

building a stronger community

2017 United Way Award Honorees

In 2017, we were proud to confer these awards:

The Community Spirit Award was presented to Wells Fargo for demonstrating that United Way's work matters to them, through employee participation in giving, their community involvement, their connection to United Way, their corporate support of United Way, and the positive way they encourage affiliation with United Way.

Jana Staton was presented with the Sue Talbot Award for outstanding Volunteer Service, for her service to several Missoula nonprofits and causes, including United Way.

These programs received a United Way Grant in 2017:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missoula, Youth Mentoring Program
- Bitterroot B.E.A.R., Venture Out
- CASA of Missoula, Volunteer Education Advocates
- EmpowerMT, Youth Development Program
- Flagship Program
- Garden City Harvest, Community Gardens
- Homeward, Financial Literacy and Renter Education
- Missoula Aging Services: Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program, Meals on Wheels
- Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, Homeless Action Network
- Mountain Home Montana, Transitional Living Program
- The Parenting Place, Respite Care, Parent Education
- Poverello Center, Emergency Facility
- Tamarack Grief Resource Center, Comprehensive Grief Management
- Youth Homes, Inc., Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home
- YWCA Missoula, Gateway/Emergency Housing

Opportunity Fund Grants

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. This year we supported the following organizations with an Opportunity Fund Grant:

- Community Food and Agriculture Coalition — Double SNAP Match
- Gary Turbak Memorial Back-to-School Clothing Store
- Missoula County Public School Refugee Translation Services
- Montana Nonprofit Association
- Poverello Center
- Zootown Arts Community Center

United Way also supported the following programs and projects this year, through fundraising events and other opportunities:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missoula
- Boy Scouts
- CASA of Missoula
- Child Care Resources
- Empower MT
- Homeward
- Jeanette Rankin Peace Center
- Missoula Gives
- Montana Festival of the Book
- Montana Food Bank Network
- Montana Nonprofit Association
- Project Community Connect
- State of the Young Child
- Tamarack Grief Resource Center
- The Learning Center at Red Willow
- Western Montana Fund Raisers Association
- Women's Foundation of Montana
- WORD
- YWCA of Missoula
- Zootown Arts Community Center (ZACC)



our mission

United Way of Missoula County brings people together to identify problems and craft creative, lasting solutions that change lives and build a stronger community for everyone.

2017-2018 United Way Board of Directors

Jeff Avgeris, On the Fly Digital Marketing

Dale Bickell, City of Missoula

Sue Brown, First Security Bank

Beth Burman Frazee, MCT Inc.

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Holly Truitt, SpectrUM

Jason Williams, Blackfoot



United Way Staff Members

Susan Hay Patrick, CEO

Laurie Harris, Program Support Coordinator

Bob Homer, Director of Operations

Eric Legvold, Community Impact & Initiatives Manager

Leidy Wagener, Development Manager

Erin Wilkins, Director of Development & Marketing

United Way of
Missoula County



Please visit MissoulaUnitedWay.org for complete financial information.

United Way of
Missoula County



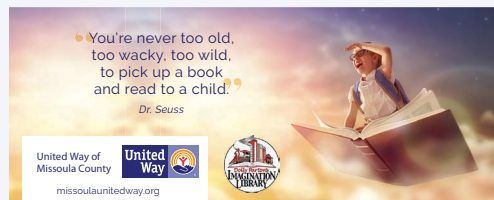
2017 Annual Report

United Way of Missoula County | MissoulaUnitedWay.org

our accomplishments

Annual Report 2017

education



over **3,000** children
receive a new book each month

Imagination Library

United Way's Dolly Parton Imagination Library continues to give children a strong start on the path to lifelong learning. More than 3,000 children, infants to five-year-olds, in Missoula and Mineral counties receive a new book each month, helping them prepare for kindergarten. 1,646 five-year-olds have graduated from Imagination Library—most of them with a full library of their own.



SPONSORED BY



Back to School Bash

In partnership with the Missoula Salvation Army and local nonprofits and faith organizations, United Way gave more than 1,300 elementary, middle, and high school kids new backpacks and school supplies to start the 2017-18 school year off well.

more than **1,300** students
received new backpacks and school supplies



Missoula Early Childhood Collective Impact

This collaborative, data-driven effort to give all of our children a strong, healthy start in life has moved forward with the creation of a strong, diverse steering committee of community partners: nonprofits, businesses, the University of Montana, Missoula County Public Schools, parents, early childhood experts and child care providers, foundations, and the Missoula City-County Health Department. Four working groups partner across sectors to improve outcomes for young children by focusing on:

1

Data and
Knowledge

2

Thriving
Families

3

Access to
High-Quality
Early Child Care

4

Kindergarten
Transition

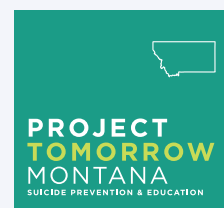
health

Let's Move! Missoula

Sponsored by Missoula Federal Credit Union, Let's Move! Missoula – our community's nationally recognized obesity-prevention collaboration – implemented Morning Move! at four high-impact elementary schools: Franklin, Hawthorne, Lowell, and Russell. Each morning for a half hour before school, students and trained adult volunteers engage in active play such as kickball and jump rope, giving kids 25 minutes of exercise before school starts. When the bell rings at 8:25, kids move to their classrooms and eat a healthy breakfast.



