



2025 Annual Report

Unify | Strengthen | Elevate

About UNA



Utah Nonprofits Association (UNA) believes in the power of people working together to create stronger, more connected communities. Across Utah, nonprofits are shaping a better future every day—opening doors to opportunity, nurturing health and well-being, fostering belonging, and helping communities become more vibrant and resilient. Nonprofit work sparks positive change that impacts every Utahn. UNA provides these vital organizations with the advocacy, tools, resources, and relationships they need to lead meaningful change.

UNA brings 35 years of experience as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and a deep understanding of the nonprofit sector's impact and potential. Guided by an engaged and forward-thinking board of directors and a clear vision for the future, UNA is committed to unifying and elevating Utah's nonprofit community. Together with its members, UNA helps build a more equitable, compassionate, and thriving Utah where every community has the opportunity to flourish.



OUR MISSION: To unify, strengthen, and elevate Utah's nonprofits.



OUR VISION: To promote strong and vibrant communities for all of Utah.



2025 Spotlight

Collaboration and Community

in 2025 organizations across Utah demonstrated what becomes possible when ideas are shared, challenges are tackled collectively, and connection is prioritized. Whether members showed up to a networking event, joined a peer learning circle, or added their voices to advocacy efforts, the nonprofit community helped build a stronger, more connected Utah.

This year also marked meaningful growth for UNA, ending the year with a record 708 total memberships. With every new member, UNA's momentum grew, welcoming fresh voices, diverse perspectives, and innovative solutions to the shared work of helping Utah communities thrive.

While Utah's nonprofit is growing, it doesn't stand alone. As part of a powerful national network of nonprofit associations, UNA members benefit from shared research, coordinated advocacy, and a unified voice that elevates the sector's priorities on a broader stage. This connection to national partners strengthens our ability to respond to emerging challenges, champion policies that matter, and ensure Utah's nonprofits are part of a larger movement shaping the future of the sector across the country.

At every turn, organizations and individuals found space to exchange knowledge, spark partnerships, and move important work forward. These weren't just moments of connection; they were starting points for real momentum. New collaborations took shape, voices grew louder, and collective impact reached further into communities across the state.

With more opportunities to connect, learn, and lead alongside peers, UNA members are expanding what's possible by working together. As our statewide and national networks grow stronger, so does our shared capacity to shape a future where Utah's nonprofit sector is more connected, resilient, and influential than ever.





From Our CEO

In my nine years at UNA, I have watched nonprofit leaders run a race to make their communities stronger and their world more just only to find the course constantly changing, with steeper climbs, unexpected turns, and fewer places to stop and catch their breath. And still, they keep going. They keep going because the work matters. Because people are counting on them. Because stepping out of the race is not an option when communities are hurting and needs are urgent. The quiet, disciplined decision to continue is a defining strength of this sector. I've had conversations at all hours of the day with nonprofit leaders navigating circumstances and setbacks that would have laid just about anyone else flat. And yet, they picked themselves up and kept going.

UNA exists to ensure that this determination is met with practical, reliable support. We deliver that support through hands-on programming that strengthens nonprofits where it matters most. UNA provides training and tools that help leaders govern effectively, manage finances responsibly, raise funds ethically, engage in advocacy with confidence, and lead with clarity and integrity. We convene nonprofit professionals to learn from one another, share solutions, and build trusted relationships that reduce isolation and strengthen collective impact. We advocate for policies that safeguard the independence and effectiveness of nonprofits, and we offer benefits, including group health insurance and retirement plans that help organizations recruit and retain the talented staff members. Together, these efforts are designed to do one thing well: help nonprofits endure and adapt in a changing environment, so they can continue serving their communities with strength and credibility.

This same commitment guides our future work. In 2026, UNA will launch **UTAHGIVES**, a statewide initiative designed to strengthen nonprofit capacity while helping organizations reach new donors, strengthen stewardship, and build fundraising practices they can rely on for the long term. **UTAHGIVES** reflects what we have learned alongside nonprofits over many years: sustainable impact requires shared infrastructure, trusted guidance, and a community working together.

What gives me confidence is not blind optimism. It is what I see every day. When nonprofits have access to the right tools, thoughtful training, strong benefits, and trusted partners, they do more than endure. They lead. They innovate. They strengthen the communities that rely on them.

