

MONTH OF CARING



Volunteers

Month of Caring, held each September, is our largest volunteer event. Over **1,000 volunteers** across the Black Hills give their time and talents through meaningful service, completing projects – large and small – that might otherwise go unfinished. The event also brings businesses, organizations, and individuals together to plan creative projects, collaborate, and make a lasting impact. Beyond this event, United Way of the Black Hills' Board of Directors and regional

Cabinets contribute countless volunteer hours year-round, helping guide our mission, strengthen partnerships, and ensure effective, responsible service.



Scan to learn more.

81 Projects
1067 Volunteers
23 Sponsors
An Impact
of \$234,940

Volunteers are the backbone of every community. They are on the frontlines, making a difference in those around them every single day.



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

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Joe Dlugos, PRESIDENT
South Dakota Mines

Kelly Frye, VICE PRESIDENT
Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

Jason Sanderson, PAST PRESIDENT
Black Hills Energy

Michelle Thomson, SECRETARY
Black Hills Badlands & Tourism Assn.

Sammi Langendorf, TREASURER
Black Hills Electric Coop.

Wes Ashton
Black Hills Energy

Robin Baldwin
Black Hills Rally & Gold

Andy Becker
Rapid City Police Department

Tara Bland
Black Hills Energy

Lori Burnham
Monument Health

Jesse Carr
Black Hills Insurance Agency Inc

Amber Cornella
City of Rapid City

David Ellenbecker
Monument Health

Kaye Francisco
Bank West

AJ (Aaron) Jacobs
ASI

Kalli Ketel
Coeur Wharf

Joel Landeen
Community Member

Shelley LeFebre
First Interstate Bank

Amanda Mahaffy
Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

Brian Povandra
Rapid City Fire Department

STAFF

John Cass
Executive Director

Kathy Cruse
Director of Finance

Mari Sheldon
Director of Development

Carmen Keehner
Database Manager

Hanna Glissendorf
Director of Early Education

Lisa Stanley
Early Education Project Manager

Brittney Jayo
Engagement and Operations Coordinator

Terri Berg
Assistant Director of Finance

GRATEFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEER BOARD & CABINET MEMBERS.

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

Kaye Francisco, CHAIR
Bank West

AJ (Aaron) Jacobs, VICE CHAIR
ASI

LaDonna Coates
Black Hills Federal Credit Union

Keri Jackson
Dakotah Bank

Desiree Mendel
Aflac

Danni Weaver
First Interstate Bank

Samantha Young
First Interstate Bank

Kayla Zittel
Bank West

Southern Hills

Lori Burnham, CHAIR
Monument Health

Tara Bland, VICE CHAIR
Black Hills Energy

Bridget Bender
Black Hills Energy

Howard Green
Black Hills Special Services Cooperative

Sammi Langendorf
Black Hills Electric Coop.

Dawn Murray
Custer Area Chamber of Commerce

Alexander Nelson
Hot Springs School District

Patty Ressler
Black Hills Parks & Forest Assn



WE 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.



To donate scan the QR code.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWLY RETIRED BOARD & STAFF* MEMBERS

Dr. Craig Bailey
Kylie Corkins

Jason Culberson
Linsey Eckhart

Edwina Kertzman*
Sandra Kringens

Brenda Meier
Austin Olivier

Salena Osieczonek
Christine Papineau

Monique Schneider
Heather Thompson

OUR 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.



Black Hills Reads: HELPING ENSURE CHILDREN ARE PROFICIENT READERS BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE

Black Hills Reads (BHR) brings together partners to strengthen early learning systems and expand literacy opportunities for children under nine in the Black Hills. With 72% of South Dakota fourth graders not reading proficiently – an early gap tied to future challenges – BHR focuses on increasing access to books, building school readiness, and supporting caregivers and educators. In 2025, 2,429 third graders received books through Young Readers One Book, 3,857 first- and second-graders received books through the Porter Project, and 101 children participated in Book Stop Lessons. Additionally, 1,605 participants read over 26,000 books during the Race to Read Challenge, and 9 organizations received Innovation Grants, reaching more than 1,400 children.



Scan to learn more.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: PUTTING BOOKS INTO HOMES, MONTH AFTER MONTH

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, funded by United Way of the Black Hills, provides children ages 0–5 with a free, age-appropriate book mailed to their home each month.

The program helps families build home libraries and establish early reading routines, with research showing improved literacy skills and increased interest in books after just 10 books. Since launching in 2002, more than 1.2 million books have been delivered across the Black Hills. In 2025, 6,355 children enrolled and 59,580 books were mailed directly to homes.



Scan to learn more.

Early Learner Communities: CREATING STRONG STARTS, CLOSE TO HOME

United Way partners with Early Learner South Dakota to support Early Learner Communities across the Black Hills. Through this collaboration, local partners identify priorities, build connections, and take action to strengthen early learning. Efforts vary by community – such as expanding access to childcare and preschool, supporting educators, or mapping resources – but all share the goal of helping children succeed from the start. In 2025, progress continued in Rapid City and Custer, and a new community launched in Belle Fourche. United Way also awarded \$5,000 Early Learner Community grants to Custer and Belle Fourche, along with ongoing support, training, and resources to advance local efforts.



