

UNITED IS THE WAY



UNITED WAY
Cascade County

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



GARY OWEN

LETTER FROM OUR RETIRING PRESIDENT



I've been asked to reflect on accomplishments from my 25 years with United Way of Cascade County. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve this community, and any success we achieved was always the result of collective effort.

I am very proud of our organization's evolution, shifting from a focus on direct service program outcomes to a strategic drive to community-level impact. This is an ongoing process and the issues are tough, complex, and always changing. Through it all, our work is about helping people.

Each year, nearly 30,000 individuals receive services through the programs we fund, with many more touched through our community impact and preventive work. While numbers matter, the people and stories behind them matter most.

This community's generosity never ceased to amaze me. In my 25 years, nearly \$30 million was raised to meet local needs. That number is remarkable, but the true accomplishment is the meaningful work those funds made possible—strengthening families, supporting youth and helping neighbors through difficult times.



This work wouldn't be possible without volunteers. Thousands gave their time and talent, from board members providing leadership to teams raking leaves for seniors on the Day of Caring. Every act of service made a difference and I am deeply grateful.

I was fortunate to work with an exceptional staff whose dedication and commitment drove our impact. They often made me look good while doing the real work behind the scenes.

Our nonprofit partners are another essential strength of our community. Their partnerships and friendships have meant more than I can say. They are quiet heroes for those most in need.



Last year, we merged with United Way of Hill County. I see great potential as we work together to more effectively help people thrive. In our short time together, I have witnessed a renewed commitment from our Havre neighbors to make United Way a relevant, valued part of their community.

I am especially proud of collaborative efforts such as the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness which led to the strengthened work of the local Continuum of Care, helping to house hundreds of our neighbors. And others that lead to lasting community assets including Grace Home and Haven, the AFY Youth Resource Center, the Baatz Building, Peace Place, and Toby's House Nursery. Beyond our local work, I was honored to serve in leadership roles with Montana Nonprofit Association, State Employees charitable giving and United Way Worldwide.



As I retire, I do so with gratitude, confidence in United Way's and our community's future, and sincere thanks to everyone who made this journey possible.



7,245
PEOPLE HELPED

5,724
VOLUNTEER HOURS



UNITED WAY
Hill County

UNITED WAY OF HILL COUNTY IMPACT GROWS THROUGH MERGER

In February, United Way of Hill County merged with United Way of Cascade County, strengthening regional impact and efficiency while preserving Hill County's local leadership and community focus. Former Hill County board members Kim Cripps, Megan Obrecht, and Joe LaPlante continue to represent Hill County on the Cascade County board, ensuring local voices remain central.

United Way of Hill County convened a Community Impact Council to guide conversations around local needs, selecting youth opportunities as its first priority and engaging stakeholders to help shape strategy and measurable outcomes for 2026 and beyond. Throughout the year, the organization strengthened community connections through donor, volunteer, and partner engagement, highlighted by a Day of Action with the Boys & Girls Club of the Hi-Line, where volunteers refurbished a playground with support from DA Davidson and Northern Home Essentials.

The annual Crab Boil Fundraiser raised \$46,603 for local programs, with help from dozens of local volunteers, United Way of Cascade County staff and board members. The merger also established a Hill County Advisory Council—including Richelle Barrett, Tim Brurud, and Emily Jones—to guide local priorities. Regional Director Danielle Golie did additional outreach through the Heart & Soul project, engaging people in conversations about life in Havre.

Local giving remains local, supporting Feed My Sheep Soup Kitchen, Greater Havre Area Ministerial Association, HRDC Food Bank, HiSET testing support, Salvation Army, and Victim Services.

EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$3,000 & ABOVE

Angel Care
BNSF

Bullhook Community Health Center
Milk River Insurance

Northern Montana Health Care
NorthWestern Energy

EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$1,000-\$2,999

5th Ave Grind
Altana
Ben Franklin Crafts
D.A. Davidson
Duchscher Kapperud Insurance

Enell Inc.
Havre Hi-Line Realty
Holland & Bonine Funeral Home
Independence Bank
Tom Jones Cooling & Heating

Kiddie Daze Daycare
Lewis Heating & AC
Murphy's Pub
Myers Construction
Scharf Kato

Stockman Bank
Tilleman Motor
Treasure State Title
Vic's Place
WB Agriculture

INDIVIDUALS WHO GAVE \$500 & ABOVE

Wade & Holly Bitz
Mike & Kim Evans
Danielle Golie
Beverly Kologi
Wayne Koepke
Tempy McBride

Christen Obresley
Cameron Parham
James Quigley
M.K. Rowlett
Richard Stevens
Bruce Swenson

Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation
Jean Winchell
Mike & Marilyn Wojtowick
Chelsey Wold



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES



Through the Graduate to Elevate initiative, our Youth Opportunity work supports young people at every stage—ensuring they are safe, supported, and prepared to succeed in school and life.

Early childhood success advanced with the leadership of Community Impact Specialist Frankie Pizzuto. After listening to parents and providers, United Way created a community connections calendar to help families find activities that build preschoolers' social and educational skills. United Way also supported early childhood advocacy efforts and launched the first Annual Brain Builders Conference, bringing together early educators to strengthen skills during this critical developmental period.

United Way's strong partnership with Great Falls Public Schools made it possible to dedicate a second Community Impact Specialist, Marla Hauser, to support student-led mental health teams in middle and high schools. These student leaders—now proudly known as L.I.F.T. (Listen. Inspire. Foster. Trust.)—connect peers to help and lead suicide prevention efforts using Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) strategies. L.I.F.T. students regularly helped classmates access school and community resources.

Since September, 457 GFPS personnel have been trained in QPR, and sixth-grade mental health screenings ensured students received immediate support when needed.

Milestones were celebrated through Grad Walks, as graduating seniors returned to their elementary schools—this year including rural schools—to inspire younger students. Kindergarteners received "Future Grad" t-shirts, reinforcing a community-wide message of possibility and belonging.

Beyond direct impact work, United Way grants supported the Youth Resource Center, parenting teens, youth mentoring, and programs connecting elementary students with senior mentors and extra homework help. Guided by Community Impact Director Lacey Hallett, United Way continues to invest in youth-led solutions and community partnerships—building opportunity, resilience, and hope for Cascade County's next generation.

120

STUDENTS HELP PEERS
WITH MENTAL HEALTH

457

PEOPLE TRAINED
TO PREVENT SUICIDE

44%

CHILDCARE NEEDS
MET IN MONTANA

CHILDCARE COSTS
20-25%
FAMILY INCOME

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

**READ
2 ME**

40,470
MINUTES READ

1,544
BACKPACKS

**BACK
TO SCHOOL
BLAST**

288
VOLUNTEERS

**BRAIN
BUILDERS
CONFERENCE**

43
PEOPLE ATTENDED
EARLY ED TRAINING

**STUFF
THE BUS**

15,951
ITEMS COLLECTED
225
VOLUNTEERS





FINANCIAL SUCCESS

1,944
STUDENTS
EXPERIENCED
67 CAREERS

United Way of Cascade County's financial security work is guided by conversations with struggling families and local nonprofits to better understand barriers to success. This year, United Way focused on strengthening financial literacy for high school students and supporting workforce development to prepare young people for life beyond the classroom.

In partnership with the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Montana Works, Great Falls Public Schools, the Montana Department of Labor, Great Falls College-MSU, and the University of Providence, United Way helped deliver the fourth annual Worlds of Work. WOW connected classroom learning to real-world careers while helping local employers build a future workforce. It was supported by 132 volunteers. Students traveled from across Montana, as far as Polson, to engage with career pathways, financial education, and hands-on learning. Together, these efforts demonstrate how United Way of Cascade County is strengthening financial security by equipping the next generation with knowledge, confidence, and community support.