UNA is proud to support their work and steward the trust placed in us today, and for the long road ahead. When nonprofits are strong, communities are stronger. And that is work worth believing in.

With gratitude,

Jill Bennett,
Chief Executive Officer

From Our Board Chair

When I was a young corporate lawyer in New York, I wanted to find a way to give back. I came across an opportunity to help a local nonprofit update its bylaws to be compliant with changes in state law. I saw the enormous relief that came to my new pro bono client in knowing that the organization now complied with the new law. I wanted to help others do the same, and over the last decade and a half now I have focused my pro bono practice exclusively on nonprofits. While my billable legal practice provides my living, my pro bono practice fills my soul—my pro bono work allows my nonprofit clients to focus more effectively on their missions, knowing that their legal houses are in order.

I was introduced to UNA when my legal practice brought me to Utah and I wanted to make the same impact in the nonprofit community here as I had in New York. After working on a few pro bono projects with UNA, I joined the board, and last year I became chair. While I love serving individual nonprofits in my pro bono legal practice, my role on the UNA board of directors expands my ability to serve the nonprofit community from one at a time to the almost 600 members of UNA.

And I have seen the value that UNA provides on the faces and in the stories of the many members I have met. Their work is our work—we make Utah’s nonprofits more effective, and more effective nonprofits make for healthier, stronger communities. And healthier, stronger communities make for a better Utah for all of us. Being even a small part of UNA’s mission to empower Utah’s nonprofits has been one of the highlights of my professional career.

With gratitude for the support of our staff, board, and many, many donors and partners, we look forward to building and growing Utah’s nonprofits even more in 2026!



Jason Krause
2025 UNA Board Chair



Jason Krause, 2025 UNA Board Chair (left)
Jill Bennett, UNA CEO (right)

2025 Snapshot

Progress and Accomplishments

2025 marked a year of continued growth and expanded service for UNA and the nonprofit sector. We strengthened member benefits through a broad range of trainings, resources, and convenings, with strong participation across professional development offerings, networking events, and signature programs. The UNA Annual Conference and Utah Philanthropy Day remained cornerstone gatherings, reflecting sustained demand for learning, connection, and celebration.

To support the evolving needs of nonprofits, UNA expanded staff capacity, member benefits, and program offerings, providing more responsive member services and a strengthened advocacy presence. Through education, partnership, and policy engagement, UNA amplified nonprofit voices and provided timely guidance, reinforcing our role as a trusted hub for connection, learning, and advocacy statewide.



