

**United Way of
Yellowstone County**



**February 2024
United Moments with UWYC**



Celebrate 2-1-1 Day

February 11th or 2-11 is National 211 Day! 211 is a service that helps community members get connected to services for challenges they may be facing. You can access it by dialing 2-1-1 or going to the website, www.montana211.org. Last year, there were 654 calls to 2-1-1 from Yellowstone County residents. The top three reasons for calling were financial assistance, housing and shelter assistance, and utility assistance.

Help is 3 Numbers Away

2.1.1

Montana

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

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

211 also can connect people with information and referrals for:

- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Support Groups
- Disaster Aftercare

988 provides crisis support for:

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

911 provides first responder dispatch for:

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



Volunteering: A Path to Love and Healthy Relationships

SHARE!
THE LOVE



Are you trying to spice up your love life? Or perhaps you're looking for a way to expand your social circle? Here's a suggestion that may surprise you: try volunteering. It may seem like a stretch, but according to a survey conducted by [The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society](#), volunteering has been shown to not only

broaden social networks but also improve relationships, promote physical activity, and yes, even enhance romantic outcomes.

Volunteering and Love Life

Special bonds develop among people who volunteer together, which could explain why lending a helping hand might just boost your love life. In fact, the data from the survey seems to back this up. According to the report, *Giving and Getting Back: Volunteering in America*, about 10 percent of those surveyed claimed that volunteering had led them to a romantic relationship. But that's not all - of those who found love through volunteering, six percent ended up tying the knot. Now, that's a love story you don't hear every day!

The Impact on Relationships

Volunteering doesn't just have the potential to start new relationships; it can also improve existing ones. The survey found that over 80 percent of volunteers reported improvements in their relationships when they volunteered together with their partner. It seems that shared experiences, especially ones centered on helping others, can strengthen bonds and deepen connections.

Enhancing Social Life and Well-being

Nearly 90 percent of those who volunteered in the past year said it has been good for their social life. This was particularly the case for male millennials (ages 18-34), who felt that volunteering provided significant social benefits. But the benefits of volunteering aren't limited to just social and romantic enhancements. The survey also found that volunteering can provide a boost to careers and improve physical health, making it a truly multifaceted activity.

Volunteering on Valentine's Day

So, this Valentine's Day, instead of the traditional chocolates and roses, why not try something different? Share and receive love in a unique way by volunteering. Not only will you be bringing joy into others' lives, but you also might just find it enhances your own in ways you never expected. And remember, volunteering isn't only for Valentine's Day - it's a great way to spread love and positivity any day of the year.



Get Connected: Engage with UWYC Throughout the Year!

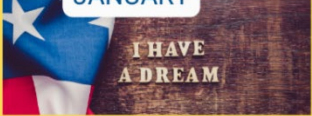


Make 2024 the best year yet – for you, your neighbors, your community. Be a catalyst for caring. Engage in actions throughout the year by yourself, with co-workers, groups, friends, family or others. Take a look [HERE](#) to view or download our 2024 Engagement Calendar for different opportunities.


GET CONNECTED

with volunteer opportunities

JANUARY



Engage in a volunteer project to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & his legacy of service. Check out YouCanVolunteer.org for a list of volunteer opportunities.




Reach out and show appreciation for an important mentor in your life. Learn about being a United Way Success Mentor to help a student to succeed.

Volunteer Engagement Session
January 10 10 am - 10:30 am

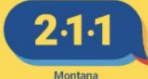
COMMUNITY MONDAY
January 22 4 - 8 pm

20% of the night's proceeds will be donated to United Way, so invite your friends & family, and raise your glass to all of the important work being done in our community!




Hoegaarden's Sports Bar
109 North Broadway

FEBRUARY




2-1-1
Montana


DISASTER RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS
February 6 11:30 am - 2 pm
We are seeking volunteers to assist with United Way's disaster response and recovery services.



United We Can
Food Drive &
Can Sculpture
Contest




IMPACT GRANT REVIEWERS NEEDED
Help evaluate our grant applications and determine where to invest in our community's greatest needs!




COMMUNITY LEADERS LUNCHEON
February 28 11:30 am - 1 pm
United Way, 2173 Overland Ave
Join us to celebrate our community's BIG wins!
Lunch will be provided.