**FINANCIAL
REALITY
FAIRS**

580
STUDENTS
FROM GFPS &
7 RURAL SCHOOLS

Financial literacy was further strengthened through Financial Reality Fairs, where United Way partnered with Great Falls Public Schools and local financial institutions to provide hands-on budgeting experiences to approximately 600 high school students. More than 80 volunteers from 34 businesses coached students through realistic budgeting scenarios over three months, exposing them to the true cost of living and available community resources.

United Way grants supported programs that provided food assistance, housing stability for renters, and opportunities for families to buy and build their own homes—reinforcing financial security at every stage of life.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Improving health outcomes in Cascade County is a shared responsibility—and United Way of Cascade County is helping lead that work through the Healthy Lives, Vibrant Futures initiative. More than 150 professionals and partners serve on working teams focused on four community health goals: reducing substance abuse, increasing access to health care, achieving healthy weight, and preventing child abuse and neglect.

United Way serves as an active partner in each focus area and supports the communitywide steering team. Last year, that team surveyed the community for direction before launching a new three-year strategic planning process.

More than 1,300 people responded to a community health survey, confirming the initiative's priorities. The data also highlighted ongoing challenges: 42 percent of respondents said they delayed or skipped medical care due to cost or lack of insurance, 51 percent of driving deaths involved substance use, and Cascade County experienced 22 preventable hospital stays per 1,000 residents—lower than the national average, but higher than Montana's rate.

To address access to care, United Way helped launch the Care Coordinators Collaborative, bringing together providers to improve communication, share best practices, and strengthen referrals for patients and clients. Early sessions focused on shared resource centers and Medicaid education, with plans to continue meeting regularly to enhance coordination across systems.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Alliance committed to advocacy work this year, resulting in e-cigs and vaping products joining other tobacco products as prohibited indoors as part of the Clean Indoor Air Act. SAPA educated the committee and community around new and emerging dangerous over the counter products. SAPA also conducted environmental scans at gas stations to support discussions with business owners about theft prevention and product-related risks.

Efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect continued through community education and visibility. While the long-running No More Violence Week was retired, its mission lives on through new initiatives such as community pinwheel plantings and renewed interest in future training opportunities. United Way also supported statewide collaboration and explored ways to strengthen local prevention efforts.

Get Fit Great Falls helped children and families build lifelong habits. The program organized active play opportunities in neighborhood parks and afterschool settings, partnered with Great Falls Public Schools on the "Color Your Plate" nutrition challenge, and recruited volunteers to improve local trails and public spaces.

United Way also connected volunteers from Malmstrom Air Force Base, D.A. Davidson, Kairos Youth Services, Indian Family Health Center, Little Tree Preschool, Great Falls Public Schools, General Mills, ADF and the United Way board and staff to make 12 parks safe and clean—ready for active play.

**93 PARTNERS
IN HEALTH INITIATIVE**

**115
VOLUNTEERS
12 PARKS**

**TAKE PRIDE
IN OUR PARKS**





UNITED WAY
Cascade County

MOBILIZING OUR



30,571
PEOPLE HELPED
in Cascade County



101,400
MEALS DELIVERED TO 390
VULNERABLE SENIORS

1,5

PEOPLE
ADDICTION



350
HOMELESS PEOPLE
RECEIVED SERVICES



32,605
HOURS



1,100
KIDS GOT ACTIVE, RECEIVED
HEALTHY EATING INFO

97



LOW-INCOME FAMILIES
AFFORDABLE RENT

COMMUNITY SO ALL CAN THRIVE



100
RECOVERING FROM
N FOUND SOCIAL SUPPORT

2,500 

PRESCHOOLERS GIVEN BOOKS MONTHLY
TO HELP THEM SUCCEED IN KINDERGARTEN



1,555

STUDENTS RECEIVED EXTRA ACADEMIC HELP



120

PEOPLE TRAINED
TO IDENTIFY SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE



4,000
LOW-INCOME PEOPLE
RECEIVED FOOD

328

TEENS & CHILDREN WERE GIVEN A
PLACE TO STAY, SERVICES & SUPPORT



FAMILIES ACHIEVED
STABLE HOUSING



15,328
RSVP VOLUNTEER
HOURS SERVED

2,631
MONTHLY VIEWS
VOLUNTEER WEBSITE

3,652
VOLUNTEERS

ENGAGING VOLUNTEERS

United Way of Cascade County makes volunteering easy by offering many avenues to share time and talent in support of our youth opportunities, financial success and healthy community goals.

Between our community impact work, people who volunteer as part of events like the Day of Caring, campaign volunteers, senior volunteers and grant volunteers, 3,652 people gave 32,605 hours to advance United Way's work in 2025.

Volunteer Great Falls (volunteergreatfalls.org) connects the community to 90 nonprofits, welcomed 368 new users in 2025, and helps volunteers find opportunities that match their schedules, interests and skills.

As part of our annual Day of Caring, teams from Malmstrom Air Force Base, First Interstate Bank, Great Falls Public Schools leadership, Kairos Youth Services, Independence Bank, Touro Medical School students, Scheels, Marsh & McLennan Agency, Central Plumbing & Heating, a missionary group and United Way board and staff (pictured above) tackle fall projects for seniors at more than 30 homes across Great Falls.

United Way RSVP engages 200 senior volunteers at 38 worksites, where they package and deliver meals, support classrooms, and strengthen food pantries, contributing 15,328 hours in 2025. We proudly recognized long-serving RSVP volunteers Judy Spilde and Julia Stevenson (25 years), and Vilma Ackerman, Sheryl Besich and Janice Thomas (20 years). This year, RSVP launched a new partnership with Cascade County Aging Services' SHIP program, training a volunteer to assist seniors during Medicare open enrollment.

Looking ahead to 2026, United Way RSVP will launch a broad recruitment campaign with a goal of connecting at least 50 new senior volunteers to impactful opportunities that support Aging in Place, food and nutrition, and nonprofit capacity building. Anyone age 55 and better who currently volunteers or would like to start is encouraged to contact Jessica Briggs by email at jbriggs@uwccmt.org or by phone at 406-899-8301.

Share your time & talent- visit VOLUNTEERGREATFALLS.ORG

STAFF



Gary Owen, President



Kim Skornogoski,
Marketing Director



Lacey Hallett,
Community Impact Director



Frankie Pizzuto,
CI Specialist



Marla Hauser,
CI Specialist

2025 UNITED WAY NONPROFIT PARTNERS

Alluvion Health will place a mental health counselor in Sunnyside Elementary.

Alliance for Youth's Sober Life provides opportunities for recovering addicts to be social, active and volunteer. The Youth Resource Center connects homeless and struggling teens with resources, laundry facilities, homework help and meals.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters pairs students with mentors to help with school work and improve behavior.

Boys & Girls Club of Cascade County offers youth after-school tutoring and educational programs in a safe place to learn and grow. A second program helps children avoid using illegal substances.

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 appoints advocates to help children navigate court hearings and to speak for the child's needs during legal proceedings.

Family Promise provides temporary shelter & helps unhoused families find stable long-term housing.

Foster Grandparents places low-income seniors in classrooms where they work with students to improve reading and math skills.

Get Fit Great Falls organizes active-play afterschool program in 13 elementary schools, and Park Pals organizes 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.

Habitat for Humanity helps seniors by adapting their homes so they can age in place.

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

Meals on Wheels provides a nutritious meal and wellness check five days a week to homebound senior citizens and the disabled.

Montana Urban Indian Association provides high-risk teens with work skills and services needed to earn a diploma.

