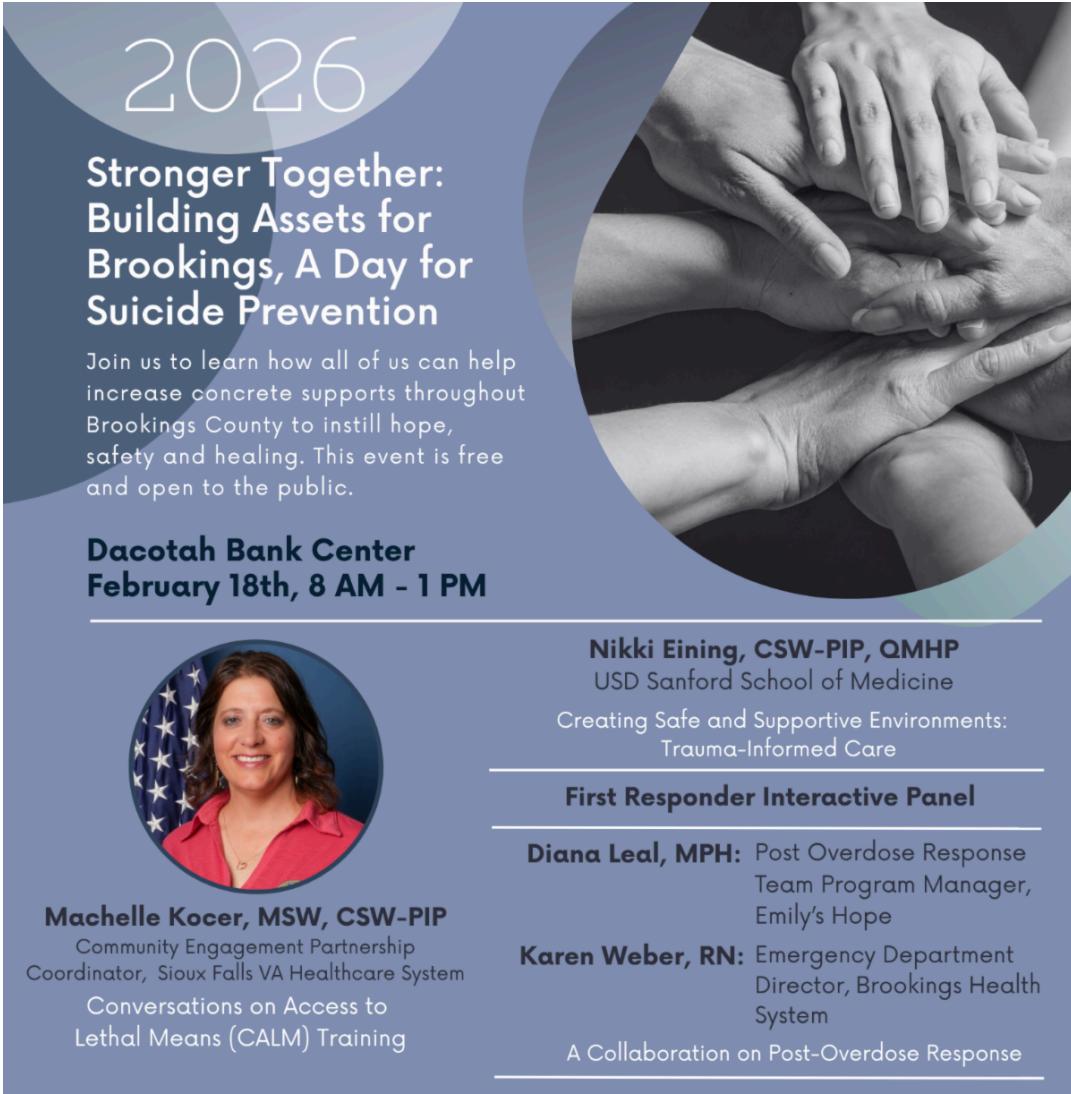


Community Initiatives



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.

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**

 **Machelle 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

Registration for this event is free.



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.

Please scan the QR code if you would like to sponsor a portion of, or sign up for a free resource booth at the 2026 Stronger Together event!



