

**Working Together:**  
 Impacting Greater Franklin County Through Valuable Partnerships



Partnership for Civic  
 Advancement

# 2015 Annual Report



# LIVE UNITED®



**United Way  
 of the Tri-Valley Area**

PO Box 126, Farmington, ME 04938  
[www.uwtva.org](http://www.uwtva.org) (207) 778-5048 Facebook.com/UWTVA

## 2015 Board of Directors

**Melissa Caminiti, President**  
Beacon Hospice

**Ken Lust, Treasurer**  
Community Member, Starks  
Retired Banker

**Peter Smith, Secretary**  
Peter Smith Associates

**Brenda Clark**  
Verso Corporation

**Seth Landry\***  
United Insurance Group

**Mary Frank**  
Community Member, Farmington  
Retired County Treasurer

**RaeAnn Hargreaves**  
Franklin Savings Bank

**Katherine A. Kemp**  
University of Maine at Farmington

**Aaron Knapp**  
Western Mountain Financial Services

**Lillian Lake\***  
Community Visionary

**Larissa Larrabee\***  
Verso Corporation

**Ashley Montgomery**  
University of Maine at Farmington

**Lorraine Pratt**  
University of Maine at Farmington

**Jodi Spiller\***  
Verso Corporation

**Rev. Dee E. Webber, STM**  
Pastoral Counselor

**Darryl Wood\***  
Leap, Inc.

\*Served in 2015 but did not complete a term.



*Dedicated United Way board members participate in an all day Saturday retreat.*



*A little one LIVES UNITED and chooses a healthy snack; Lorraine Pratt, Chair of the 2015 Great Charity Auction thanks Dan and Jan Maxham of Sugarwood Gallery for their donation of a W. A. Mitchell Chair; Craig Zurhorst welcomes visitors to Western Maine Transportation Services; and the Verso/Community Resource Fair draws a large crowd in the fall of 2015.*





# United Way of the Tri-Valley Area 2016 Community Partners **LIVE UNITED**

## Improving lives in Greater Franklin County

The United Way provides funding for programs that serve more than 12,000 people in Franklin County, Livemore and Livemore Falls. Funding for these programs is generated by donations to the Community Fund. These charitable dollars are awarded to non-profit human service agencies by an Allocations Committee made up of community volunteers, board members and staff. Programs and community needs are reviewed on an annual basis.

### INCREASING INDEPENDENCE AND FINANCIAL STABILITY . RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AND MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN . IMPROVING HEALTH

#### Clearwater Ministries

1108 West Mills Rd., Industry, ME 04938 (physical); 71 Pratt Mtn. Rd., New Vineyard, ME 04956 (mailing).  
Contact: Bob Healy, (207) 652-2377.  
healy379@gmail.com  
Emergency food assistance provided through the Clearwater Food Pantry.

#### Community Concepts

240 Bates St., Lewiston, ME 04240;  
Contact: Christine Hufnagel, (207) 333-6440.  
chufnagel@community-concepts.org.  
www.community-concepts.org.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program.

#### Community Dental

366 US Rte. One, Falmouth, ME 04105 (mailing); 131 Franklin Health Commons #1, Farmington, ME 04938 (physical);  
Contact: Karen Rickley,  
karen.rickley@communitydentalme.org.  
(207) 779-2659.  
www.communitydentalme.org.  
Patient assistance program to provide emergency and preventive dental care to children and adults who otherwise could not afford it.

#### Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (FAEM) - Care and Share Food Closet

PO Box 38, West Farmington, ME 04992 (mailing); 508 Fairbanks Rd., Farmington, ME 04938 (physical).  
Contact: Leiza Hiltz-Scerbo, (207) 778-2331.  
careandsharefoodcloset@gmail.com.  
www.faemchurches.org.  
Emergency food assistance to residents of Farmington and eight surrounding towns.

#### Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry (FAEM) - ECU HEAT Share Program

PO Box 147, Farmington, ME 04938.  
Contact: Rev. Susan Crane, (207) 778-2163.  
faemofficer@gmail.com.  
www.faemchurches.org.  
Heating assistance up to 50 gallons with a \$50 share paid by applicant, for any Franklin County resident unable to afford fuel, after all resources have been exhausted.

#### Franklin County Children's Task Force

113 Church St., Farmington, ME 04938.  
Contact: Renee Whitley, (207) 778-6960.  
rwhitley@fccf.org. www.fccf.org.  
School and community-based education programs to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote healthy relationships.

#### Healthy Community Coalition

105 Mt. Blue Circle, Ste. 1, Farmington, ME 04938.  
Contact: Jennifer McCormack, (207) 779-2926. jmcormack@fchn.org.  
www.fchn.org/hcc.  
Mobile Health Unit outreach program which provides free health screenings, information and education.

#### LEAP, Inc.

313 Farmington Falls Rd., Farmington, ME 04938.  
Contact: Tony Bolens, (207) 778-6070.  
tbolens@leapcommunity.org.  
www.leapcommunity.org  
The DREAM program. Family respite and community integration for adults with developmental and cognitive disabilities.

#### Literacy Volunteers serving Franklin & Somerset Counties

129 Seamon Rd. Suite A, Farmington, ME 04938.  
Contact: Barbara Averill, (207) 500-3131.  
literacyvolunteers@gmail.com.  
www.westernmaineliteracy.org.  
One-on-one tutoring in literacy or math on a confidential basis. English as a Second Language tutoring also offered.

