

**UNITED WAY OF WESTERN NEBRASKA
2021-22 PARTNER AGENCIES**

11.13 MINISTRIES

11.13 Ministries is a non-profit corporation that provides several missions in our local area. By God's Grace Mobile Meals is one of those missions delivering over 6,700 free, hot meals to the local community since their beginning in April 2020. The goal of this mission is to prepare and delivery 10,400 free meals in 2021.

Other missions under the 11.13 umbrella are tailored to specific target populations, such as families in need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, the homeless/shelter insecure in and around the East Overland neighborhood, along with others that are referred to them. They have received referrals for assistance from private citizens, local churches, all local law enforcement entities, local media, and local support agencies. They respond, assess the need, and provide assistance as they are able. They distribute Blessing Bags (hats/gloves/socks/toiletries/water/food), blankets, winter coats/gloves/hats, and food boxes. They assist with rent expense and provide clothing funds to area families and individuals in need. They also conduct welfare checks and routinely assess the emotional/spiritual/physical well-being of the population they serve.

BANISTERS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The goals of this organization are to strengthen and empower youth through leadership development programs and opportunities. Banister's also works with families by providing parenting classes for financial literacy, goal setting, free parent-child engagement activities, and resource referrals to help with unmet needs.

One of their programs, Leadership in Action, occurs in school, during school hours. Students referred from the counselors participate in personal development with BLA staff. Night LIFE (Leadership in a Fun Environment) is an after-school program that takes place in the evening and on weekends. It includes leadership development, activities for youth empowerment, peer mentoring and career pathway is planning for our middle and high school students.

Other programs offered are Goal Setters, Middle School Preparedness, Leadership Circle Program, Juvenile Justice Family Navigator Program, and Family University. All these programs are targeted to the child, parent, etc. that is in need.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, LONGS PEAK COUNCIL

The Boy Scouts of America is an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and to develop personal fitness.

Working through community-based organizations, Scouting provides age specific programs: Tiger Cubs, a school-year program for the first-grade boys and their adult partners that stresses simplicity, shared leadership, learning about the community and family understanding. Cub Scouting, a family and home-centered program for boys in the second through fifth grade. Cub Scouting's emphasis is a quality program at the local level where the most boys and families are involved. Boy Scouting is a program for boys 11 through 18, designed to achieve the aims of Scouting through a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster. Venturing is designed for young men and women ages 13 through 20 to gain insights into a variety of programs that offer leadership training, fitness, outdoor service and career hands-on experience. Venturing promotes the conditions necessary for the growth and development of adolescent youth.

Funding from the United Way of Western Nebraska helps provide these programs to economically challenged families in our area.

BUCKBOARD THERAPEUTIC RIDING ACADEMY

Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy offers therapeutic equine-assisted activities and pleasure horseback riding to disabled children. The horseback riding helps people of all disabilities, including autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, down syndrome and emotional disturbance, in improving and developing balance, coordination, self-esteem, self-awareness, muscle tone and strength, and attention span. It combines instruction in tradition horsemanship skills with concepts of physical therapy to improve the strength, balance and self-esteem of physically and mentally disabled children.

The horse's walk provides sensory input through movement, which is variable, rhythmic and repetitive. The resultant movement responses in the patient are similar to human movement patterns of the pelvis while walking. The variability of the horse's gait enables the therapist to grade the degree of sensory input to the patient, and then use this movement in combination with other treatment strategies to achieve desired results. Patients respond enthusiastically to this enjoyable experience in a natural setting.

CAPstone

Capstone is one of seven Child Advocacy Centers in Nebraska and covers the eleven counties of Western Nebraska. We are nationally accredited with the National Children's Alliance. In 2006, the State Legislature added a statute that mandated the use of accredited Child Advocacy Centers for all cases of child sexual abuse; serious physical abuse and/or neglect; children who witness a violent crime, domestic violence, or are recovered from a kidnapping or meth lab. These child victims are brought to CAPstone, where they are interviewed by trained forensic interviewers, in a child friendly environment. Their interview is recorded, so they only have to tell their story one time. We have a full-time Child Advocate, who works with the family to make sure the child and non-offending family members are receiving any services they need. CAPstone is also required to work with the County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services in each county monthly to discuss ongoing cases.

CARPENTER CENTER

The Carpenter Center is a great facility providing recreational and educational programs for all ages throughout the Panhandle. Our facility includes nearly 8 acres of outdoor space including 2 softball/baseball fields, football fields, basketball courts, playground and 1.5 miles of walking paths that connect to the Monument Valley Pathways. Our 30,000 square foot building is home to a state-of-the-art tumbling complex, basketball/volleyball gym, education wing, commercial kitchen, locker rooms and renovated fitness room. Our mission is to offer our programs to those who lack the financial resources to participate in other opportunities.