Scan to learn more.

UNITED WAY
of the Black Hills

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WE ARE FOCUSED ON THE TOP NEEDS OF THE BLACK HILLS.

Education:

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program
- Black Hills Reads
- Mentorship & After School Programs
- Early Childhood Education & Child Care
- Access to Books

Financial Stability & Basic Needs:

- Basic Needs & Economic Assistance
- Economic & Job Opportunities
- Affordable Housing
- Financial Education & Services
- Affordable Transportation

Health:

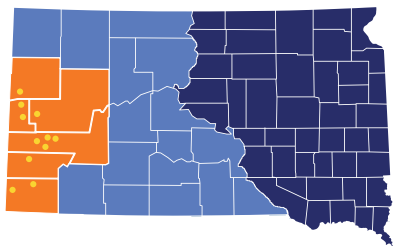
- Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Home and Family Life Services
- Food Security
- Health Services

Our Partner Agencies:

2025-2026

Funds raised by UWBH through our annual campaign are invested in the nonprofits shown. They provide services to address the most pressing needs in Black Hills communities.

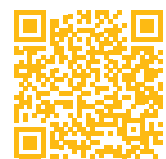




SERVING COMMUNITIES
ACROSS SIX COUNTIES



Belle Fourche
Spearfish
Lead/Deadwood
Sturgis • Rapid City
Box Elder • Hermosa
Hill City • Keystone
Custer • Hot Springs
Edgemont



Become a Sponsor,
scan the QR code.



THANK YOU, PRESENTING SPONSORS:



COEUR WHARF®



Letter

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOHN CASS

As we continue listening and responding to the needs of the Black Hills, one truth is clear: many hard-working families are doing their best and still struggling to keep up. Rising costs for housing, childcare, transportation, and everyday necessities continue to pressure households across our region. At United Way of the Black Hills, we believe strong communities require support for families today and long-term solutions for tomorrow. That is why we invest in both direct impact and the strength of the nonprofits serving our region.

Nonprofit 360: A ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABILITY

In 2025, United Way of the Black Hills, in partnership with the John T. Vucurevich Foundation and Innovative NonProfit, initiated **Nonprofit 360: A Roadmap to Sustainability**. Designed to strengthen nonprofits across Butte, Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, and Pennington counties, the initiative focuses on building stronger organizations, stronger leaders, and stronger communities. In 2025, Nonprofit 360 supported more than **220 nonprofit agencies** through four free programs:

Professional Leadership Training: Online and in-person Development Dimensions International (DDI) courses focus on emotional intelligence, decision-making, change management, and conflict resolution.

Nonprofit Connections: Quarterly workshops center on sustainability, teamwork, revenue growth, and program impact.

Bridges to Boards™: Training that prepares emerging leaders for nonprofit board service. **22 nonprofit organizations** and 3 businesses completed training.

Nonprofit Co-op: Customized coaching for United Way-funded agencies. In 2025, **32 agencies** received support in fundraising, board development, marketing, strategic planning, and HR.

Through Nonprofit 360, we are helping build stronger agencies, stronger leadership, and a stronger network of support across the Black Hills.

For more on
Nonprofit 360,
scan the QR code.



Where Generosity Becomes Impact

EDUCATION



SOUTHERN HILLS

**YMCA of the Black Hills
Custer Kidstop & Summer Camp
Expanding Opportunity for
Families**

What began as an investment in youth programming is now opening the door to something even bigger. With support from YMCA of the Black Hills and funding through United Way of the Black Hills, 296 youth gained access to safe, consistent, and enriching after-school care and summer programming through Kidstop and Summer Camp. That investment is now fueling expanded collaboration. In communities like Custer and Hermosa where childcare options are limited, partners are working together to create new early learning opportunities for families.

As early as fall 2026, families in Hermosa may have access to childcare and early learning for infants through age six, helping ensure more children start school ready to succeed and more families have the support they need to thrive.

FINANCIAL STABILITY & BASIC NEEDS



RAPID CITY

**Black Hills Works Inc.
Affordable Housing
A Different Future,
Made Possible**

Once told independence wasn't possible, one individual today is living a life filled with purpose, connection, and dignity, thanks to Black Hills Works.

Through "right-sized" housing and supportive services, she lives in a shared home, participates in her community, and experiences the stability everyone deserves.

She is one of 380 individuals benefiting from housing options designed to meet people where they are, promoting independence while ensuring safety and care. As demand grows, Black Hills Works is expanding these options so more individuals can live and age with dignity.

With support from United Way of the Black Hills, hundreds of lives are being redefined every day.

HEALTH



NORTHERN HILLS/STURGIS Crisis Intervention Shelter Services

Domestic Violence Support From Survival to Strength

For years, she lived in fear and control, trapped in an abusive relationship where every aspect of her life was dictated by someone else.