Let's Move! Missoula also launched a new lifestyle guide for families: 5-2-1-0, reminding parents and children to eat 5 servings of fruits and vegetables a day, limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours, exercise for at least one hour, and drink zero sugar-sweetened beverages.



Project Tomorrow Montana

Our Project Tomorrow Montana: Suicide Prevention & Education community collaboration continues to offer a message of hope and help to people struggling with depression and thoughts of suicide. Dozens of public and private organizations in Missoula County work together to coordinate work on suicide prevention, foster community awareness of available resources, identify gaps in services, and share information about promising practices. Trained volunteers continue to offer suicide-prevention training and education – more than 4,000 Missoulians have been trained to recognize the signs of suicide and offer help and hope to family members, friends and colleagues struggling with depression. Project Tomorrow has also distributed hundreds of gun locks, including at local gun shows and sporting goods stores.

In April of 2018, Army veteran and inspirational speaker Command Sergeant Major Tom Satterly and his wife Jen spoke at a Project Tomorrow Montana fundraising event, sponsored by Blackfoot. Tom shared the inspiration that helped him during life-threatening operations featured in the 2001 Oscar-winning film Black Hawk Down, and which helped him survive post-traumatic stress and deep depression when he returned to civilian life.

Leadership funding for Project Tomorrow Montana comes from Wells Fargo.

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*Trained more than
4,000 Missoulians
to identify the signs
of suicide and reach
out to help people
in distress.*

financial stability

Reaching Home: Missoula's 10-Year-Plan to End Homelessness

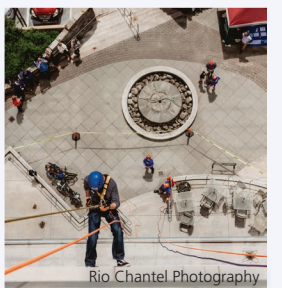


On June 1, 2017, Reaching Home and its partners launched Missoula County's Coordinated Entry System, with clear access points for people experiencing homelessness, a standardized community assessment process, and a community-level referral system that ensures the most vulnerable households are prioritized for housing and service openings.

Also in 2017, Reaching Home moved to the City of Missoula's Department of Housing & Community Development, which gives the plan more staffing and financial resources. United Way is excited to remain Reaching Home's private-sector champion, and proud of our role in staffing the first four years of the plan's implementation.

Over the Edge

On May 19, 2018, more than 30 Missoulians, who had each raised \$1,000 through crowdfunding, rappelled down First Interstate Bank's downtown building during Missoula's first "Over the Edge" event. This creative event was exciting for rappellers and the farmer's market crowds below. Save the date for the next Over the Edge: June 8, 2019! Over the Edge Sponsors were First Interstate Bank, KECI/NBC Montana, Missoulian, and The Trail 103.3 FM.



2017 Wildfires

During the late summer and fall of 2017, at the request of Missoula County's Office of Emergency Management, United Way created two special funds to manage donations for two large wildfires in our area: the Rice Ridge Fire in Seeley Lake and the Lolo Peak Fire in the Bitterroot. We received donations from people in 44 states, totaling more than \$170,000, to help those affected by the two fires. Working with the Human Resource Council's 2-1-1 information and referral line, and with the help of volunteers, local experts, and Climate Smart Missoula, United Way purchased dozens of High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters to improve air quality in schools in the affected areas, provided food for families evacuated to Camp Paxon in Seeley Lake, paid the homeowner's insurance deductible and provided additional financial assistance to two families who lost their homes in the fire, and provided cash grants to dozens of families displaced during the fire season. We are investing the balance of funds in fire-mitigation strategies, including supporting homeowners' efforts to create defensible perimeters around their homes, and replanting fire-devastated areas.

*Thanks to national
attention during the
wildfire season, we
received **donations**
from people in **44**
states, totaling
more than **\$170,000.***

In the spring of 2018, local waterways swelled with snowmelt and flooded. The County again asked United Way to manage donations. Funds from our 2018 Flood Fund have been used to purchase dozens of truckloads of sand for sandbags and will be applied to clean-up and recovery efforts this summer.