We offer the following programs:

- Tumbling and Trampoline
- NinjaZone
- Beginner Gymnastics
- Junior Tackle Football
- Fitness Room
- Pickleball
- TaeKwon Do
- Youth Clinics (Tennis, Volleyball, Pickleball, Basketball)
- Birthday Parties
- Summer Camp at no cost
- Summer Food Program Location
- Facility Rentals (Gym, Meeting Room, Baseball/Softball Field, Kitchen)

In addition to our recreational and educational programs, we offer community meals daily at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. These delicious meals are open to the public at a very low cost. We also have a meal delivery program for those that are unable to leave their home or unable to cook for themselves.

CASA OF SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

CASA provides abused, neglected, and exploited children a voice in court. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA of Scotts Bluff County is a non-profit organization whose volunteers serve as non-legal parties to child abuse and neglect cases in our county court system. CASA volunteers are appointed by the Judge to advocate for a child's best interests and stay with each case until it closes, and the child is in a safe, permanent home. CASA serves children from birth through eighteen and is a constant in a child's life when caseworkers, foster parents, and schools could change periodically.

CASA volunteers advocate for children who have entered the Juvenile County Court System – not because of what they did, but because of what someone did to them. These cases are often classified as child abuse, child neglect, homeless/destitute, or abandonment cases. Case issues include, but are not limited to, physical child abuse, domestic violence, drug or substance use, neglect, inability to protect, sexual assault, human/sex trafficking, and more.

Advocates give children a voice in court by discussing the child's preference for placement and any needs they may have, and then prepare a written report for the court. CASA Reports give a better insight into a child's wants and needs and include the volunteer's opinion on the child's best interest regarding placement, opportunities, and any concerns.

CIRRUS HOUSE, INC. – YOUTH PROGRAM

The Cirrus House, Inc. Youth Transitional Support program (YTS) has served mentally ill and substance abusing youth from the seven central and southern counties of the Panhandle of Nebraska since 2009. They specialize in serving youth who have behavioral health and mental illness diagnoses. YTS promotes self-sufficiency and on-going support and skill development. It is a transitional youth program that moves youth toward independence in the community of their choice. All Youth Transition Support Services are done according to the Transition to Independence Process (TIP Model). This model prepares youth and young adults for movement into adult roles through an individualized process, engaging them in their own futures planning process, as well as providing developmentally appropriate and appealing supports and services. Young people are encouraged to explore their interests and futures as related to each of the transition domains: employment and career, education, living situation, personal effectiveness and well-being, and community-life functioning.

DOVES

The DOVES Program serves victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking throughout Scotts Bluff, Cheyenne, Morrill, Kimball, Banner, Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan & Sioux Counties.

The DOVES Program believes every person has the right to feel safe, live free from abuse, and expect healthy relationships, and our mission is to ensure our empowerment-based services are available and accessible to all victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual abuse, and stalking.

DOVES provides the following free and confidential services to victims and their family members who are impacted by abuse:

- 24-hour Assistance
- Immediate, Ongoing & Long-Term Support
- Emergency Safe Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Assistance with Protection Order Applications
- Court System Information & Support
- Immigration Assistance
- Attorney Referrals
- Transportation Assistance
- Medical Advocacy
- Emergency & Short-Term Financial Assistance
- Food Pantry
- Emergency Cell Phones
- Support Groups
- Connections to other Community Agencies
- Community Awareness and Education
- Prevention

FAMILY STABILIZATION (CAPWN)

The Family Stabilization Program within CAPWN focuses on helping families move one step ahead to achieve personal success. We do this by empowering clients toward positive change and support them in building productive relationships that lead to economic and personal independence. Families and clients have access to food security, emergency financial assistance, community connections, and case management. All Family Stabilization Specialists (case managers) are trained in various curriculums like the Transitions to Independence Model, Your Money; Your Goals financial literacy curriculum, Motivational Interviewing, and more. We have staff dedicated to seeing clients each day. Every morning when we open, we schedule clients on a first come, first served basis and can see up to 25 clients per day. When clients come in, they make an appointment for that day and see one of the case managers for up to an hour-long appointment. During that time, staff does initial paperwork to gather information on what needs the person/family has. The staff coordinates any resources that are available and helps connect referrals to other resources.

FIREFIGHTER MINISTRY

The Firefighter Ministry provides assistance to anyone suffering a loss from a fire or natural disaster. Assistance could be in the form of motel stays, meal vouchers, clothing, clothing vouchers, assistance with filing insurance claims or rental assistance. They also provide food and drink for the first responders while on the scene of a large fire event.

This service works with all fire departments, police departments, ambulance, and the Communications Center. They have a great working relationship with Potter's Wheel, the Hope Center, Region 21 and 22 emergency management, Cirrus House, DOVES, and the community. Working together with these agencies, they can assist individuals/families with whatever services they may need.

FRIENDS OF THE SIDNEY LIBRARY

Friends of the Sidney Public Library is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of and appreciation for the library in Sidney. They encourage community awareness by serving as advocates of library services and representing the library via library programs, open houses, special events, and public service projects.

This organization is partnering with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program to deliver free books to children ages 0-5 in Cheyenne County. Imagination Library is another non-profit organization that works with organizations in local communities to encourage early education and literacy by delivering the free books to enrolled children. Once a child is enrolled in the program, books arrive monthly in the mail to each child until they reach age 5. For households with more than one child, the program mails each child their own age-appropriate book each month.

GUADALUPE CENTER

The Guadalupe Center is located at the Junction of 9th Street and 12th Avenue and has been serving the people of Scottsbluff for 40 years. Its mission is to provide a facility for the recreational, cultural, social, educational and health needs of the people primarily living in Southeast Scottsbluff. To include the many youth programs, folkloric dance classes, English as a Second Language, and WNCC Outreach. The AIM Institute Educational Opportunities are available. Numerous Fiestas are held each year. The gym and the kitchen may be rented for a variety of occasions such as wedding receptions, family reunions, dances, etc.

PLAINS WEST CASA

Cheyenne County CASA is a non-profit organization that recruits, screens and trains volunteers to be advocates for children who have been abused or neglected in Cheyenne, Kimball and Deuel counties. Our advocates receive 30 hours of preservice training that prepares them for the difficult situations they will face. After training, the advocates are appointed by a judge to be a court appointed special advocate for a child or sibling group. The advocate then has access to the child and all aspects of the child's life, including individuals who a significant relationship in the child's life. The advocate builds relationships with the child and all the central individuals in the case. Through this relationship building, the advocate gets to know the child and their life well enough to identify the child's needs and make recommendations to the judge regarding the child's health, safety, well-being and permanency. The CASA programs are found to have significant impacts on a child's resilience, including the child's performance in school, the number of services while the child is in foster care and finally the permanency and recidivism of each case.

SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY VOLUNTEER CENTER

The Scotts Bluff County Volunteer Center is at work in the community helping to make sure that special needs are met by providing a noon meal to persons that are home bound and in need of this service through Meals-on-Wheels, grocery shopping and delivery for seniors at COOP's Main Street Market through the Shopping for Seniors Program and delivery of commodities to home bound seniors with the Home Delivered Commodities Program. The Volunteer Center also recruits and refers volunteers for various programs, agencies and projects. The Volunteer Center works today to improve tomorrow.

SCOTTSBLUFF/GERING SOUP KITCHEN

The purpose of the Scottsbluff/Gering Soup Kitchen is to meet the needs of families and individuals struggling with food insecurity by being able to provide a nutritious meal at no cost to them, as well as a place for fellowship and encouragement.

This program serves at set locations 3 times per week, with meals being served on location consistently. These 3 locations are Lakota Lutheran Center, Gering Zion Church, and Scottsbluff Church of Christ. In addition to providing a nutritious meal, it is also a place of fellowship. It provides a chance for someone to listen to their experiences and struggles and possibly connect them to available resources. They are also a participating partner with Thanksgiving in the Valley.

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN (CAMP SCOTT)

The Summer Program for Handicapped Children, also known as Camp Scott, provides a social and recreational program for developmentally disabled children and adolescents, ages 7-21. The program is the only one of its kind in the Panhandle and enables approximately 40-42 youngsters to have a fun and stimulating summer experience. The Camp consists of one 5-week session running Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. beginning the second week of June and running through the second week in July. Camp is held at the Valley View Activity Center, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church on 31st in Scottsbluff. Activities include arts/crafts, life skills, music, water activities, therapeutic horseback riding, large/small motor activities, field trips, volunteer guest presentations, a family picnic, and a 4-H picnic and horse show. Transportation and lunch are provided. The cost of the 5-week session is \$130 plus a \$30 activity fee. This application fee MUST be submitted with the camper application. If the \$160 is paid all at once, on time, the cost to a family is \$150 total. Scholarships are available, upon proof of income. A Board of Directors oversees the Camp and hires a highly qualified staff recruited from our local communities. Camp Scott has benefited from being a United Way agency for many years.

TEAMMATES OF SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

TeamMates is a school-based mentoring program for 3rd through 12th grade students in Scotts Bluff County. Presently we have mentors and mentees in Scottsbluff Public Schools, Gering Public Schools and Mitchell Public Schools. A student meets weekly with a volunteer adult mentor. Mentors are volunteers from the community who are dedicated to making difference in student's lives. In addition to the weekly mentoring meetings, we provide group activities for mentors and students. Activities that have occurred in the past include taking a tour of WNCC, attending sporting events at WNCC and Chadron State, sponsoring holiday party and scavenger hunt at Legacy of the Plains Museum, attending the Fellowship of Christian Athletes banquet, as well as other celebrations throughout the year. Our TeamMates chapter utilizes the Gallup Strengths Finder assessment which allows our mentors and students to focus on their strengths in their weekly meetings. Our chapter offers post-secondary scholarship opportunities for our graduates. We feel this confirms to our students that we believe in their futures. Making and supporting mentor/mentee matches involves screening, training, monitoring and support. Statistics gathered for TeamMates show that a student with a mentor is less likely to be absent from school and less likely to be a disruption at school. The biggest indicator that sets TeamMates apart from other mentoring programs is the "sense of hope" that mentees state they have after meeting with their mentor. This adds up to an increased likelihood of graduating from high school, which can have a rippling, positive effect on the community. TeamMates mentor/mentee matches provide a strong connection between community leaders and the school system, which benefits both.