

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



United Way of the Black Hills



On November 20, 1944, the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce of Rapid City united to address charitable donations, founding what would become a Community Chest and later United Way. These visionary business owners aimed to create a centralized fund to support local organizations. They entrusted esteemed community members to identify and address pressing issues, promising donors a streamlined, impactful giving process by consolidating multiple solicitations into one. We continue to be overwhelmed by your generosity each and every year and for that we are grateful for your partnership.

Our biggest volunteer event is Month of Caring every September. We have nearly 900 volunteers throughout the Black Hills volunteer their time to help the community.

Month of Caring is an incredible opportunity to tackle large and small projects that otherwise may not get accomplished. This is an opportunity for volunteers to plan creative service projects and make a huge difference in their community.

68 Projects  
864 Volunteers  
31 Sponsors  
An Impact of \$201,637

**We Live Here. We Give Here. It Stays Here.**

By giving to the United Way of the Black Hills, you diversify your donation to serve many needs!

115,257 PEOPLE SERVED IN 2023

MORE THAN \$69 MILLION RAISED IN THE LAST 80 YEARS



For Month of Caring Information, scan this QR code.

THANK YOU, SIGNATURE SPONSORS:



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.





## BLACK HILLS READS

**BLACK HILLS READS HELPS TO ENSURE CHILDREN ARE PROFICIENT READERS BY THE END OF THE THIRD GRADE.**

Black Hills Reads (BHR) leverages its flexible role to breakdown industry silos, to streamline and improve collaborations, and ultimately to strengthen the systems that serve early learners and their families. As an engaged backbone organization and funder, BHR promotes early learning and literacy opportunities for early learners under age nine and their families in the Black Hills.

To learn more about the Black Hills Reads initiative, scan the QR code.



## EVERYDAY STRONG

**YOU CAN START BUILDING EVERYDAY RESILIENCE BY FOSTERING SAFETY, CONNECTION, AND CONFIDENCE IN THE CHILDREN AROUND YOU.**

We're on a mission to build resilient kids and strong communities. United Way has adopted the EveryDay Strong program, which was developed by experts on anxiety, depression, and psychological well-being to develop these activities for you.

To learn more about the EveryDay Strong initiative, scan the QR code.



## DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

**SINCE 1995, DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY HAS BECOME THE PREEMINENT EARLY CHILDHOOD BOOK-GIFTING PROGRAM.**

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a program funded by United Way of the Black Hills to allow children ages 0-5 to receive an age appropriate book mailed to their home once a month. In 2023, approximately 4,579 children were enrolled and received a book every month.

To learn more about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, scan the QR code.



### RAPID CITY Black Hills Works TRANSPORTATION

"Jennifer" has received support from Black Hills Works since 1994. Notably, she has worked for her employer for 30 years. Even more impressive is that she obtained her job entirely on her own, without any support from the Black Hills Works employment team. Her success in community employment is the ultimate goal that we wish for everyone we support. Grant funds from United Way matched her own funds to travel on Rapid Ride to her job, where Jennifer helps prepare materials for shipping. She recently shared that, "When I was a kid my teachers and classmates told me over and over that I couldn't do it, and here I am, proving them wrong!" Jennifer is rightly proud of all that she has achieved, not letting her disability stop her. United Way grant funds for employment transportation have supported her success. Thank you, United Way!

### STURGIS CASA of the Northern Hills ABUSE OR NEGLECT

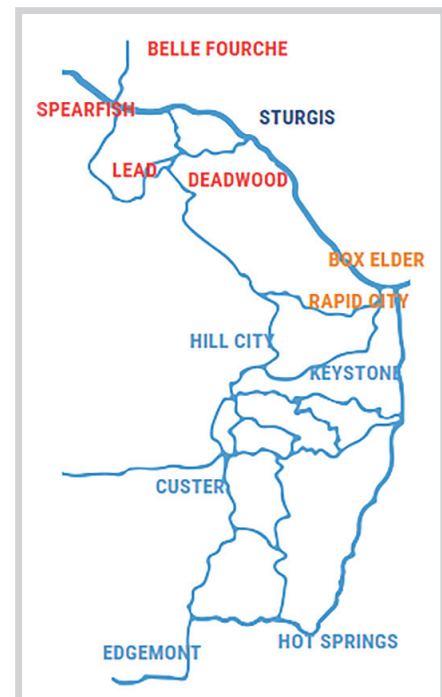
A CASA volunteer has been providing support to a child in an adoption process by supplying transportation to sibling visits and offering parenting suggestions. He provides positive reinforcement for the adoptive family and helps them to advocate for services for the child and the family, so the best possible outcome of adoption can be achieved. The CASA has taken the child on many fun adventures, such as the park, Storybook Island, Reptile Gardens, mountain hikes, air shows, and a car show. He has been an integral constant for the child during the youth's transition from a residential setting to an adoptive home.