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 rental housing to low-income citizens of Cascade County.

Peace Place Respite Care provides care for physically and developmentally disabled children.

Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect Task Force trains people to identify and prevent child abuse.

St. Vincent de Paul's food program provides nutritious food to low-income families. A community kitchen allows prepared food to be rescued, repackaged and distributed. Another program provides outreach to homeless people living on the streets.

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

Veterans Treatment Court provides veterans with services including mental health and addiction counseling as an alternative to jail.

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 high school by offering child care, parenting classes, vocational planning and pregnancy prevention.

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



Dean Jardee,
Development Director



Jodi Huhn,
Finance Administrator



Danielle Golie,
Regional Director



Lynette Scriver-Colburn,
RSVP Director



Jessica Briggs,
RSVP Coordinator

CAMPAIGN

This year, 1,373 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 70 area employers.

We were also fortunate to have the support of three loaned executives, whose employers allowed them to spend four hours weekly in our office, calling businesses, delivering materials, writing thank-you notes and more. Those loaned executives and their employers: Lori Nelson, NorthWestern Energy, Darby Rubino, City Motor Company; and Kayla Vail, University of Providence.

We want to especially thank our best business partners, our Pacesetters. To be a Pacesetter, employers demonstrate a strong commitment to our work and annual campaign. Beyond that, they donate their time and work with us to advance our community goals. **The 40 Pacesetters, which account for 63 percent of our overall campaign, are noted in bold below.** Pacesetters not listed below include: Cogswell Insurance, Dick Anderson Construction, Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, Horizon Credit Union and Opportunity Bank.

EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$150,000 and above

D.A. Davidson

EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$40,000 to \$100,000

Calumet/MT Refining	City Motors	General Mills	Great Falls Public Schools
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EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$10,000 to \$39,999

Benefis Health System Bison Motor Company Bravera Bank City of Great Falls Great Falls College-MSU	Hoven Equipment L'Heureux, Page, Werner Loenbro Marsh McLennan Montana Credit Union	NorthWestern Energy Pinion Scheels Sports Stockman Bank United Way of Cascade County	US Bank Walmart
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EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$5,000 to \$9,999

Belt Valley Bank BNSF Foundation	Cascade County Douglas Wilson & Co.	HUB International JCCS	Pacific Steel & Recycling Taylor's AutoMax
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EMPLOYERS & EMPLOYEES GIVING \$1,000 to \$4,999

Alliance for Youth BeeHive Homes Bootlegger Casino Central Plumbing & Heating Columbia Grain Davis Hatley, Haffeman, & Tighe Enterprise Rent-A-Car	Fagenstrom Co. FedEx First Bank of Montana First Interstate Bank First Liberty Credit Union Flower Farm Hotel Arvon/Celtic Cowboy	Independence Bank Jardine, Stephenson, Blewett & Weaver Johnson Controls, Inc. NeighborWorks Great Falls Omni Marketing Opportunities, Inc.	RBC Wealth Management Stifel Nicolaus Financial Target TC Glass TDS Fiber 3 Rivers Communications United Materials
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2025 CAMPAIGN CABINET

Bob Kelly, Chair Former Mayor	Shane Etzwiler, NorthWestern Energy Heather Hoyer, GF Public Schools Peter Jennings, Celtic Cowboy/Hotel Arvon	Charla Merja, Great Falls College-MSU Kellie Pierce, Downtown Association Jenna Schuff, NeighborWorks Great Falls
Keith Benjamin, Vice Chair Dick Anderson Construction	Lanni Klasner, Calumet Specialty BJ Lindseth, Townsquare Media	Karyn Shaffer, D.A. Davidson Ashley Whitney, City Motor Company

SPECIAL THANKS

United Way of Cascade County would like to thank several area businesses for in-kind donations, which keep administrative costs low, ensuring donated dollars are put to work. Loenbro and Four Corners Self Storage donate space for our offices and storage. Douglas Wilson & Co. donates time as part of our audit. KRTV and KFBB and STARadio and Townsquare Media donated air time for United Way's public service announcements. Lamar Outdoor Advertising provided free billboard space.

UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE RECOGNIZES DONORS WHO GIVE \$10,000 AND ABOVE

SUMMIT CLUB – \$15,000 AND ABOVE

General Mills Foundation
Gerhart Foundation
Kristine Houtonen
NADA Foundation

Oakland Family Foundation
Dick & Debbie Olson
Whitney Olson & Doug Little
Owen Robinson

Cooper Thomas & Tamie Okes
Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation

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

Bill Beecher
Andrew & Wendy Davidson
Ian & Nancy Davidson
Davidson Family Foundation

Judy Gretch
Gerry & Chuck Jennings
Bob & Sheila Kelly
Larry & Anne Martinez

Jim & Lynda Morin
Ashley & Richie Whitney
Jim & Carri Yturri

FOUNDER'S CLUB – \$5,000 to \$9,999

Dan & Leslie Brady
Gail Carter
Benjamin Graybill & Laura Weiss
Karl Guter & Colleen Marron
James & Karen Hoffman
Shannon & James Hoiland

Thomas Kopp
Tom & Katie Kotynski
Erik & Carmen Madsen
Mary Ann Olszewski
Rob & Saniel Rezek
Brenda & Joe Skornogoski

Brent & Sarah Stanger
Brad Talcott & Linda Caricaburu
John Thomas
Robert & Janet Thomson
Susan Wolff

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

Mark & Lisa Blades
Zander & Andrea Blewett
Roberta Boylan
Kim & Linda Fagenstrom
John Goodnow
Brian Hoven

John Huber
Adam & Jodi Huhn
Dean Jardee
Michael & Heather Kubas
Bob & Bonnie Pancich
Kim Skornogoski & Matt Ochsner

Keith & Chrisy Schnider
Mary Such
Joe & Parker Sullivan
Shirley Wilson

HORIZON CLUB – \$2,000 to \$2,999

Bough Family Trust
Karen & Benny Brandvold
Mark Denis
Jean Faure
Dennis & Marianne Granlie
Robert Grasseschi

Tom & Donde Hayes
James Hinde & Lynn O'Malley
Carlen & Brett Keaster
John Leaf
Erin Merchant
Charla Merja

Elfriede Neber
Douglas & Paige Nicholson
Gary Owen & Diane Wright
Keenan & Denise Schnider
Lynette Sriver-Colburn
John & Marilyn Sheffels

Patricia Sletten
Steve & Annie Taylor
Erin Townsend
Christina Yuhas

BASE CAMP – \$1,000 to \$1,999

Guy Brady Afflack
Sherrie Arey
Jennifer Baker
Myra & Vince Bakke
Daniel & Kerry Ball
Lance & Kimberlee Boyd
Trevor & Caralina Carlson
Karen Cleveland
Christeen Collins
Sheila Conlon
Tom Croskrey
Jeff & Julie Demarais
David Dennis
Paul Dolan
Brittany Ensminger
Shane Etzwiler
Jim & Debbie Filipowicz
Curtis & Katie Finnicum
Maurice Frey
John & Rebecca Frisbee
Erin Furr
Karen Gessaman

Rachel Grimshaw
Paul Haffeman
John Hageman
Carey Ann Haight
Marlena Halko
Kylan & Lacey Hallett
Patrick Hapeman
Tina & Chriss Hart
Tom Hering
Ronald & Kathleen Hilbig
Lonnie & Abigail Hill
Barbara Hindoen
Kevin & Delene Hollingworth
Keith & Heather Hoyer
Jamie Ivers
Sheldon Ivers
Peter Johnson
Martin Koehler
Lisa Kunz
John & Colleen Kunz
Stacey Lamy
James & Mary Larson

