



FAQS & INFORMATION

What does United Way do?

The goal of the United Way of the Black Hills (UWBH) is to collaborate and invest in local nonprofit organizations to find long-term solutions to the Black Hills community's most prevalent needs. United Way makes our communities stronger. We make kids better students. We make households more financially capable. We make more opportunities for high-wage jobs. We make better, more equitable access for everyone to the things that make our lives, our neighborhoods, and our communities safer and healthier. Simply put, we make the community more vibrant for all.

What areas does UWBH serve?

We are proud to serve the counties of Butte, Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington.

How is UWBH creating a meaningful impact?

Based on our Community Needs Assessment, UWBH has pinpointed how your generosity can do the most good and have the greatest impact. Like you, we want to find permanent solutions to the top needs in the Black Hills, addressing issues including education, health, housing, and safety net services.

How does UWBH leverage my dollars?

No other organization can help so many individuals in so many ways through one donation. United Way turns every dollar donated into \$1.25 in impact. We leverage your donation with grant funding, advocacy, and volunteerism to provide maximum community impact. You can view full details on the Your Gift At Work sheet.

I never use agency services, so why should I give?

You never know when you, a member of your family, a coworker, or a neighbor may need a United Way service. One unexpected financial emergency – job loss, natural disaster, medical emergency, vehicle repair – can tip a household into poverty. Your gift helps ensure that United Way services are available when they're needed.

A gift to United Way is an investment that benefits the entire community, not just one program, issue, or population.

How does UWBH decide which agencies get funding?

Each year, we invest in nonprofits that are addressing the most pressing needs in the Black Hills. We passionately believe that collaborating with many local organizations is the key to causing community transformation.

Grant funding is determined by the UWBH Board of Directors and local community representatives. UWBH Board, Cabinet members and staff review every grant application, assess their impact, analyze the agencies, and make informed funding decisions based on the needs of the community.

Why should I give to UWBH instead of directly to a nonprofit agency?

One organization can't solve the complex issues of our communities alone. UWBH serves as a collaborator in the nonprofit community to identify what the top community needs are and which organizations are already meeting those needs.

Community fundraising costs would more than double if every agency had to raise the funds United Way provides. Please support agencies you know, but also consider a gift to United Way for the entire community network of services. It's impossible to know which agencies your neighbors and family may also need someday.

We hold agencies accountable. United Way funded programs are required to report data on their outcomes twice a year and are evaluated annually. We fund only trusted, proven programs to ensure that your gift is creating the most good possible.

Can I specify which nonprofit agency receives my donation?

Grant decisions aren't made until after the campaign is completed. For that reason, we don't know which nonprofits may be included each year. But you can specify which of the top needs you would like your funds to support, as well as which community you'd like them to support. Every year we fund more than 40 different nonprofit agencies, so there is a good chance that you'll be helping to fund your favorite nonprofit through the UWBH.

For a complete list of which nonprofits are currently receiving UW funds visit our website at www.unitedwayblackhills.org.

Does my donation to UWBH stay local?

YES. 100% of every dollar donated to UWBH stays in the Black Hills.

Who runs UWBH?

UWBH is a local, autonomous organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors whose members are respected community and business leaders. Policies, procedures, activities, and programs we support are determined right here in the Black Hills. United Way's daily operations are handled by a small, knowledgeable, professional staff that works closely with volunteers at all levels.

How is UWBH accountable?

UWBH's financials are audited by an independent accounting firm and scrutinized by our Board of Directors. We are pleased to report that we have been awarded the highest possible rating by Charity Navigator. Charity Navigator evaluates charities on their financial health, accountability and transparency.

How does UWBH keep costs low?

Many people are surprised to discover how economically and efficiently United Way of the Black Hills is run. For every dollar raised, we spend 22 cents on operating costs. These expenses include marketing, fundraising, advocacy, internal initiatives, accounting, and other basic business functions. More importantly, they include all of the work we do to determine our community goal areas, distribute dollars to programs that address those goals, and monitor agency performance and results.

More of each donated dollar goes directly to helping those in need through good management practices, volunteer participation, in-kind donations, and United Way's tradition of efficiency in raising resources.

In fact, we're one of the most cost-effective charitable organizations you will find, according to standards set by national charitable watchdog organizations.



FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP

From local campaigns to personal donations, learn more about United Way of the Black Hills at unitedwayblackhills.org, or by scanning here:

