



Greater Gallatin
UNITED WAY

2024-25 IMPACT REPORT

UNITED IS THE *Way*



Letter FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends,

Thriving communities don't just happen—they're built, one connection at a time. At Greater Gallatin United Way (GGUW), we see the difference every donor, partner, and volunteer makes when we come together to face challenges with courage and compassion.

This year, your support helped expand kidsLINK out-of-school programs to even more schools—giving over 2,000 local children safe, enriching spaces to learn, play, and grow. You helped lower the cost of care for working families, made it possible for more than 3,000 young children to receive free books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and expanded early learning opportunities that lay the foundation for kindergarten readiness.

And this is only the beginning.

With your help, we set Child Connect into motion—a first-of-its-kind initiative to strengthen our regional child care system by helping families find and afford care, supporting providers, and engaging businesses in the solution. Together, we're closing gaps and driving long-term change.

GGUW invested in and partnered with more than 28 area nonprofits—supporting programs that meet urgent needs while building future stability across basic needs, youth success, mental health, and early education. We didn't duplicate services. We convened people, asked hard questions, lifted up voices, and did the invisible work of uniting our community around real, lasting solutions.

We also celebrated powerful moments of unity—at events like Day of Action, United Night of Giving, Week of the Young Child Carnival, Nonprofit Walk, and kidsFEST. These moments remind us that community is both the spark and the solution.

At GGUW, we believe everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive.

That means helping families stay in the workforce, strengthening local child care systems, and ensuring every child has the support they need—from birth to adulthood—to succeed in school and in life.

None of this would be possible without you. When you give, volunteer, advocate, or partner with Greater Gallatin United Way, you're not just meeting a need, you're creating a better future.

Thank you for believing in the power of community. United is the way forward.

With gratitude,



Kimberly Hall
Greater Gallatin United Way
President & CEO



**UNITED IS THE
WAY TO A
THRIVING
COMMUNITY
FOR ALL**

35,481 *Lives Impacted*

MOBILIZING THE CARING POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY

Across Gallatin, Park, Madison, and Meagher counties, families are navigating urgent challenges—child care shortages, a youth mental health crisis, rising living costs, and inequitable access to resources. Greater Gallatin United Way serves as a convener, funder, and solution-builder, working with 82+ partners to strengthen systems and create long-term change. Together, we are transforming compassion into collective action—and impact.

UNITED IS THE WAY TO EARLY LEARNING

The earliest years shape a lifetime. We expand preschool access, support parents through child care initiatives, and mail free books to nearly half of all children under 5 in Gallatin and Park Counties through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Why it Matters

- 1 in 3 children enter kindergarten without essential language skills
- 90% of brain development happens before age five

UNITED IS THE WAY TO YOUTH SUCCESS

Kids need support beyond the school bell. Through kidsLINK afterschool and summer programs, we provide safe, enriching spaces for thousands of students to grow, learn, and connect.

Why it Matters

- 48% of Gallatin County 3rd graders are not proficient in reading
- 43% of Montana youth report persistent sadness or hopelessness

UNITED IS THE WAY TO MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

We partner to expand access to counseling, peer support, and crisis care—because mental health is foundational to resilience. We help individuals feel seen, supported, and empowered to move forward—especially during moments of uncertainty and isolation.

Why it Matters

- Montana ranks in the top 5 for suicide rates nationwide
- Only 11% of mental health needs are being met statewide

UNITED IS THE WAY TO BASIC NEEDS

From food and shelter to housing assistance and disaster relief, we help families find stability in times of crisis.

Why it Matters

- 10.2% of Gallatin County residents live below the poverty line
- 15.6% of households face severe housing challenges

OUR MISSION

Greater Gallatin United Way's mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Gale | Chair
Tyler Wheeler | Vice Chair
Joe Cleveland | Treasurer
George Haddenhorst | Secretary
Doug Babcock | Immediate Past Chair

DIRECTORS

Dr. Kathryn Bertany
Laurie Bishop
Amy Kanuch
Sam Worthington



THE POWER OF *United*

Because of you—our partners, supporters, and neighbors—thousands of local families are safer, stronger, and more connected. This is the power of community in action. United is the Way.

EARLY LEARNING HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE FROM THE START

Goal: All children in Gallatin, Madison, Meagher, Park counties, 3-5 years old, are provided with the opportunity to develop the foundation to start school ready to learn.