75

Events and Trainings



520

Conference Attendees



2,673

Registrations



930

UNA Job Board Posts



11%

GROWTH IN NONPROFIT
MEMBERSHIP

Membership Insights

as of December 31, 2025

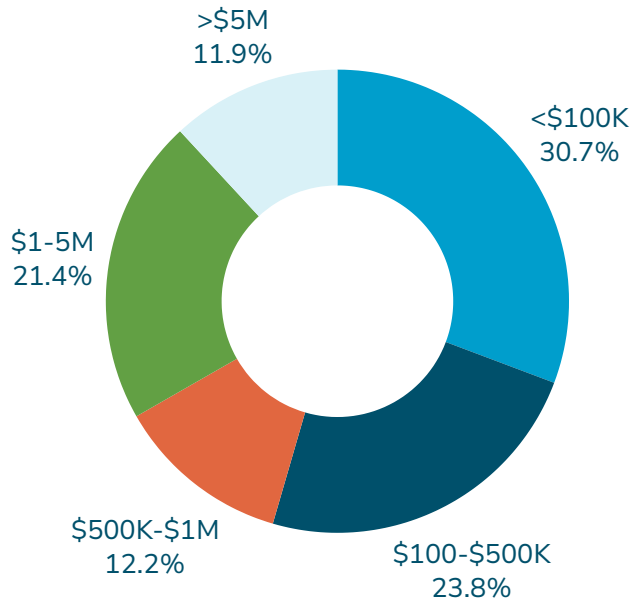
↑ 708

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS

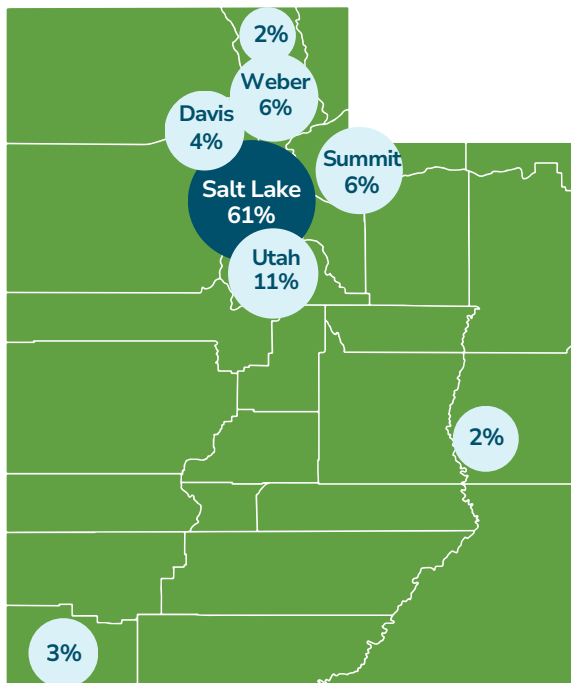
589 Nonprofit Organizations

84 Businesses

35 Individuals



Members by Budget Size



UNA's membership reflects a strong and expanding network of nonprofits statewide, with most organizations located along the Wasatch Front and 61% based in Salt Lake County alone. Our membership grew by 11% in 2025, underscoring both the sector's vitality and the trust nonprofits place in UNA as a partner in their work.

Most UNA nonprofit members operate with annual budgets under \$500,000 and represent key cause areas that shape quality of life in Utah, including Human Services, the Arts, Education, Healthcare, and Environmental Protection and Stewardship. Together, this diverse and dedicated community forms a powerful network that strengthens Utah's communities.

Training and Programs

Connection and Impact

UNA's trainings, programs, and convenings supported nonprofit staff, managers, and executive leaders by strengthening skills, building organizational capacity, and fostering meaningful peer connections.

In its 11th year, UNA's flagship Nonprofit Credential program continued to serve as a strong foundation for professional development. Through multi-session courses, participants deepened technical expertise, strengthened organizational systems, and built confidence in their leadership.

Curated, purpose-driven trainings and workshops offered timely, practical insights on the topics nonprofits need most. From fundraising and grant writing to finance and human resources, participants gained knowledge and tools they could apply immediately in their work.

UNA also prioritized connection and belonging. Community circles and regional events brought nonprofit professionals together across the state to share experiences, build relationships, and access learning regardless of geography. This sense of connection was further reinforced through signature moments of storytelling and recognition, including the Nonprofit Film Festival and Utah Philanthropy Day, which together celebrated nonprofit impact, generosity, and shared purpose.

When nonprofit professionals are supported, equipped, and connected, organizations and communities across Utah are stronger. UNA's trainings and programs help extend that impact statewide.





Nonprofit Credential

The Nonprofit Credential is one of many ways UNA demonstrates its commitment to empowering nonprofits with the tools they need for success. Through a blend of expert-led training, comprehensive resources, and tailored consultations, participating organizations gain proficiency across nine critical areas.

This program serves as a cornerstone, addressing the evergreen need of nonprofit professional development and supporting practitioners as they address challenges, implement best practices, and invest in long-term sustainability.

With an emphasis on integration and adaptability, the curriculum prioritizes inclusive values and equity-centered practices, while respecting each nonprofit's unique culture and capacity. As the only program of its kind in the state, the Credential serves hundreds of professionals each year.

2025 UNA Credential Award

Color Country Animal Welfare was awarded the UNA Credential Award for earning Badges in all nine Credential courses.

Color Country Animal Welfare, receiving the Credential Award at the 2025 UNA Annual Conference
Julie Chang, UNA (left); Milada Copeland, Color Country Animal Welfare (right).

- 224 Participants
- 166 Organizations
- 98% Increased Subject Matter Knowledge
- 37 Credential Badges Awarded
- 1 UNA Credential Award





Nonprofit Film Festival

The Utah Nonprofit Film Festival, held on November 10, was an inspiring celebration of community, service, and possibility. At its heart was a simple belief: Hope is not passive—it's a call to action. Through a powerful film interweaving the stories of 12 local nonprofits, the Festival illuminated both the challenges facing Utah's communities and the essential work happening, often quietly, across the state to address them.

