

United Way of Natrona County Newsletter

We at the United Way of Natrona County are excited to start making these newsletters semi-annually. We are going to highlight our agencies, provide information on different news and events in our community, as well as spotlight the hard work of our agencies, volunteers, and community.

MISSION

UNITING OUR COMMUNITIES TO DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE.

VISION

A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

WHAT'S NEW

This year has been a year of change for UWNC and we are looking forward excitedly to the future. We are currently partnered with 35 agencies in Natrona County. As well as 15 in Campbell and 8 in Converse. Our 2026 campaign kickoff was on September 11th and it had a wonderful turnout. This year is difficult for our agencies as many have been greatly affected by the shift in administrative policy. We are hopeful we will be able to fundraise and go door to door at an even higher level. We are continuing with our Day of Caring Projects; Eat, Drink, and be Caring; and our Vita Program and looking to always continue our mission in as many ways we can.

COMMUNITY IMPACT COMMITTEE

United Way of Natrona County raises the funds that are distributed to our partner agencies. However, the decisions about which agencies are selected as partners and how funds are allocated are made by our Community Impact Committee (CIC). The CIC is made up of dedicated volunteers from across our community. These individuals review grant applications and allocate funding to ensure donations make the greatest possible impact. If you are interested in serving as a CIC member, please contact us—we'd love to share more about this important and rewarding opportunity to help shape the future of Natrona County.

UWNC 2026 BOARD

David Carpenter - President- True Cos
Taylor Webb- Vice President-
Hilltop Bank
Tanya Southerland- CIC Chair- NCSD
Ali Gilbert- Secretary-
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Children's Advocacy Project
Carrie Donovan- Banner Health
Jason Speiser- Casper Fire- EMS
Kendra Ziler- Ford Wyoming Center
Scott Veatch- Wyoming Dementia Care

2026 DAY OF CARING PROJECTS

These projects are a small way we can continue to support our partner agencies. We help coordinate volunteers to help these agencies with something they might not have been able to or easily had the time to take care of. This year we had 4 agencies participating in Day of Caring with great success.

SETON HOUSE

Seton House is a self-sufficiency program dedicated to empowering families, offering a lifeline on their challenging journey towards independence. The program combines practical assistance with a nurturing environment, fostering a sense of community and providing the necessary tools for parents to rebuild their lives. For this Project they had an old playground set that was ready to be retired. In June, volunteers from Flowstate helped dismantle and haul out the play structure, leaving room for a new play area.



Art 321

The Casper Artists' Guild - ART321 is more than just an art gallery—it's a welcoming space for artists, art lovers, and curious minds to explore the transformative power of art. This project involved helping clean, remove, and improve the look of the front of the building. There had previously been butterflies attached and hung around the front walkway which were removed and saved.

Some trees needed to be trimmed, and weeds pulled. As well as generally cleaning the area to make sure it looked the best it could. We had a handful of volunteers from Wyoming 211, UWNC staff and board member, and others.



IRIS CLUBHOUSE

They are a dedicated nonprofit organization committed to enhancing health, broadening opportunities, and overcoming social and economic isolation for individuals significantly impacted by mental illness.. Iris Clubhouse had some landscaping help needed

Trimming lilac bushes, weed-eating, pulling weeds, and redoing river rock bed. This was taken care of by volunteers from True Companies HR Department.



SELF HELP CENTER

They provide 24 hour crisis intervention, emergency safe house, and comprehensive supportive services to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, elder abuse victims, and substance use treatment; and reduce future cycles of violence. In July they had help making vegetable & flower garden boxes. This was taken care of by United Way staff, a United Way board member, as well some of the staff of WSG Energy Services and the Self Help Center.





Our 2026 VITA Season will be starting in January

Need help with your
income taxes? VITA is
here to help! Receive
FREE income tax
assistance from our
trained volunteers.

In 2025 in Natrona
County
1656 returns were
prepared and
\$1,753,433 in refunds
were issued. Our
volunteers put in 1593
hours of help.

In Converse County 87
returns were prepared
and \$46,130 in refunds
were issued. Our
volunteers put in 74
hours of help.

COMMUNITY NEEDS

We wanted to highlight some of the biggest needs and concerns in our community that our partner agencies have reported.

As we all know the cost of living has skyrocketed and we are seeing the effects everywhere. Many members of our community utilize the pantries and support given by the Food Bank of Wyoming, The Salvation Army, St. Marks's Heart to Heart Program, etc and there has been an increase in the past year as well. Many who were able to not rely on these programs, are now having to come back. Our agencies themselves are feeling the impact as well.

The Youth Crisis Center is at the heart of what is affecting our youth. They provide critical housing, clinical programs, meals, educational support, and a safe environment for youth to recover from situations that are negatively impacting their lives. They are intensifying outreach to address the high rates of youth violence and suicides by connecting youth to mental health and substance abuse resources. Many youth hesitate to seek help or lack awareness of available services.

To get an understanding of the issues facing the youth served, WYSA agencies took a snapshot of youth in residence at YCC on November 6, 2024.

Of the 167 children in congregate care on November 6, 2024:

- 86% * have mental health diagnoses
- 58% * had one or more prior failed placements
- 36% * had attempted suicide or planned to attempt suicide
- 80% * had suffered some form of abuse
- 34% * had suffered sexual abuse
- 49% * had a history of personal substance abuse
- 66% * came from families with substance abuse problems
- 47% * came from families in which one or more parents had been in jail for an extended period of time
- 86% * had been prescribed psychotropic medication

Also with the need for parents to work more and more in order to stay afloat there is more of a need for children to go somewhere safe and nurturing. That is where the Boys and Girls Club, Art 321, the YMCA, etc. come into the mix as well.

The agencies we partner with fit under one of three categories: Basic Needs, Youth Development, Health and Wellness. They are sometimes the only front where people can ask for help. They are committed to helping this community in whatever way they can.

Our Cornerstone Partners

Cornerstone Partners with cash and in-kind donations, Cornerstone Partners generously provide foundational support for United Way's work. This means that your donation is used only for assisting our more vulnerable Natrona County neighbors



Casper College



SCAN TO DONATE TO UWNC
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