MARCH



Prepare your kiddo for a school slam dunk with the ultimate secret weapon: reading! And with Bright by Text, you'll get helpful tips on how to encourage reading (OR make reading fun), notifications on family friendly events, recipes and so much more!



CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA MONTH!
Do your part to encourage reading by sponsoring one of our CARE Academy sites. Donate a few books and participate in a read-aloud with some of our students.





UWYC Community Investment Grant Applications - Now OPEN!

UWYC is excited to announce 2024-2025 Community Investment Grants Applications are now open. All 501 (c)(3) organizations focusing in the areas of school readiness, school success, crisis stabilization, or senior independence are invited to apply. The deadline to apply is February 16th through our website. Grant reviewer volunteers will work with staff and board to help us determine which organizations receive funding. Decisions will be announced in July. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact [Maia](#).

[Apply Here for a Grant](#)

Become a Community Investment Grant Application Reviewer






United Way
of Yellowstone County

Community Investment
Grant Application
Volunteer
Reviewers
Needed

Annually, our community invests \$250,000 back into the community.
We need your help to identify the greatest needs.

Reviewers will assist UWYC Board and staff in reviewing applications and allocating funding to community organizations in the focus areas of:

- School Readiness
- School Success
- Crisis Stabilization
- Senior Independence



What to Expect

Virtual Orientation - attend one

- February 26th from 1-2pm
- February 28th from 5:30-6:30pm
- March 1st from 9-10am

Reviewing Applications


- March 2 - April 1
- Applications can be reviewed at your own pace from home.

In-person Reflection

- April 8- April 12
- Your team will schedule the reflection for the day that works best for all of you.

Total Time Commitment

- 5-8 hours




Responsibilities

Attend and participate in meetings


Have computer access to complete virtual review

- If you do not have computer access, UWYC can provide it for you.

Complete review during the expected timeframe




Scan to apply



Qualifications

- Currently engaged or have a strong interest to engage with UWYC
- A desire to increase the welfare of the community and create change through strategic investments in local agency programs
- Able to be open-minded, unbiased, and consider each agency applying for funding equally and fairly



Questions? Contact Maia:
mdickerson@uwyellowstone.org or 406-272-8506

Are you engaged with UWYC and passionate about creating change in our community? If so, please consider applying to be a Grant Reviewer Volunteer! Grant Reviewer Volunteers will help determine which organizations will receive UWYC funding. If you have any questions, please contact Maia.

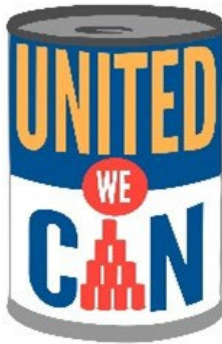
[Apply to be a Volunteer Here](#)

Join the Random Acts of Kindness Challenge



Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 11-17, 2024. Take this week to step out of your normal routine or comfort zone and attempt a new random act of kindness each day of the celebratory week. Post and share your stories, photos, videos and ideas on our social media channels. For examples on how you can be a part of Random Acts of Kindness Week, click this link <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-ideas>

United we CAN: Food drive & can sculpture contest



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

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

Can Sculpture Contest

The event will be held at the Rimrock Mall where you can view and vote for your favorite can sculptures. How do you vote? Simple. You vote by donating food to the bin of the sculpture you like the most. The bin that accumulates the most food items in weight wins the contest. The bins are provided by Family Service and are placed conveniently for you to make your donations. Imagine the smiles you'll create by providing nourishing food to families and individuals who are facing difficult times, all while having a 'canscructive' fun time! The items donated will benefit local food pantries, ensuring that your contribution reaches those who need it the most.

Announcement of Winners

On March 15th, at 12pm, we will announce the winners of the Can Sculpture Contest. The announcement will take place at the Center Court of Rimrock Mall. We encourage you to join us for this exciting moment as it will be a celebration of the spirit of giving, creativity, and community solidarity. It's not just about winning, it's about making a difference in our community, and one can at a time.