The Utah Nonprofit Film Festival elevated nonprofits and their supporters by cultivating a shared sense of purpose and possibility. Attendees walked away not only moved, but empowered to act and reminded that investing in the nonprofit sector is one of the most meaningful ways to shape a better, more compassionate future.

Featured Organizations

- Bears Ears Partnership
- Canyonlands Field Institute
- Citizens Against Physical & Sexual Abuse (CAPSA)
- Columbus Community Center
- Flourish Therapy, Inc.
- Friends of the Children - Utah
- Habitat for Humanity Greater Salt Lake Area
- HEAL Utah
- Project Connection Utah
- The Children's Center Utah
- Wasatch Adaptive Sports
- Youth Futures





Utah Philanthropy Day

Utah Philanthropy Day is a cherished annual tradition that honors the compassion and generosity at the heart of our community. Hosted by Utah Nonprofits Association (UNA), UServeUtah, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Utah Chapter—it's a day dedicated to celebrating the volunteers, philanthropists, and organizations whose everyday acts of kindness create extraordinary impact across Utah.

On December 5, 2025, more than 800 attendees came together to recognize those who lift and strengthen our communities through service and giving. The celebration shined a spotlight on eight distinguished award honorees, each representing exceptional leadership, generosity, and commitment to service across Utah's nonprofit and philanthropic landscape.

The event also honored 138 Heart & Hands Award recipients, whose quiet dedication touches lives in meaningful ways, and 15 Corporate Community Champion Award honorees, recognized for their deep commitment to community responsibility and lasting impact. Together, these individuals and organizations reflect the spirit of hope, service, and generosity that defines Utah.

2026 Utah Philanthropy Day Honorees

Darija Cerninski, Governor's Career Humanitarian Leadership Award

Preston Cochran, Lt. Governor's Public Service Award

Sandra Clayson and Kathy Newton, Outstanding Volunteer Award

Dan Jiang, Outstanding Young Volunteer Award

C.R. England, Corporate Spirit of Giving Award

The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, Foundation Spirit of Giving Award

Pierre Lassonde, Philanthropic Leadership Award

Khosrow B. Semnani, Labor and Honor Award





2025 UNA Annual Conference

Hope in Action

The 2025 UNA Annual Conference: Hope in Action, held September 18 at the Davis Conference Center, brought together more than 500 nonprofit professionals, partners, and community leaders, making it one of UNA's largest conferences to date. Attendees arrived ready to learn, connect, and share solutions, contributing to a vibrant and collaborative atmosphere throughout the day.

This year's program featured a keynote address from Dr. Chan Hellman, a nationally recognized expert on hope theory, who shared evidence-based insights on building hopeful and resilient teams and explored hope as a powerful framework for leadership, culture, and impact.

The day also included 21 breakout sessions led by sector experts, offering practical tools and fresh insights on leadership, fundraising, operations, and community impact. UNA also celebrated outstanding contributors to Utah's nonprofit sector during the annual Nonprofit Leader Awards.

The conference continued its strong momentum with a sold-out Business Expo Hall, providing a bustling hub for networking and partnership building with mission-aligned businesses. With strong attendance, robust programming, and an engaged community, the 2025 UNA Annual Conference marked another successful year of learning and connection for Utah's nonprofit sector.



UNA's 2025 conference reached its highest in-person attendance to date.



Nonprofit Leader Awards



2025 Outstanding Nonprofit Leaders

To honor nonprofit leaders who go above and beyond for their organizations and communities, UNA celebrates Outstanding Nonprofit Leaders every year. These individuals not only persevere in the face of obstacles, but also engage and inspire the people around them. Their passion is contagious, and their results are impressive.



*Michelle Flynn (left) and
Emily Bell McCormick (right)*

Michelle Flynn

Executive Director
The Road Home

[Watch Michelle's Video](#)

Emily Bell McCormick

Executive Director
The Policy Project

[Watch Emily's Video](#)



2025 UNA Hall of Fame

The [UNA Hall of Fame](#) recognizes the unsung heroes of the nonprofit sector—the hard working staff whose exceptional work ethic, positive attitude, and unwavering dedication embody the values of their organizations. In 2025, UNA honored 14 individuals with a pin and certificate.