Christine Leach
Kelly Leach
Morgan & Mindy Leach
Sharid & Wendy Lee
Jamie Leonard
Douglas Lineberry
Brad Livingston
Kassie Longfellow
Geoff & Jackie Mainwaring
Mariah Mandt
Amanda Manuel
Robert & Jamie Marshall
David McCaslin
Gaines & Beth McFadden
Wesley Mikes
Tyler Muzzana
Ron & Becky Nelson
Lindsey Nichols
Daniel Noland
Emil Nygard
Christen Obresley
Rette Olsen

Bruce Ortisi
Mattie Paddock
Bill Quast
William Records
Rick & Carrie Reisig
James Rentfro
Sheila Rice
Errol & Stacy Rice
Thomas Risberg
Wendy Roehm
Marilyn Rose
Bill Salina
William Shaw
Erin Stockwell
Kimberliegh Thiel-Schaaf
Brandon Thompson
Scott Thompson
Jon Tovson
McCall Vukovich

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Rob Rezek
Chair
DA Davidson Co.



Cooper Thomas
Vice Chair
City Motor Company



Sarah Stanger
Treasurer
Pinion Global



Lisa Blades
Secretary
General Mills



Erin Merchant
2nd Vice Chair
Schermele Films



Tom Hering
Past Chair
Community volunteer



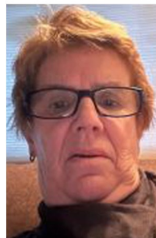
Rachel Arthur
Indian Family
Health Clinic



Keith Benjamin
Dick Anderson
Construction



Julie Clewley
Opportunity Bank



Kim Cripps
Hi-Line Realty
Hill Co. representative



Shane Etzwiler
NorthWestern Energy



Jenel Figarelle
NeighborWorks



Curtis Finnicum
Stifel/H&F
Financial Group



Amy Fladland
Marsh & McLennan



Abigail Hill
City-County Health



Bob Kelly
Community volunteer



Dave Krebs
Benefis Healthcare



Jordann Lankford
GF Public Schools



Joe LaPlante
Bear Paw Development
Hill Co. representative



Wendy Lee
Scheels



Carrie Moe
First Interstate Bank



Paige Morgan
Community volunteer



Megan Obrecht
Ben Franklin Crafts
Hill Co. representative



Mike Parcel
Dept. of Labor



Teresa Schreiner
A Better Big Sky



Scott Thompson
Great Falls College

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 Screnar, 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
Mindy Kiser, 2021
Curtis Finnicum, 2022
Leanne Frost, 2023
Tom Hering, 2024

LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR ROB REZEK

2025 has been a year of transformation and growth for United Way. Two major, well-managed changes occurred: the February 2025 merger of United Way of Cascade County and United Way of Hill County, and the formation of a CEO Search and Transition Committee in March in preparation for Gary Owen’s planned retirement at the end of January 2026.

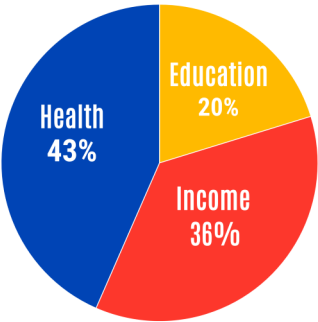
The merger provides new opportunities to expand community impact, offering Hill County reduced overhead and access to established programs, while aligning well with Cascade County’s role in Great Falls as a regional service and retail hub for North Central Montana. Expanding our footprint into Hill County and surrounding areas creates revenue opportunities, allows proven programs to grow, and positions us for future regional branding. Both organizations and boards have blended well around a shared vision and purpose.

