way grant, I don't think we would exist," said Sober Life Program Manager Dean Snow, who



Jimmy Hendon brings his kids to Sober Life events to rebuild their relationship.

started as a participant and volunteer. Around 64,000 Montanans are fighting drug or alcohol addictions. Nationally, 18 percent of recovering alcoholics were able to abstain for one year. Alliance for Youth surveyed Sober Life participants and 75 percent of those who responded were substance free for the previous six months.

"I'm not a perfect person," Hendon said. "But I have an opportunity with Sober Life to be a good person and to have a better life with my children."