Advocacy and Public Policy



UNA's public policy work is grounded in a clear purpose: protecting the rights and benefits that enable nonprofits to serve their communities effectively. In 2025, shifting federal and state policies increased uncertainty across the sector, putting community services at risk and making strong advocacy essential. In response, UNA provided timely guidance, coordinated sector response, and engaged state and federal elected officials to underscore the critical role nonprofits play in Utah communities.

When federal actions created uncertainty, UNA stepped forward as a reliable leader, offering clarity and stability when nonprofits needed it most. A federal funding freeze in January and a government shutdown in October raised immediate concerns about funding continuity and operations. During these and other moments throughout the year, UNA convened nonprofit leaders and delivered timely information, clear policy context, and practical guidance, helping organizations navigate disruption and remain mission-focused.

At the federal level, UNA advanced policies that strengthen charitable giving and long-term sector stability, including full support of the bipartisan Charitable Act (S.317/H.R.801). UNA also opposed proposals that would reduce charitable donations or introduce new taxes, penalties, or policies that could undermine nonprofit operations and essential community services.

At the state level, UNA elevated the essential role nonprofits play in Utah's economy and quality of life. A formal letter to Governor Spencer Cox highlighted the sector's contributions to employment, service delivery, and community well-being. Throughout the year, UNA also strengthened advocacy capacity by equipping nonprofit leaders to engage and amplifying a coordinated, informed sector voice.

UNA remains committed to standing alongside nonprofits as a consistent advocate and trusted partner. By continuing to provide timely guidance, amplify nonprofit voices, and engage decision-makers, UNA helps ensure nonprofits can continue serving Utah communities effectively.



UNA Board Member, Evan Done and UNA CEO, Jill Bennett advocating for nonprofits in Washington D.C.

12,000+
NONPROFIT VOICES
AMPLIFIED

Looking Ahead

UNA envisions a future where nonprofits are connected, resilient, and positioned to lead lasting change in every community. Guided by this vision, in 2026, UNA will deepen its investment in the people and organizations that strengthen Utah every day. Look for UNA to expand opportunities to learn, connect, and lead, while creating meaningful ways for the broader community to stand with nonprofits and support their impact.

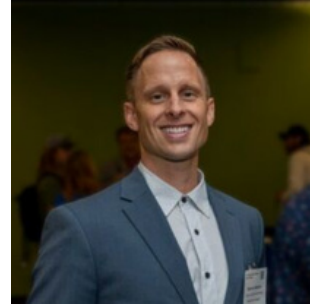
A powerful example of this vision in action is **UTAHGIVES**, a 24-hour statewide celebration of generosity that connects nonprofits with thousands of donors ready to support the causes they care about. **UTAHGIVES** will equip nonprofits with enhanced tools, resources, and guidance to build fundraising strategies that deliver impact well beyond a single day, strengthening long-term sustainability and community impact.

The progress made in 2025 laid a strong foundation for what comes next. UNA expanded training programs, strengthened member benefits, and grew its team, increasing capacity to support nonprofits across the state. These investments position UNA to meet the sector's evolving needs with greater reach and effectiveness.

Looking ahead, UNA will continue to create opportunities that strengthen nonprofit impact and deepen community connection. With each new initiative and partnership, UNA reaffirms its commitment to supporting nonprofits and the communities they serve. When nonprofits have the tools, relationships, and support they need, Utah's future grows stronger and more hopeful for everyone.



Team and Board



From top left to right: Colleen, Emily, Warren, Julie, Saru, Alison, Jill

UNA Team

Jill Bennett | Chief Executive Officer

Alison Anderson | Chief Operating Officer

Saru Ramanan | Chief Growth Officer

Julie Chang | Chief Programming Officer

Warren Miterko | Membership Manager

Emily Nikolaisen | Marketing and Communications Manager

Colleen Swagerty-Maher | Project Coordinator

2025 UNA Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Jason Krause, Chair

Charese Jamison, Past Chair

Valerie DeRose, Treasurer

Susan Isbell, Secretary

Directors

Jill Anderson

James Brown

Paul Burnett

Robert Castellano

Mayra Cedano

Ruby Chou

Kristy Columbia

Evan Done

Natalie El-Deiry

S. Thurston Evans

Peggy Green

Chauma Kee-Jansen

Eric Marx

Jack McKissen

Amanda Millerberg

Liz Owens

Kyle Robbins

Hyrum Schwab

Jennifer Seltzer-Stitt

Patrick Risk

Sariah Toronto

William Webster

2024 Financials

UNA adheres to industry accounting standards and is committed to financial accountability and transparency. The Board of Directors provides robust financial oversight and an independent accounting firm completes an annual Financial Review. UNA maintains a strong financial position and diverse revenue stream which ensures its capacity to support and nurture nonprofits in Utah for years to come. UNA's Financial Review and most recent Form 990 are available on our website.