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

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



United Way of Yellowstone County and Rimrock Subaru join forces with Operation Warm



In a heartwarming collaboration with Rimrock Subaru, United Way of Yellowstone County recently joined forces with Operation Warm, a national non-profit dedicated to providing brand-new, high-quality coats and shoes to children in need. On February 1, Rimrock Subaru with United Way of Yellowstone County hosted the event inviting over 200 underserved children in our community from ages 2-16 providing them with coats, and shoes. These essential items not only keep children protected from the elements but also contribute significantly to their mental and emotional well-being. Alongside the gift distribution, United Way of Yellowstone County provided sack meals, ensuring nourishment for the families. This initiative, rooted in the belief that every child deserves warmth, confidence, and hope, exemplifies the power of community collaboration and kindness. Thanks to all who contributed, this event was a success, making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.



Special thanks to Franz for generously donating bread for sandwiches to nourish the hearts and bellies of the children and their families at Operation Warm Wishes.



Celebrating Workplace Giving Campaign Winners

We are proud to announce the winners of our Workplace Giving Campaign drawing. Employees who pledged their support United Way of Yellowstone County's Community Fund, are not only instrumental in making a positive impact, but they also became eligible for fantastic prizes!

Congrats to the winners:

A \$75 gift card for the annual \$52 donation (\$2 per pay period) category Morgan Williamson - Valley Credit Union & Fawn Reed - YWCA

High-quality headphones for the annual \$130 donation (\$5 per pay period) category, Devon Lee Heil - Valley Credit Union

A Yeti cooler for the annual \$250 donation (\$10 per pay period) category Lane Henke - Par Montana

And, a Traeger Grill for the annual \$520 donation (\$20 per pay period) category Chris Lorash- Valley Credit Union. These individuals exemplify the spirit of generosity that defines our community!

SCHEELS

A huge thank you and shout out to Scheels for their incredible generosity in donating such amazing prizes. Together as a united community, we're creating positive change and making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you to all who participated!

Congratulations Michelle for graduating the Billings Chamber of Commerce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) class.



Michelle accepting her certificate from William Henry, the course instructor.

Congratulations to UWYC Director, Out-of-School Time Programs, Michelle Lamberson, for graduating from the Billings Chamber of Commerce Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Class. She becomes the third proud member of the UWYC team to complete the DEI Class, highlighting our organization's ongoing commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community. Well done, Michelle!

Healthy By Design - United Way of Yellowstone County recognized as a Healthy Worksite!



We are a recognized Healthy Worksite | Celebrate with us

We have been recognized as a Healthy Worksite by the Healthy By Design Coalition. Recognition demonstrates to our employees, customers, and the community that our business is committed to making *the healthy choice, the easy choice!*

You may know that worksite wellness keeps employees healthy and productive, and we are proud to receive this recognition.

To find out more about this opportunity and other ways to be recognized, visit

www.healthybydesignyellowstone.org/recognition-opportunities// or the Healthy By Design Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HBDyellowstone.

You can also check out how local worksite wellness initiatives were featured in the locally-inspired Healthy Worksite Toolkit, at www.healthybydesignyellowstone.org/worksite-wellness/

Community Leaders Luncheon!

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2024 | SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for United Way of Yellowstone County's Community Leaders Luncheon

This is an exclusive invitation to CEO's, Employee Campaign Coordinators, and Community Leaders.

We will celebrate our 2023 Workplace Giving Campaign, campaign awards presentation, enjoy a brief program about United Way, and a delicious lunch.



Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 11:30am - 1:00pm
United Way of Yellowstone County - 2173 Overland Ave

Add event to calendar

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

Save the Date: 2024 Day of Action



2024 Day of Action will take place on June 19, 2024. Day of Action is United Ways annual activation of volunteers across the globe. Be sure to mark your calendar and stay tuned for ways to get involved.

Add event to calendar

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

Monthly Honor Roll

Thank you to the following donors for contributing to improving lives through health, education, and crisis stabilization for those in Yellowstone County.

Duane Algaard
Julie Asher
Associated Food Stores
Michael K Baker
Samantha Baxter
Eliza Bayliss
Tristan Bends
Barbara A Bessey
Shaun Biggerstaff
BMO Transportation Finance
Kevin Brown
Brown Law Firm
William & Amy Brown
Craig Burke
Howard Butler
Michelle Callicott
CARE Academy
Krystal Chamberlin
Delores Christenson
Kurt Church
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Ada Califano Wassmann
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Kristy Wilm
Brian Windhagen
Yellowstone County
JoLynn M Yerger
John Zier

Want to see your name here? Donate below!

[DONATE](#)

**United Way of
Yellowstone County**



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406.252.3839
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