

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County

Why should I give to United Way?

Charitable giving is a personal and voluntary decision and the United Way encourages you to do what is most comfortable to you. A gift to the United Way is an investment that benefits the entire community, not just one program, issue, or population.

Are all United Ways the same?

There are approximately 1,400 United Ways across the country that exist in their respective communities to build partnerships and leverage resources to create plans for long lasting community change. Though United Ways share a logo and have similar missions, each United Way is independently incorporated and is led by local staff and volunteers. The work of each United Way is determined by its community needs. Information you read or hear about United Way in other communities does not reflect the operations of this one.

How does United Way spend my donation?

Simply put, money raised here stays here to make the greatest possible impact in our community. Most pledges are not designated for a certain destination. Those dollars are considered General Pool funds and are allocated by United Way volunteers who spend hours visiting Partner Agencies, evaluating their effectiveness and efficiency. They sift through funding requests, analyze the needs of the community, and make informed decisions in allocating United Way dollars. A complete listing of United Way's annual grant funds can be found on our website or provided by calling our office. We have the support of corporations who cover our overhead costs through corporate support. That means 100% of donor dollars goes directly to a program or service.

What if I don't want my money to go to a certain agency?

Not every agency appeals to every donor, but all agencies have met the meticulous standards of our United Way and the programs we fund meet needs within our four impact areas. If you like, you can designate to any of our partner agencies or impact areas that fit your needs or specify to exclude entities that do not match your passions.

What happens when I make a designated gift?

If you make your pledge to one of the four Impact Areas or to a Partner Agency of the United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County your money is directed there. We respect your choices and once we have verified that a designated nonprofit is an eligible 501(c)3 organization, we make quarterly payouts, based on pledge payments, throughout the year.

How do I know that I can trust the United Way of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County?

The United Way of Southeastern Idaho can provide, upon request, a complete financial report prepared by an independent auditor and a list of standards in place for membership certification through United Way of America.

I feel like I'm being pressured to give to United Way.

Giving is a personal choice. No one should be coerced into giving. But if we don't ask, no one's going to give. The goal of the United Way is to educate our community about the social services gaps and basic needs in our seven county region and to provide all with an opportunity to help.

I/we can't afford to give to United Way.

We are all feeling that there is less disposable income to give to charity during these uncertain economic times. The people who feel it most are the health and human service agencies. It's a catch-22. There is less money being allocated to them, yet there are more people turning to them for assistance. We must examine our own situation and make a choice. Through the United Way campaign, we have the opportunity to spread our generosity throughout the entire year. By utilizing payroll deduction you can have a small amount taken each pay period. For as little as \$10 a pay period, your generosity can greatly impact the lives of others.

What other ways can I be involved with the United Way?

You can give to the community through volunteering. Go to justserve.org to sign up and volunteer opportunities in our area. Find a voice for your passion to help – call the United Way office to see how you can get involved in advocating for issues in health, education, and financial stability.

I already give money to Church or another charity.

Supporting your religious belief is important and reflects your personal religious convictions and your desire to help other people. But consider giving to United Way as a way to enhance your charitable portfolio along with an employer match. The benefits derived from our United Way gifts are vitally important to our entire community, just as our religious contributions are to our Church community. We have a responsibility in both areas.

I don't want to give because when I or someone I knew needed help; the United Way didn't help at all.

The United Way is not set up to provide direct services to individuals. We refer people to our Partner Agencies, funded partners, and other community resources, the experts in meeting the needs of the people. The agencies themselves determine eligibility and amount of aid given to those in need, usually in terms of government guidelines or established policies that prevent people from taking advantage of the system. The United Way raises money for the programs and services that can help the most people possible. They are listed in on our website at www.unitedwayif.org.