When the situation became unsafe, she made a courageous choice, reaching out to a domestic violence hotline and connecting with support through Crisis Intervention Shelter Services.

That step led her to safety, shelter, and a network of support. In the beginning, healing felt uncertain and overwhelming, but through therapy, support groups, and steady encouragement, she began to rebuild her life.

Over time, she found stable housing, employment, and a renewed sense of strength. Today, she is not only safe, she is thriving! She now shares her experience to help others recognize that leaving is possible and recovery is real.

To read more
Impact Stories,
scan the QR code.



Creating a Legacy of Hope

YOUR LEGACY, YOUR WAY

Planned giving is a meaningful way to support the future of the Black Hills region while reflecting the values that matter most to you. There are many ways to make a legacy gift:

**Beneficiary Designations
Bequests
Charitable Gift Annuities
IRA Distributions
Life Insurance**



No matter the method, your gift helps strengthen local programs and builds a healthier, more resilient community for generations to come.

A Gift That Lives On

A planned gift begins with a simple but important step: having a will. Without one, your wishes may not be carried out as intended. Creating a will helps protect your loved ones while giving you the opportunity to support the causes you care about.

Plan Your Legacy with FreeWill

Did you know? More than 60% of American adults do not have a will. Through our partnership with FreeWill, you can create your legal will online for free in about 20 minutes. A simple step today can create impact for generations.

Simple • Secure • Impactful

"Free Will made creating my will simple and gave me peace of mind knowing everything is in place. Including United Way of the Black Hills was an easy decision because this community has given so much to me."

FREEWILL

partner.freewill.com/unitedway

Scan this
QR code to
get started

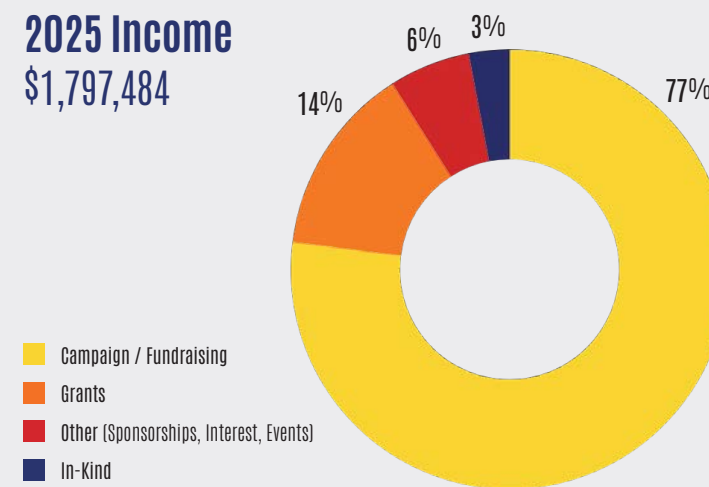


FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025

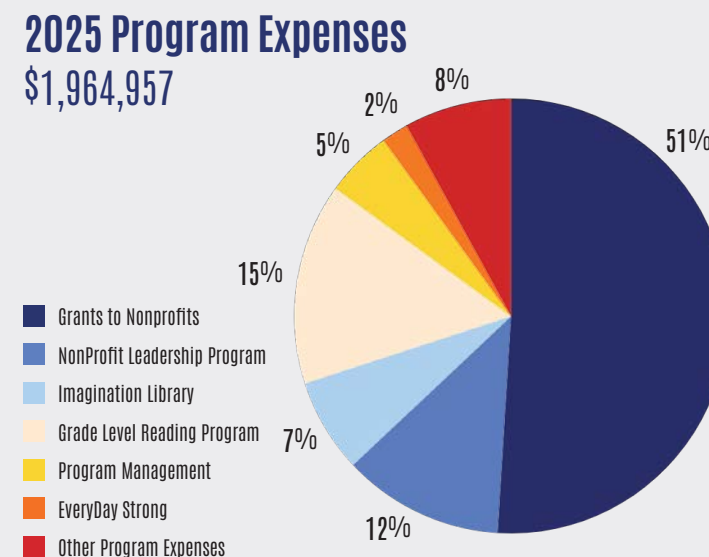
Our Commitment to Transparency:

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.

2025 Income
\$1,797,484



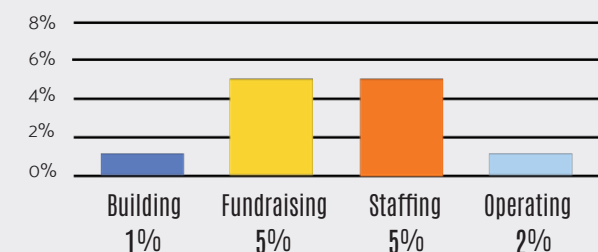
2025 Program Expenses
\$1,964,957



2025 Operating Expenses

Less Endowment Distribution of \$273,999*

\$295,178



* Endowment Created To Offset Operation Expenses and Program Expenses.