



FAQ's

Why United Way?

- ◆ United Way's core initiatives support projects to enhance self sufficiency by giving a hand up not a hand out. We focus on helping people who are working hard but struggle to meet their basic needs or to get ahead. Our goal is to foster dignity and respect while striving to improve our community.
- ◆ With 67 years of experience in Northwest Montana and working with over 100 community partner agencies, United Way has a unique perspective in understanding the needs of our community. We can use that experience and those relationships to direct funds for the greatest impact.
- ◆ United Way responds to LOCAL community needs. We raise LOCAL dollars which are then invested in services for our LOCAL neighbors and friends who need assistance.
- ◆ 99% of all the funds raised STAY in your local community!
- ◆ Last year United Way Member Agencies provided over 4,000 unduplicated acts of assistance to those in need.

How much of my donation goes to direct services?

- ◆ 100% of every personal contribution works to improve lives and help those in need in our community! There are no processing fees!
- ◆ United Way constantly works to keep its administrative and fund raising rates low. Thanks to the generosity of our Cornerstone Partners who provide the resources for United Way's cost of doing business.

What agencies can receive my gift?

- ◆ The "Community Impact Fund" on the back of your pledge card supports all the services in the county in which you live and work. Example: If you select the Community Impact Fund and you live and work in Flathead County your gift will go only to the Flathead County Member Agency section of the brochure.
- ◆ You can direct your donation to be designated to one or more agencies of your choice on the back of your United Way pledge card. You can choose United Way Member Agencies, or agencies in Lake, Lincoln, Sanders or Glacier Counties or Local Affiliated Agencies, or any of the Montana Shares agencies or any other non-profit of your choice with a valid IRS 501(c)3.

Who decides where & how much agencies receive if I choose the Community Impact Fund?

- ◆ Local volunteers help determine where the dollars you donate are spent. This year 50 community members participated in the local Citizens Review Panel process to give their input and set the goal for this year's campaign based on local needs.

How do I donate?

- ◆ Ways to contribute:
 - ✓ Payroll deduction through your company
 - ✓ A gift at the time of the campaign
 - ✓ Direct billing at your home address
 - ✓ One of four credit card options
 - ✓ Electronic fund transfer at a bank
 - ✓ Donate stocks or other property
- ◆ If you choose to donate to United Way through payroll deduction, your gift will not start coming out of your payroll check until October 2017.

Do you release my personal information to my designated agency?

- ◆ That is your choice! On the back of your pledge card you tell United Way if you would like your name and address released to the agency you select.

What should I do if I want to change my donation?

- ◆ Please call the United Way office at 752-7266! We are happy to accommodate any changes. To change the agency you donate to, the request must be received no later than February 28, 2018. United Way will also coordinate all changes with your payroll department.

How do I check the status and/or verify if my designated agency has been paid?

- ◆ Designated agencies receive the designation information from donors so they can thank you for your gift, unless you indicate a wish to remain anonymous. Or, at any time, you can receive personalized service on the status of your gift by contacting United Way at 406.752.7266 or 1.888.720.7266 toll free or at fiscal@unitedwaycares.org

How is United Way held accountable?

- ◆ The most valuable asset we have is the trust people have in our ability to meet community needs. We are audited each year by an independent accounting firm to ensure we are in compliance with generally accepted accounting procedures, regulations and laws. We strive to meet the philanthropic goals of our donors and we offer a donor satisfaction.
- ◆ United Way holds itself and the community agencies who receive funds to a high standard of accountability to help ensure your gift is used efficiently.

How does United Way comply with the Patriot Act?

- ◆ The USA Patriot Act is an Act of Congress signed into law by George W. Bush on October 26, 2001 to aid law enforcement in the battle against terrorism. United Way is in full compliance with this act and requires all agencies receiving United Way funds to certify that they comply with anti-terrorism financing and asset control laws.