3,342 LIVES IMPACTED



3,185 children gained access to books and early literacy, 3,082 through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



22 working families received curriculum-based child care



77 students entered kindergarten with stronger readiness skills

YOUTH SUCCESS SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS IN & OUT OF SCHOOL

Goal: Ensure all K-8 students in Gallatin, Madison, Meagher, and Park counties have access to enriching out-of-school opportunities that support whole-child development and improve academic achievement.

4,269 LIVES IMPACTED



1,696 children benefited from evidence-based programming



834 children showed improved social-emotional skills



2,045 children accessed enrichment-based out-of-school programs



528 students experienced less summer learning loss, including 367 through kidslink summer camps



209 students had improved academic performance

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING EXPANDING ACCESS TO CARE

Goal: Improve outcomes of and access to mental health and behavioral wellbeing options for Gallatin, Madison, Meagher, and Park.

21,312 LIVES IMPACTED



277 individuals increased independence and quality of life



14,268 children & adults accessed mental health services



6,767 neighbors improved their emotional well-being

BASIC NEEDS PROVIDING STABILITY FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

Goal: Empower families to thrive by meeting immediate needs, strengthening long-term resilience, and supporting independence—through equitable access to basic resources, disaster relief, and a coordinated nonprofit network working together to improve quality of life across our communities.

6,558 LIVES IMPACTED



1,174 households experienced improved access to basic needs and quality of living



1,640 families in crisis were supported with critical resources to promote stability



12 households received disaster response and recovery support



1,999 individuals benefited from enhanced nonprofit collaboration and shared solutions

INVESTING IN WHAT MATTERS MOST

When we invest in families, we invest in our future.
Every dollar fuels long-term solutions, stability, and opportunity.

\$2,481,970 INVESTED

PROGRAMS + COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS **\$2,123,647**

ADMINISTRATION **\$182,579**

FUNDRAISING **\$175,744**

\$3,167,719 RAISED

INDIVIDUALS + BUSINESSES **\$341,703**

WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS **\$114,044**

FOUNDATIONS + GRANTS **\$1,310,085**

EVENTS **\$71,760**

PARENT FEES **\$1,196,484**

OTHER **\$128,670**

INKIND GIFTS **\$4,973**

*2024-25 audited financials.

EVENTS THAT SPARKED *Impact*



UNITED NIGHT OF GIVING

Over 250 guests came together for a night of food, fun and purpose, raising critical funds for afterschool care and working families.



kidsFEST

Over 600 children and families connected with 15+ local nonprofits and partners at this free fall festival packed with games, crafts, and community spirit.



WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD CARNIVAL

183 children, 140 caregivers, and 13 local nonprofits joined us to celebrate early learning and raise awareness about the importance of quality child care and kindergarten readiness.



DAY OF ACTION

24 volunteers donated 75+ hours across multiple community projects—beautifying parks, stocking food pantries, supporting kids' programs, and reminding us that united is the way to impact.



NONPROFIT WALK

26 nonprofits partnered with 20+ downtown Bozeman businesses for a vibrant evening that connected hundreds of residents with local causes, resources, and ways to give back.

YOUR TIME IS A POWERFUL INVESTMENT

Whether you invest your time, skills, services, goods, or financial support, you have the power to bring us one step closer to a thriving community.

242

VOLUNTEERS DONATED THEIR TIME & TALENTS

46

PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED WITH THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS

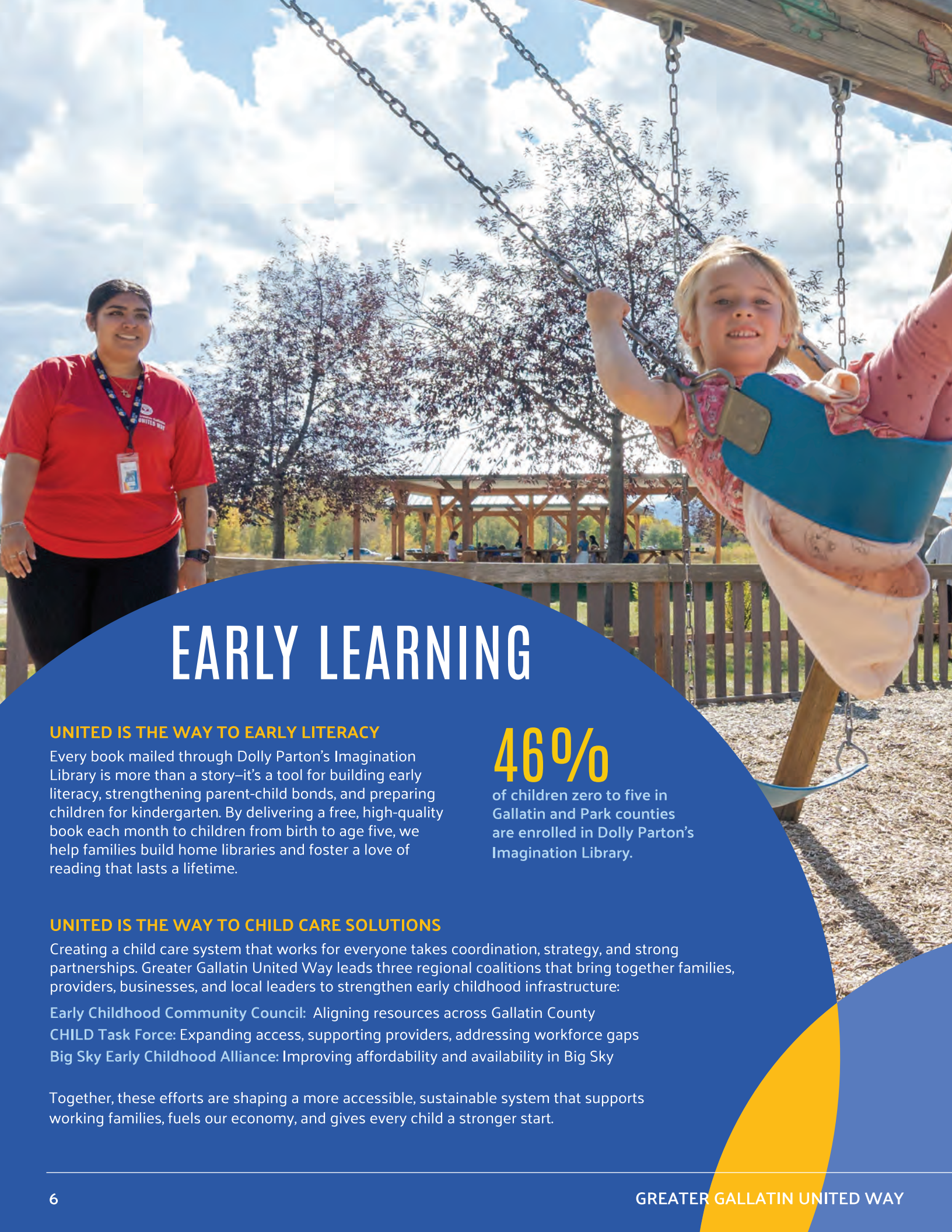
627

HOURS DONATED

33

NONPROFITS AND PROGRAMS SUPPORTED

To view a list of our supporters who make our programs possible, please visit our website:
greatergallatinunitedway.org

A woman in a red shirt with a 'UNITED WAY' logo stands on the left, smiling. A young child is swinging happily on a swing set on the right. The background shows a park with trees and a wooden gazebo under a blue sky with clouds. A large blue semi-circle graphic is at the bottom, containing text.

EARLY LEARNING

UNITED IS THE WAY TO EARLY LITERACY

Every book mailed through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is more than a story—it's a tool for building early literacy, strengthening parent-child bonds, and preparing children for kindergarten. By delivering a free, high-quality book each month to children from birth to age five, we help families build home libraries and foster a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.

46%

of children zero to five in Gallatin and Park counties are enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

UNITED IS THE WAY TO CHILD CARE SOLUTIONS

Creating a child care system that works for everyone takes coordination, strategy, and strong partnerships. Greater Gallatin United Way leads three regional coalitions that bring together families, providers, businesses, and local leaders to strengthen early childhood infrastructure:

Early Childhood Community Council: Aligning resources across Gallatin County

CHILD Task Force: Expanding access, supporting providers, addressing workforce gaps

Big Sky Early Childhood Alliance: Improving affordability and availability in Big Sky

Together, these efforts are shaping a more accessible, sustainable system that supports working families, fuels our economy, and gives every child a stronger start.



