

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

ISSUE: Community Safety Net

A community safety net is how we define the groups of organizations and their staff and volunteers that are helping “catch” people and families who are encountering financial crises due to underemployment, family illness, job layoff, car repairs or any unexpected financial loss that gets them off track..

It is cost-effective to have a community safety net that can be the helping hand needed to get people back on track.

For example, if an area food pantry can help feed a family for a few months and LIEAP helps them with their utilities, the family might be able to pay rent.....which might prevent them from becoming homeless. It will cost more for a near homeless family to be helped by HRDC’s supportive housing program, using a case-managed approach to help them regain or maybe find self-sufficiency.

If they do become homeless, casting a wider net, it costs even more per person for them to be served by Family Promise with services to get back on track and in a safe home.

One might think that these are huge costs, but they are not at all.

If you can “catch” a family and use the outstanding community-based programs we are lucky to have here, to help them build on their strengths and give them some tools, you have not only caught that family in the community safety net, but often you have taught them how to fish, not just given them a fish.

Wish list of needed items for distribution:

Gas cards in amounts under \$20

\$10 gift cards to stores to purchase new underclothes

\$10 gift cards to local bookstores for children



If you can help, please mail your gift card (s) to:

Greater Gallatin United Way
1516 West Babcock #2
Bozeman, MT 59715

Progress to date is a great indication of what can happen when a community comes together.

GIVE.

Invest in your community. ▶

EDUCATION. INCOME. HEALTH.

ADVOCATE.

Champion the cause. ▶

EDUCATION. INCOME. HEALTH.

VOLUNTEER.

Give your time. ▶

EDUCATION. INCOME. HEALTH.