INCOME

Contributions	\$567,711
Program Revenue	\$369,692
Investment Income	\$17,442
Other Income	\$2,531
Total Income	\$957,376

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$449,229
Fundraising	\$48,069
Grants Paid	\$50,786
Other Expenses	\$142,900
Total Expenses	\$642,915

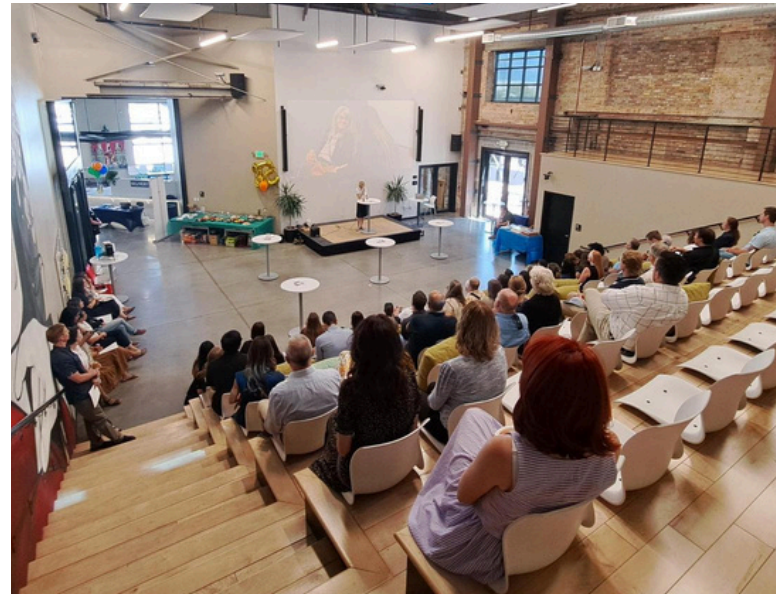
NET REVENUE

Total Income	\$957,376
Total Expenses	\$642,915
Net Revenue	\$314,461

NET ASSETS

Assets	\$1,178,517
Liabilities	\$186,190
Net Assets	\$992,327

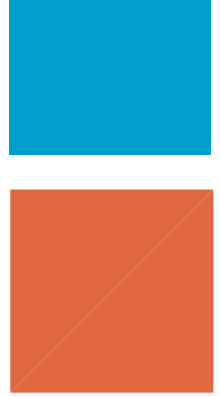
Source: Utah Nonprofits Association
2024 IRS Form 990.



UNA Board Members at the 2025 UNA Annual Conference



2025 Supporters



When nonprofits thrive, communities flourish. UNA's work is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors, funders, and donors. Every contribution helps create a better Utah where essential services are accessible, where people and organizations come together to solve challenges, and where a spirit of service and resilience defines who we are. Learn more about ways to [support UNA](#).

Together, we're not just supporting nonprofits. We're building a stronger, better, and brighter Utah.

UNA Funders and Sponsors

American Insurance &
Investment Corp
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CCBank
CHG Healthcare
Comcast
Comtel.Cloud
Elevate 401(k)
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Issimo
Kroger
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Foundation
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Morgan Stanley Bank, N.A.
National Council of Nonprofits
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of Utah
Roots Partners
TriNet
Scheels
Simple Systems
Union Pacific Foundation
UServeUtah, Utah Commission on
Service & Volunteerism

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Jill Bennett
Paul Burnett
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Sariah Toronto

Utah Philanthropy Day Sponsors

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Family Foundation
Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute,
David Eccles School of Business
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Swire Coca-Cola
Third Sun Productions
The University of Utah
The University of Utah, J.W.
Marriott Jr. Institute
The University of Utah, David
Eccles School of Business
XMission





 **P.O. Box 65782**
Salt Lake City, UT 84165

 **(801) 596-1800**
 **info@UtahNonprofits.org**

 **www.UtahNonprofits.org**
@UtahNonprofits