### NORTHERN HILLS Prairie Hills Transit Childcare EDUCATION

This fall, we are sending 17 highly qualified preschoolers to kindergarten! They did great on their preschool assessments, have toured the kindergarten building, and are continuing to learn to be the best students they can be. Without a steady child care program I do not believe these children would be as qualified to enter into the school system. Year after year the kindergarten staff and parents comment on the ability of the children we send. It is a pleasure to watch many of these children grow and learn from the infant classroom all the way up to the Jr Kinder program we offer.

### SOUTHERN HILLS Meals on Wheels HEALTH

"Rick" was diagnosed with stage IV cancer. He had been given 3 months to live when he called Meals on Wheels. He had no money and was too weak to cook for himself and did not want to leave his home for his last days. Meals on Wheels started delivering meals, provided check-ins and a friendly face. He was able to live his life with dignity, on his own terms. This was the gift that UWBH gave him.



## COMMUNITIES SERVED

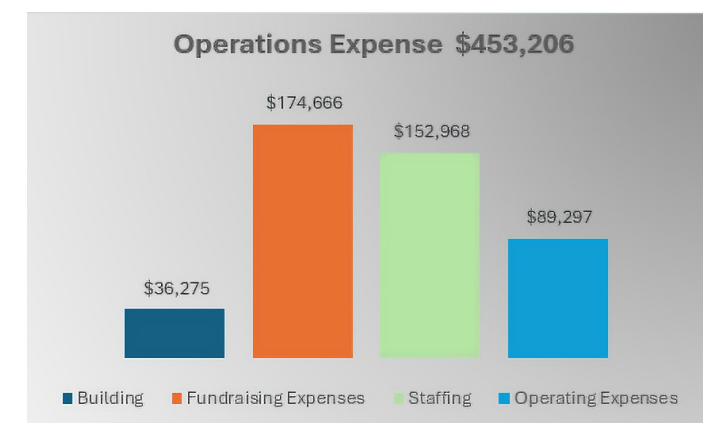
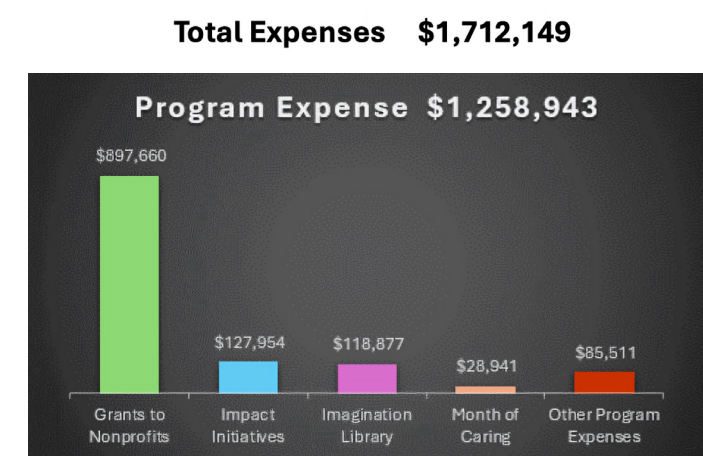
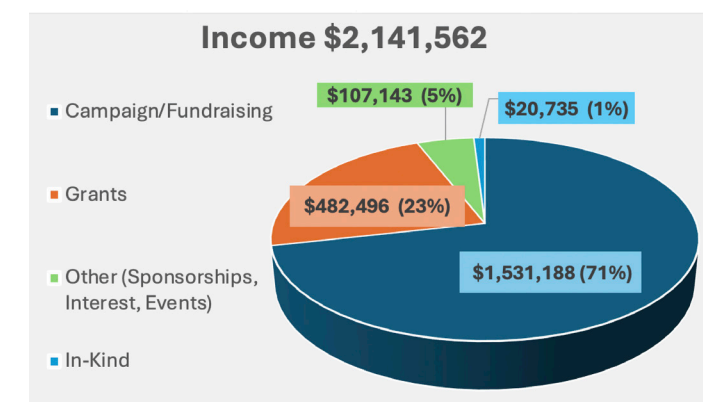
### OUR PARTNER AGENCIES:



# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023

### Our Commitment to Transparency:

At United Way of the Black Hills, we know our donors trust us to utilize their donations efficiently and effectively. We pride ourselves in our efforts to remain transparent.



