

# Award Winners

In 2018, we were proud to confer these awards:

**The Heart Award**, for showing extraordinary "heart" for their community, and for educating employees about the importance of United Way of Missoula - Blackfoot.

**Community Spirit Award** - First Interstate Bank for demonstrating that United Way's work matters, through employee and corporate support and volunteerism.

**The Sue Talbot Award** for Outstanding Community Service - Geoff Birnbaum, longtime executive director of Youth Homes, for his decades of volunteer and professional devotion to Montana's at-risk youth.



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United Way staff and board members oversee the distribution of \$20,000 worth of **Opportunity Grants** annually. These small, one-time grants are made as needed throughout the year. In 2018, we supported the following organizations with an Opportunity Fund Grant:

- Community Food and Agriculture Coalition, Double SNAP Dollars
- EmpowerMT, Youth Leadership Summer Camp
- Soft Landing Missoula, Translation Services
- Winter Warming Center at the Missoula Salvation Army
- WORD, Summer Arts & Leadership Camp

**United Way also supported the following programs and projects this year by supporting fundraising events and other opportunities:**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missoula  | Montana Food Bank Network                |
| Boy Scouts of America Montana Council | Montana Nonprofit Association            |
| Brain Injury Alliance of Montana      | Mountain Home Montana                    |
| CASA of Missoula                      | The Parenting Place                      |
| Child Care Resources                  | Project Community Connect                |
| EmpowerMT                             | SpectrUM                                 |
| Homeward                              | Tamarack Grief Resource Center           |
| Jeanette Rankin Peace Center          | Western Montana Fund Raisers Association |
| The Learning Center at Red Willow     | WORD                                     |
| Living Art                            | Youth Homes                              |
| Missoula Gives                        | YWCA of Missoula                         |
| Missoula Urban Indian Center          | Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC)     |

**2018-19 Board of Directors**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
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| Jason Luckey, Wells Fargo                                  | Jason Williams, Blackfoot                     |
|  | Susan Hay Patrick, <i>CEO</i>                 |



Please visit [MissoulaUnitedWay.org](http://MissoulaUnitedWay.org) for complete financial information.



United Way of  
Missoula County



# 2018 Annual Report

United Way of Missoula County | [MissoulaUnitedWay.org](http://MissoulaUnitedWay.org)

In 2018, **United Way of Missoula County** continued our almost 90-year tradition of harnessing the caring power of community to build a better, stronger, healthier Missoula for all.

Our vision is of a western Montana where everyone is healthy, educated, and thriving, especially our most vulnerable neighbors. Toward that end, United Way serves as a convener, leader, collaborator, and champion of broad, community-wide initiatives that find, implement, and evaluate solutions to pressing challenges in the areas of education, financial stability and health – the building blocks of a good life.

In partnership with the business, philanthropic, public-sector, faith, nonprofit, educational, and healthcare communities, United Way programs and initiatives are working to decrease childhood obesity, reduce suicide, start children on the path to lifelong learning, end homelessness, and improve outcomes for children 0-5.

We are grateful to United Way's thousands of supporters and partners, and proud to share the results of our work in these pages.

**Dwight Schulte, President**

**Susan Hay Patrick, Chief Executive Officer**



more than **1,000** local kids were provided with backpacks filled with needed school supplies

## Education

Our **Imagination Library** continues to send 3,000+ local children a book each month at no cost to their families, starting them on a path of lifelong reading and school success. This summer, in only the third year of this life-changing program for kids in Missoula and Mineral counties, we delivered our 100,000th book. First Security Bank is Imagination Library's lead sponsor.



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We again partnered with the Missoula Salvation Army in August of 2018 for the **Back to School Bash**, providing more than 1,000 local kids with backpacks filled with needed school supplies during a fun event connecting families with tools and resources for a successful school year.

## Financial Stability

When Missoula faced one of the coldest winters on record, our community rallied together to provide a warm place for those experiencing homelessness. Through **Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year-Plan to End Homelessness**, United Way raised more than \$10,000 to support the Salvation Army's overnight warming center. We remain committed to the long-term solutions that Reaching Home calls for. The plan is having a positive impact: the annual point-in-time homeless count shows a 40.7% decline in those experiencing homelessness over the past three years.



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a **99.2%** increase in help-seeking calls from our region to the National Suicide Lifeline.

## Health

**Zero to Five:** Selected by our community as the anchor organization for **Zero to Five Missoula**, funded by the Headwaters Foundation, United Way is leading efforts to improve the critical early years for our youngest neighbors and their families. Zero to Five connects parents and caregivers to the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to help children and families thrive.

**5-2-1-0 Let's Move! Missoula** continues to hold the line against childhood

obesity by connecting families with healthy opportunities, including seasonal BINGO (family activity) cards and a monthly calendar of free and low-cost activities and events. Sponsored by Missoula Federal Credit Union, **Morning Move!** continues to engage kids in active play at four schools in the half-hour before school starts.

Wells Fargo's leadership investment in **Project Tomorrow Montana** helped save lives this year. This community collaboration continues to spread a message of hope and help, resulting in fewer suicides in Missoula County for the second consecutive year, and a 99.2% increase in help-seeking calls from our region to the National Suicide Lifeline. (1.800.273.8255.) Strategic planning for Project Tomorrow Montana has strengthened and formalized the movement's structure.

## Disaster Assistance Fund

United Way continues to answer when our community calls. In the spring of 2018, at the request of the County's Office of Emergency Management, we activated the 2018 Flood Fund, raising \$25,547 to help our neighbors prevent and recover from flooding. United Way purchased more than a dozen truckloads of sand that were deployed to prevent greater damage. We also merged our Fire and Flood funds into a **Disaster Assistance Fund**, to strengthen and better sustain our response to natural disasters.



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## Community Support

In May 2018, we brought **Over The Edge** to Missoula. With more than 30 people rappelling down the side of the First Interstate Bank building downtown, this first-year event raised needed resources for United Way programs that strengthen Missoula.

In 2018, we received a multi-year grant from the **Bill & Rosemary Gallagher Foundation** to retire our mortgage. In 2019, we'll rename our building after our generous founding donors: the Bill & Rosemary Gallagher Building.

In the Fall of 2018, we partnered with the University of Montana and the Missoula Food Bank for an innovative volunteer event: 345 volunteers packed more than 50,000 servings of non-perishable meals to be shared with families this year. Wells Fargo was the lead sponsor, helping **University United Food Friday** happen.

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