



United Way of the Black Hills

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Update Newsletter: 6/19/2020

Dear Community Leaders and Donors,

We hope you are staying safe and healthy during this time. We continue to have weekly community discussions to keep a pulse on the developing needs in our communities as many begin to open and resume business hours. One concern is the accessibility of childcare services. Childcare services adhering to CDC guidelines necessitates smaller classroom sizes and teacher per child ratio. We anticipate this will become an increasing need in the following weeks. We will be sharing the latest information from a statewide survey of child care providers soon.

To date, we have raised \$474,080.42, and have disbursed \$190,444 in grants to 26 organizations.

We encourage you view the impact of your donation by viewing image below. In addition, we have been hosting a 'Virtual Bus Tour Series' to share stories of how some of these organizations have been able to use their grants and serve our community. You may also find this in the "[your impact](#)" section below.

This week's United We Stand Relief fund recipients:

YMCA Childcare Centers in Rapid City and Custer - \$20,000

The purpose of these funds is to support positions that have been necessitated by COVID-19. There is a need for new positions such as greeters, runners and additional cleaners. These positions enable the YMCA to follow CDC guidelines and also reduce the amount of surface touching, limit amount of

people entering the building and encourage social distancing.

The greeters meet parents and children outside of the YMCA facility to screen children for temperature and other symptoms, they also check in the children and bring them to the runners. The staff who serve as runners bring the children to their classrooms in the morning and pick up each child in the afternoon as each parent arrives. The additional cleaning staff allow a constant rotation of cleaning elevators, door handles and other areas that would be considered frequently touched.

Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board (GPTCHB) - \$7,500

GPTCHB serves as the liaison between the Great Plains Tribes and the various Health and Human Services divisions including the Great Plains Area Indian Health Service. GPTCHB works to reduce public health disparities and improve the health and wellness of the American Indian peoples.

Funds will be used to purchase food for Native American individuals and families who are in Rapid City and who are COVID-19 positive or who have been self-quarantined due to potential exposure. GPTCHB is also providing cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products including toilet paper, shampoo and conditioner, hand soap, hand sanitizer, etc. for the individuals.

MakeSPACE Spearfish Partnership For Arts - \$2,500

MakeSPACE coordinates Masks for Spearfish - a local project to sew and coordinate the distribution of masks and isolation gowns for healthcare workers, local businesses and the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Northern Hills.

Funds will be used to make personal protective equipment for healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis at Monument Health, local nonprofits and senior living facilities. Thus far, MakeSPACE has sewn more than 3,000 masks.

We thank you for your continued support and encourage you to visit our website for more information and to make a donation to the UNITED We Stand Fund. 100% of your donations will benefit nonprofit organizations that are providing resources to our community members impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Jamie Toennies
Executive Director
United Way of the Black Hills

[Click here to view your impact](#)

Success Stories

**Learn how the UNITED We Stand grant has impacted
Black Hills Works!**



The UNITED We Stand grant specifically supported people with disabilities who are supported by Black Hills Works and who, because of COVID-19, have lost (temporarily or permanently) their employment. This means many more people (103) who Black Hills Works is providing a meal for in our homes.

On average, that is an additional 450 meals a week. As many of these same individuals are now "breaking bread" with their housemates, the story of "food security" becomes as much about building even stronger friendships with their Black Hills Works "family," to include the additional staff we now have working in homes. One mother expressed her thanks for the "above and beyond" efforts of staff at her son's home like this:

"The support staff at my son's home have done a phenomenal job of keeping homebound clients in Parkview engaged and happy every day. They have planted seeds for their future spring garden, they have done cooking classes, put together a communal Easter meal which was very memorable for my son, and have done many art projects."

Resources for COVID-19

We are committed to helping our community navigate these difficult times. We continue mobilizing resources to lend assistance in a variety of ways.

Our [Educational Resources page](#) provides parents and caregivers with tools to help students with online learning, arts and crafts, activities, fitness and more. Additionally, there are links to the five school districts in our region and the help they are providing.

For immediate assistance, please dial 2-1-1.

We also encourage you to go our [COVID-19 Information page](#) for more resources.