United Way has been extremely fortunate to benefit from Gary Owen’s dedicated leadership over the past 25 years. His planned retirement allowed a full year to prepare for succession. In March, the board formed a CEO Search and Transition Committee co-chaired by Jenel Figarelle and myself, with strong leadership from board officers and staff. Partnering with United Way Worldwide, we conducted a national and local search that resulted in two highly qualified finalists. The board selected Lacey Hallett, who accepted the CEO position. With a decade of experience as Community Impact Director, Lacey is well respected by our partners and brings new ideas and vision for United Way’s future.

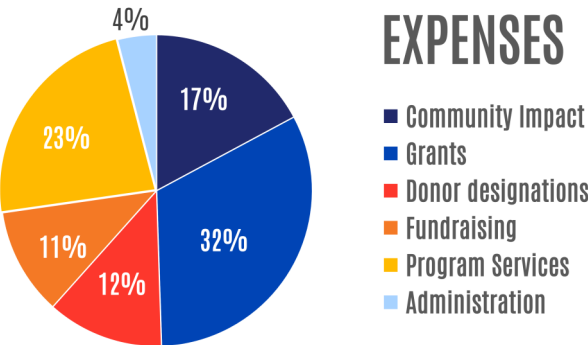
As the year concludes, it has been an honor to serve as board chair during these transformative changes. Notable successes include a strong partnership with Great Falls Public Schools and Alliance for Youth through the LIFT student mental health initiative, exceptional board engagement, meaningful progress on homelessness—including having beds available for every unhoused veteran and all 28 GFPS seniors experiencing homelessness graduating—and a successful 2025 campaign led by Bob Kelly and Keith Benjamin. United Way’s impact is made possible by thousands of volunteers and more than 1,300 donors and businesses, whose support powers programs and events that strengthen our community.

FINANCIAL REPORT

COMMUNITY IMPACT INVESTMENTS



EXPENSES



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE	
Campaign	\$1,250,435
(Less donor designations)	(\$200,875)
(Less uncollected pledges)	(\$48,094)
Grants	\$218,560
Inherent contribution	\$161,007
Cash surrender value of Life Insurance	\$2,862
Interest & investment income	\$30,626
Gain from perpetual trust	\$3,820
Assets released from restriction	\$243,191
Donated services	\$105,580
Net assets released from restriction	\$225,964
TOTAL	\$1,527,505
EXPENSES	
Grants to nonprofit partners	\$535,000
Community impact	\$278,222
Education & technical assistance	\$318,487
Fundraising	\$176,939
Service provider relations	\$95,451
Administration	\$70,775
TOTAL	\$1,474,874

To see our full audit & IRS 990, click the “about us” link on our website: www.uwccmt.org



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Cascade County

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**THANK
YOU**

CONTINUUM OF CARE
HOMELESS INITIATIVE

305
HOMELESS IN
STABLE HOUSING

50
PARTNERS

INITIATIVE HELPS 515 UNHOUSED

Under the leadership of United Way President Gary Owen, the Great Falls Continuum of Care achieved significant progress toward making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

In 2025, 206 households representing 305 individuals obtained secure housing—an accomplishment that reflects the strength of coordinated, community-wide efforts.

The opening of the Baatz Building marked a major milestone, immediately housing 24 individuals who had been experiencing homelessness, including eight who were frequent users of local health care and judicial systems.

The Homeless to Housed subcommittee secured a \$30,000 Montana Community Foundation planning grant to support the development of additional housing units.

During the year, 607 new households entered the Coordinated Entry System, which assesses people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and connects them to appropriate services.

Currently, the by-name list includes 327 households and 515 individuals, with 14 local organizations providing direct case management to most of these households.

The Great Falls CoC is a collaborative network of more than 50 individuals representing 35+ nonprofits, local government, Great Falls Public Schools, businesses, health care, and concerned citizens.

Over the past five years, 422 households and 814 individuals have moved from homelessness into permanent housing, with many others avoiding homelessness through short-term assistance and supportive services.

“As a community, we are proving that when systems work together and housing is treated as a priority, real and lasting change is possible,” Owen said.