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



Brookings Area
UNITED WAY

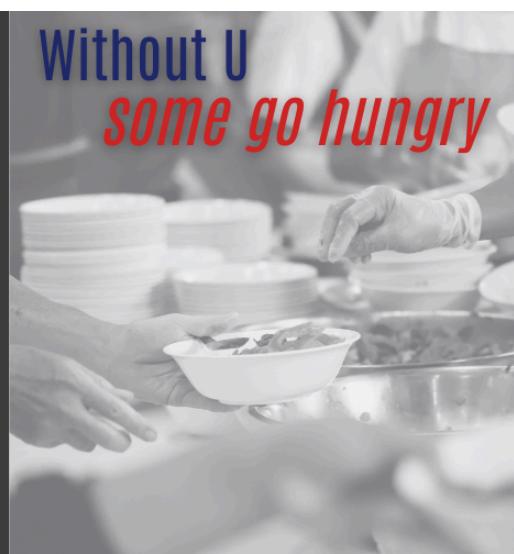
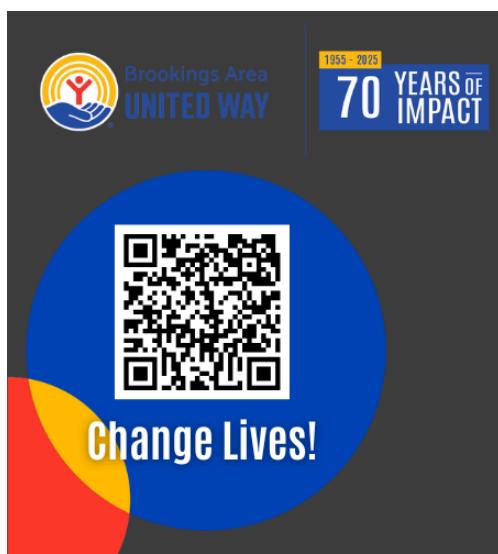


[Visit our Webpage](#)

CTC's One-Year Milestone!

The Brookings CTC initiative will celebrate its Board's one-year anniversary at the end of January, marking an important milestone for the Brookings community! Over the past year, the Board has worked collaboratively to strengthen partnerships, focus on community-driven efforts to support positive outcomes for youth, and lay a strong foundation for impact in the year ahead!

To get connected with the CTC board, please contact Tehra at tehra@brookingsunitedway.org



The first 2026 BCNP meeting is Monday, **January 26th** from 10am - 11am. The

Check out our updated webpage for meeting & event dates for 2026!

2026 Meeting Dates & Events

If you are a Brookings County nonprofit, and haven't already done so, please take the 2026 BCNP survey by January 9th!

2026 Nonprofit BCNP Survey

Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program (BCYMP) will be the guest speaker of the month!

*All BCNP 2026 members and non-members are welcome to attend!

Free Mental Health First Aid Training Opportunity!



Mental Health First Aid Training

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

When:

Thursday
February 5th
8am - 5pm

Where:

Dakota Nature Park
1705 32nd St. South
Brookings, SD



Scan to
Register!

What it covers:

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a person in crisis.
- How to connect a person to help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use and self-care.

This training is intended for:

- First responders
- Social service providers
- Human Resource/employers
- Primary/direct care workers
- Impacted community members
- School/college leadership
- Caring individuals



Brookings Area
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NEPRC
NE PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER
Human Service Agency

For questions or to register, please email uw@brookingsunitedway.org

Open to the public, no cost Mental Health First Aid Training is available in Brookings! Registration is required to attend. Scan the QR code or click the image above to register. **Last chance to register is January 21st!**



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**BASIC NEEDS
TASK FORCE**

Latest Donation Impact Report

The [Basic Needs Task Force](#), led by the Brookings Area United Way, unites community partners to ensure individuals and families across Brookings County have access to essential food and personal care items.

Check out the recently released donation report showcasing how community donations from November 3, 2025 – January 3, 2026 helped meet critical needs during the government disruption of SNAP benefits and additional contributions to support holiday needs.



[Read Report Here](#)



[Learn More](#)

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 or joining this initiative please email uw@brookingsunitedway.org.



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

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