



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**



**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

Registration for this event is free.

Brookings Area  
UNITED WAY

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**



Brookings Area  
**UNITED WAY**

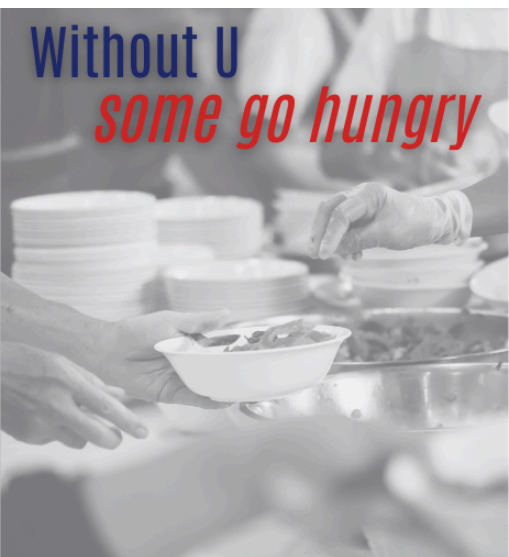


### CTC's One-Year Milestone!

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](mailto:tehra@brookingsunitedway.org)

Visit our Webpage



**BCNP**

BROOKINGS COUNCIL  
OF NONPROFITS



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

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

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

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

Free Mental Health First Aid Training Opportunity!

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



For questions or to register, please email [uw@brookingsunitedway.org](mailto: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!**



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](mailto:uw@brookingsunitedway.org).

Without U  
*they miss out*

1955 - 2025  
**70 YEARS OF IMPACT**

**Make An Impact!**

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!