

## Brookings Area United Way Community Initiatives Newsletter



Welcome! Brookings Area United Way offers this monthly newsletter as a way to connect some of the many community initiatives that work together in Brookings County to support residents, youth, and families.



## Brookings County Mental Health Coalition (BCMHC)

# ANXIETY TOOLBOX


DEC 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 | 12-1PM  
ONLINE WEBINAR

**JOIN THE BROOKINGS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COALITION FOR A WORKSHOP ABOUT ANXIETY.**

**UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANXIETY & STRESS, HOW TO PREVENT BURNOUT, & FIND TOOLS TO MANAGE ANXIETY WHEN IT ARISES.**



**SCAN HERE TO RSVP!**



**FACILITATED BY JULIA WALKER, MS, LPC-SUPERVISEE**

Be sure to add the next [Brookings County Mental Health Coalition](#) Speaker Meeting to your calendars! Registration is required to attend. Scan the QR code or click the image above to register for the virtual workshop opportunity!

## Annual Brookings County Stronger Together Event 2026!

# 2026

## Stronger Together: Building Assets for Brookings, A Day for Suicide Prevention

Join us to learn how all of us can help increase concrete supports throughout Brookings County to instill hope, safety and healing. This event is free and open to the public.

**Dacotah Bank Center**  
**February 18th, 8 AM - 1 PM**



**Machel Kocer, MSW, CSW-PIP**  
Community Engagement Partnership  
Coordinator, Sioux Falls VA Healthcare System  
Conversations on Access to  
Lethal Means (CALM) Training

**Nikki Eining, CSW-PIP, QMHP**

USD Sanford School of Medicine

Creating Safe and Supportive Environments:  
Trauma-Informed Care

### First Responder Interactive Panel

**Diana Leal, MPH:** Post Overdose Response  
Team Program Manager,  
Emily's Hope

**Karen Weber, RN:** Emergency Department  
Director, Brookings Health  
System

A Collaboration on Post-Overdose Response



Call Brookings Area United  
Way at 605-692-4979 to  
register or scan QR code



Brookings Area  
**UNITED WAY**

Registration for this  
event is free.



**SD**  
RESILIENT  
COMMUNITY  
BROOKINGS COUNTY

Be sure to add the [2026 Stronger Together](#) event to your calendars! Registration is required to attend. Scan the QR code or click the image above to register.

Without U  
*they miss out*



1955 - 2025  
**70** YEARS OF  
IMPACT



**Make An Impact!**

## Basic Needs Task Force: Addressing Food Insecurity



Brookings Area  
**UNITED WAY**

**BASIC NEEDS  
TASK FORCE**

Brookings Area United Way is continuing to coordinate between partnering organizations of the Basic Needs Task Force through the holiday season!

Food, personal care items, and monetary/gift card donations are still being accepted and can be brought to the Brookings Area United Way office at 908 Hope Drive, Mondays - Thursdays 8 AM - 4 PM, and Fridays 8 AM - 12 PM. **Due to the upcoming holidays and limited staff availability, please call ahead to schedule a drop-off time by calling our office at 605-692-4979.**







Brookings Area  
**UNITED WAY**



## Brookings Communities That Cares (CTC)

The Brookings CTC Board is hard at work creating an action plan to tackle the key risk factors identified in the Brookings community.

At the November board meeting, members discussed sections of the action plan their workgroups have been working on. The board is expected to have their action plan published in January 2026 and start the Implementation Phase (fifth and final phase) of the CTC framework!

For more information or to get connected with the board, please contact Tehra at [tehra@brookingsunitedway.org](mailto:tehra@brookingsunitedway.org)





**WINTER FAMILY MOVIE**  
FUNDRAISER FOR BROOKINGS AREA UNITED WAY

Showing of Zootopia 2  
Doors open at 9 am, Movie begins at 9:30 am  
Activities, Refreshment, and Popcorn  
Provided

★ ★ **BROOKINGS CINEMA 8** ★ ★

**DEC 13**  
SATURDAY  
9:00 AM

REGISTRATION NECESSARY  
DUE TO LIMITED NUMBER  
OF SEATS  
Register by emailing:  
[gracegritgrowthcounseling@gmail.com](mailto:gracegritgrowthcounseling@gmail.com)

**FREE WILL DONATION  
RECIEVES ENTRIES  
INTO MULTIPLE  
GIVEAWAYS!**



## Early Learner Brookings

Early Learner Brookings is an initiative where local leaders, residents, and stakeholders are committed to the goal of all young children reaching their full potential.

If you are interested in learning more



## Brookings Council of Nonprofits (BCNP)

The Brookings Council of Nonprofits is looking at the year ahead and planning for 2026! Be on the look out

or joining this initiative please email  
[uw@brookingsunitedway.org](mailto:uw@brookingsunitedway.org).

for the 2026 BCNP calendar filled  
with social events, networking and  
collaboration efforts!



Brookings Area United Way | 908 Hope Drive | Brookings, SD 57006 US

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