\*Surplus funds reflect careful spending and unfilled staff positions, and will be used in 2024 for grants to nonprofits and funding initiatives.



**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**  
To view our list of donors at Leadership levels, scan this QR code.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jason Sanderson** PRESIDENT  
*Black Hills Energy*
- Dr. Joe Dlugos** VICE PRESIDENT  
*South Dakota Mines*
- Dr. Craig Bailey** Past President  
*Novum Nano*
- Bethany Bloom** Treasurer  
*West River Mental Health*
- Dr. Valerie Seales** Secretary  
*Rapid City Area Schools*
- Wes Ashton**  
*Black Hills Energy*
- Andy Becker**  
*Rapid City Police Department*
- Lori Burnham**  
*Monument Health*
- Jason Culberson**  
*Rapid City Fire Department*
- Alenda Derby**  
*Monument Health*
- Lauren Ebert**  
*A & B Business Solutions*
- Kelly Frye**  
*Black Hills Special Services*
- Keri Jackson**  
*Dacotah Bank*
- Kalli Ketel**  
*Coeur Wharf*
- Joel Landeen**  
*City of Rapid City*
- Sammi Langendorf**  
*Black Hills Electric Coop.*
- Shelley LeFebre**  
*First Interstate Bank*
- Brenda Meier**  
*Liberty Superstores*
- Austin Olivier**  
*Black Hills Insurance Agency*
- Salena Osieczonek**  
*Scheels*
- Christine Papineau**  
*Monument Health*
- Kevin Popp**  
*Synchrony*
- Jason Seamans**  
*Community Representative*
- Michelle Thomson**  
*Black Hills Badlands & Tourism Assn.*
- Lorie Vega**  
*Ellsworth Air Force Base*

## COMMUNITY CABINETS

In addition to our Board of Directors, UWBH utilizes four Community Cabinets to connect with each region in the Black Hills. Two representatives from each Cabinet sit on the Board.

### Rapid City

- Brenda Meier** CHAIR  
*Liberty Superstores*
- Keri Jackson** VICE CHAIR  
*Dacotah Bank*
- Jarrett Apa**  
*BMS Financial Advisors*
- Yvonne Chase**  
*Monument Health*
- AJ Jacobs**  
*ASI*
- Desiree Mendel**  
*Aflac*
- Riann Reurink**  
*NewsCenter 1*
- Clifford Rhodes**  
*US Bank*
- Danni Weaver**  
*First Interstate Bank*

### Northern Hills

- Kalli Ketel** CHAIR  
*Coeur Wharf*
- Shelley LeFebre** VICE CHAIR  
*First Interstate Bank*
- Suzanne Campbell**  
*Monument Health*
- Lori Casavan**  
*White's Queen City Motors*
- Linsey Eckhart**  
*Bank West*
- Sonja Merrow**  
*Northern Hills FCU*
- Sandra Kringem**  
*Black Hills State University*

## Southern Hills

- Lori Burnham** CHAIR  
*Monument Health*
- Sammi Langendorf** VICE CHAIR  
*Black Hills Electric Coop.*
- Bridget Bender**  
*Black Hills Energy*
- Tara Bland**  
*Black Hills Energy*
- Dawn Murray**  
*Custer Area Chamber of Commerce*
- Alexander Nelson**  
*Fall River Health Service*
- Patty Ressler**  
*Black Hills Parks & Forest Assn*
- Heather Thompson**  
*Custer County Library*
- Rebecca Willard**  
*Steam Cleaning Specialists*

## Sturgis

- Kelly Frye** CHAIR  
*Black Hills Special Services*
- Alenda Derby** VICE CHAIR  
*Monument Health*
- Robin Baldwin**  
*Black Hills Rally & Gold*
- Kylie Corkins**  
*The HomeSlice Group*
- Joyce Ehlers**  
*City of Sturgis*
- Fawna Geigle**  
*First Interstate Bank*

## STAFF

- John Cass**  
Executive Director
- Kathy Cruse**  
Director of Finance
- Mari Sheldon**  
Director of Development
- Hanna Glissendorf**  
Black Hills Reads Director
- Carmen Keehner**  
Database Manager
- Edwina Kertzman**  
Database Assistant
- Terri Berg**  
Administrative Assistant



To Donate,  
Scan this  
QR CODE

United Way of the Black Hills' mission is to unite people and resources to improve lives in the Black Hills by delivering measurable long-term solutions to community issues in education, financial stability and health.