



2023 United Way staff

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



United Way staff and board at 2023 Day of Action



MCCA Groundbreaking October 2023

United Way of
Missoula County



Project Tomorrow MT volunteers tabling at a PaddleHeads game



Staff plus UM students decorating a 988 banner



Staff at 2023 Out of the Darkness walk

Education

ZERO TO FIVE MISSOULA COUNTY

strives to ensure every child is prepared to thrive in school and life. We prioritize diversity, engaging parents and caregivers, collaborating with educators, and developing innovative child care solutions. These efforts benefit individuals, families, and the community.



PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

PLTI celebrated the graduation of 10 new parent leaders in its second cohort. Parent leaders learn civic knowledge and skills to advocate for their community and are already making changes. One parent is in the process of starting his own nonprofit to support refugee families.



The fifth annual **Kindergarten Entry Assessment** provided insight on academic readiness for more than 900 children. The KEA offers a valuable way to understand our community's needs and disparities through the lens of kindergarten readiness.

900+

Students in

65

Classrooms

23 Professionals alongside 5 organizers completed the second year of the **Early Learning Fellows** program. Together they collaborated to create a connected early childhood system.

MISSOULA CHILD CARE ADVANTAGE

Construction was in full swing at the former Cold Springs school where we renovated classrooms into six fully-functioning child care businesses. We celebrated a groundbreaking in October and the businesses opened in early 2024. MCCA focuses on creating new child care slots, providing shared-services for child care owners, and stabilizing the child care sector.



33,536 Imagination Library books delivered to **3,679** children in Missoula and Mineral Counties

In 2023, **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** went statewide! We proudly provided data and insight to Montana First Lady Susan Gianforte, who leads this endeavor.

Imagination Library fosters a love of reading in young children, promotes early language and literacy development, and sets kids up for lifelong learning and success. We also delivered 33,536 books to 3,679 kids!

In 2023, our **Back-To-School Backpack Program**, provided 1,263 local students with brand-new backpacks filled with school supplies. By removing this worry for families, we can help set students up for success.

1,263 Free backpacks for local students



Sign up a young child for Imagination Library today



Missoula Substance Use Disorder

Connect launched the *Recovery Friendly Workplace* initiative this year. RFW promotes individual wellness by creating work environments that further the mental and physical well-being of employees. Eight nonprofit organizations joined as early adopters and were certified as RFWs.



The Poverello Center & United Way staff receiving RFW certification



Health

PROJECT TOMORROW MONTANA

In 2023, PTMT, in collaboration with Missoula Public Health, created a Survivors of Suicide Handbook that has been distributed to first responders and community partners. Additionally, monthly and bi-annual suicide prevention trainings were held with partner organizations.

46 People were trained in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training **879** Gunlocks were distributed

14 Volunteers led **59** Midday Move shifts

5-2-1-0 Let's Move! Missoula

continued Midday Move at three schools. MM is an active lunch-time recess program to increase students' physical and social/emotional well-being by providing more inclusive and varied physical activity on the playground with additional positive adult role models.

Financial Stability

REACHING HOME

Financial stability is impossible without a roof over one's head. United Way remains at the forefront of efforts to end homelessness, leading the way with expanded initiatives that emphasize deep collaboration and trusting partnerships with the public and private sectors. Our commitment ensures a more comprehensive and cohesive approach to addressing houselessness in Missoula County.

TEMPORARY SAFE OUTDOOR SPACE

On January 10, 2023, the new TSOS location welcomed residents to the 30 hard-sided shelters. 101 residents called the TSOS home, with 65 achieving housing and 8 entering long-term treatment — a 73% success rate. The TSOS remains a crucial resource for Missoula's unhoused, supported by United Way as the primary private-sector funder and logistician. Despite this success, more than 240 people are on the TSOS waitlist.

\$253,000 Distributed to 280 Missoulians in 2023

The **Housing Solutions Fund** is United Way's tool that provides flexible solutions to the varied needs of Missoula residents on the brink of homelessness. In 2023, 80% of funds focused on prevention-based efforts — working to keep Missoulians housed; rental assistance was the most common use of funds.



Dear Friend,

In 2023, your generosity enabled United Way to touch thousands of lives. From launching an innovative new child care program, to helping hundreds of Missoulians stay housed or move into housing, to training scores of Missoulians in suicide prevention, to distributing thousands of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library books, United Way programs continued to bring people, ideas, and resources together to advance the common good.

We are grateful to our generous supporters and to the many public—and private-sector partners who work side by side with us as we craft and implement solutions to Missoula’s most pressing problems. This report describes the results of our collective work—lives changed, conditions improved.

Thank you for joining United Way in building a better, stronger, more equitable community; one that offers everyone the chance to lead a life of health, safety, opportunity, and hope.

Sincerely,

Randy Riley Susan Hay Patrick
Board President Chief Executive Officer

Community

We continue championing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion for all in our community. In 2023, we were tasked by the Missoula Community JEDI Network to co-lead the creation of a community plan to advance inclusive values to ensure Missoula remains a welcoming home for everyone.

MISSOULA NONPROFIT CENTER

In the past year, MNC prioritized updating resources for its more than 100 members, maintaining a popular calendar of events, and offering a local nonprofit job board through a weekly newsletter and website. Additionally, the MNC Advisory Committee expanded its membership and organized enriching learning events for members.

Please visit MissoulaUnitedWay.org for complete financial information.

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

Arts Missoula	NMCDC	Opportunity and Capital Emergency Fund recipients
Boys & Girls Club	Mountain Home	
CASA	Poverello Center	Emergency Grant
The Center	Ronald McDonald House	
Fourth D Club	Tamarack Grief	Zootown Arts Community Center
Five Valleys Land Trust	Resource Center	
Home Resource	UM College of	Opportunity Grant
Habitat for Humanity	Arts & Media	
Homeword	Youth Homes	The Center
Indigenous Made Missoula	ZACC	
		All Nations Health Center

We proudly serve as the fiscal sponsor of **TransVisible Montana** and the **Montana Black Collective Missoula**.

Wildfire Ready Missoula focused on reducing wildfire risk and catastrophic losses to resources and property on private land. In 2023, 35 homeowners treated 52 acres for fuel reduction. Additionally, 115 fire-risk assessments were performed. Our goal is to make this proactive work accessible to more income-diverse households.



United Way of
Missoula County

*Give a
gift
today*