YOUTH SUCCESS

KIDSLINK: A LIFELINE FOR WORKING FAMILIES AND A LAUNCHPAD FOR KIDS

When the school bell rings, thousands of local families rely on kidsLINK to bridge the gap between school and home. It is more than a program—it is a critical support system for working parents and a place where kids thrive.

This year, more than 2,000 children participated in afterschool and summer programs, our highest enrollment ever. From kindergarteners forming friendships to middle schoolers building confidence through science, art, and teamwork, kidsLINK empowers children to explore, grow, and belong.

“AS A TWO-WORKING PARENT HOUSEHOLD, THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS US TO CONTRIBUTE FULLY TO THE WORKFORCE. AND OUR SON LOVES IT. HE’S THRIVING SOCIALLY AND EMOTIONALLY, AND THE STAFF TREAT HIM LIKE FAMILY.”

—Belgrade parent

In a region where most families depend on two incomes just to make ends meet, the hours between school dismissal and the end of the workday present a daily challenge. kidsLINK fills that gap with compassionate staff, enriching clubs, academic support, and a deep belief in every child’s potential.

We heard from dozens of families who said kidsLINK helped them stay employed, manage a crisis, launch a small business, or simply breathe easier knowing their child was safe and cared for. Whether it is a child discovering a love for learning or a parent staying afloat during a tough season, kidsLINK strengthens our entire community.

“WITHOUT KIDSLINK, I WOULD HAVE TO QUIT MY JOB OR CUT HOURS SIGNIFICANTLY. THAT WOULD AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO AFFORD HOUSING, FOOD, AND BASIC NECESSITIES.”

—Single mom, Bozeman

THIS SCHOOL YEAR, OUR KIDSLINK OUT-OF-SCHOOL INITIATIVE PROVIDED OVER \$20 MILLION IN ECONOMIC VALUE TO OUR COMMUNITIES.

Greater Gallatin United Way is deeply grateful to the schools, partners, and supporters who help make kidsLINK possible. Together, we are not just providing care—we are creating opportunity, stability, and hope for local families.

kidslink.org

2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT *Awards*

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CHANGEMAKERS

This year, we opened nominations to the public for the first time—and the response was powerful. Each honoree reflects the spirit of “United is the Way,” showing us what’s possible when neighbors lead with compassion, vision, and collaboration.



BASIC NEEDS IMPACT AWARD

Sara Friedman, Thrive Liaison at Whittier Elementary
Supporting families facing barriers and ensuring Whittier Elementary is a place where every family feels seen, heard, and supported.



EARLY LEARNING IMPACT AWARD

Megan Roth, Bozeman Reads Early Learning Center Coordinator
Expanding early literacy and kindergarten readiness through exceptional leadership of the Bozeman Reads Early Learning Center.



MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING IMPACT AWARD

Roots Family Collaborative, Co-Executive Directors
Suzanne Bendick and Kerry Williams
Ensuring no parent navigates perinatal mental health alone by providing compassionate, community-driven support.



YOUTH SUCCESS IMPACT AWARD

Erin Clements, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office
Building safer, stronger futures for youth through mentorship, partnership, and community safety initiatives.



UNITED IN ACTION AWARD

Casey Goodrich, kidsLINK Volunteer
Inspiring joy, curiosity, and belonging through extraordinary volunteer service at Meadowlark's kidsLINK program.



YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Cash Shonkwiler, Special Olympics and Partners Volunteer, kidsLINK Coordinator
Demonstrating leadership beyond her years through volunteerism, mentorship, and peer support.



UNITED IS THE WAY AWARD

City of Bozeman, Mayor Joey Morrison
Leading with vision and collaboration to strengthen affordable housing and child care access across our community.

GET INVOLVED

SPREAD AWARENESS

Share the mission of Greater Gallatin United Way and how we can unite to help our community thrive.

DONATE

Your gift, whether one-time or monthly, supports families, prepares children for school, and helps youth succeed.

WORKPLACE GIVING

Encourage collective giving at work to foster a culture of philanthropy and community impact.

SPONSOR

Partner with us through event sponsorships to demonstrate your commitment to creating positive change.

VOLUNTEER

Make a difference by volunteering with us, and we'll connect you with opportunities where you can have the greatest impact using your unique talents.

STAY CONNECTED

Greater Gallatin United Way
945 Technology Blvd Suite 101-F
Bozeman, MT 59715

406-587-2194

Info@greatergallatinunitedway.org
[greatergallatinunitedway.org](https://www.greatergallatinunitedway.org)