#### Rural Community Action Ministry

81 Church Hill Rd., Leeds, ME 04263.  
Contact: Mary Beth Paquette, (207) 524-5095.  
marybeth@rcam.net. www.rcam.net.  
Housing and homelessness programs including housing rehabilitation, shelter, and financial and technical assistance.

#### Safe Voices

PO Box 713, Auburn, ME 04212 (mailing).  
Contact: Elise Johansen, (207) 795-6744.  
www.safevoices.org. Helpline 1-800-559-2927 or (207) 778-6107 (Franklin County).  
Franklin County outreach, emergency services, and community education for survivors of domestic violence, including court advocacy, support groups, children's and youth services, and emergency shelter.

#### SeniorsPlus

8 Falcon Rd., Lewiston, ME 04240.  
Contact: Connie Jones, (207) 795-4010.  
cjones@seniorsplus.org. www.seniorsplus.org.  
Provides nutrition and safety checks to home-bound older adults through the Meals on Wheels program.

#### Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services

PO Box 6, Auburn, ME 04212 (mailing); 227 Main St., Farmington, ME 04938 (physical).  
Contact: Kayce Hunton, (207) 778-9522.  
kayce.hunton@sapars.org. www.sapars.org.  
School-based sexual assault crisis intervention, prevention, and support services.

#### Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services Children's Advocacy Center

See address above  
Contact: Marty McIntyre, (207) 778-9522 or (207) 784-0436. marty.mcintyre@sapars.org  
Forensic interviewing of sexually abused children and cognitively-impaired adults.

#### Tri-County Mental Health Services, Inc.

PO Box 2008, Lewiston, ME 04240 (mailing); 144 High St., Farmington, ME 04938. (physical).  
Contact: Marci Bernard, (207) 783-4679.  
(207) 778-3556 (Franklin County office).  
mbernard@tcmhhs.org. www.tcmhhs.org.  
Access to mental health services for low-income individuals and families.

#### United Methodist Economic Ministry

1458 Salem Rd., Salem Township, ME 04983.  
Contact: Rev. Michele St. Cyr, (207) 678-2611. umem@tdstme.net.  
www.gbgm-umc.org/umem.  
Fostering independence and providing assistance with basic needs, including housing repairs, food, clothing, and fuel in northern Franklin County.

#### Western Maine Community Action

PO Box 200, E. Wilton, ME 04234 (mailing); 20A Church St., East Wilton, ME 04234 (physical). Contact: Steve Johndro, (207) 645-3764. sjohndro@wmca.org. www.wmca.org.  
Promoting self-sufficiency and independence of residents of Franklin County through diverse programming including nutrition services, and housing and energy programs.

#### Western Maine Homeless Outreach

547 Wilton Rd., Farmington, ME 04938 (physical); PO Box 830, Farmington, ME 04938 (mailing).  
Contact: Trisha Plourde, (207) 779-7609.  
wmhomelessoutreach@gmail.com.  
Emergency shelter and case management.

#### Western Maine Transportation Services, Inc.

76 Merrow Rd., Auburn, ME 04210.  
Contact: Craig Zurhorst, (207) 333-6972 x 6. czurhorst@westernmainetrans.org.  
www.wmtrans.org.  
Community Rides Program which allows WMTS to provide public transportation in Greater Franklin County to those who otherwise would not be able to access medical and other critical services.

#### Work First, Inc.

PO Box 86, Farmington, ME 04938.  
Contact: Linda LaRue-Keniston, (207) 778-3200 x 22. lindal@workfirstinc.org.  
www.workfirstinc.org.  
Meaningful work experiences for adults with developmental disabilities. This increases independence and improves quality of life.

#### 2015-16 Venture Grant Recipients

Venture grants provide funding to support new and innovative programs.

- Leading Edges: Building Resiliency in the Community (Community Forum)
- Franklin County Children's Task Force (Children in Change program)
- Reading Rescue (Delivering books to children via converted ambulance)

## President's Report



My whole life I have struggled with finding a way to support all of the great programs and organizations that exist in my community. A little over three years ago I attended a United Way of the Tri-Valley Area (UWTVA) workplace campaign presentation and I was transformed from having only a vague notion that the United Way "does good things" to having a deeper understanding of the breadth of impact of this organization. I discovered that when I donate my money and time to the United Way, I am simultaneously supporting a wide variety of local organizations that impact the health and vitality of the greater Franklin County community. I had at last found a venue for "one-stop" charitable giving.

After attending that workplace campaign, I sought other opportunities to become connected with UWTVA. I eventually became a board member, and I am now humbled and honored to serve as Board President. In this new role, I am frequently asked, "What does the United Way do?" My immediate answer always reflects upon my own experience as well as our mission statement that we strive to "Unite people and resources to improve lives and build a strong and healthy community."

Perhaps the most well known activity of the United Way revolves around the allocation of funds to Community Partners. It is my hope and belief, that these allocated funds at least partially relieve the burden of fundraising thereby allowing our Community Partners to focus on providing direct services. One of the first allocation experiences I participated in resulted in the provision of a Venture Grant to the Androscoggin Children's Advocacy Center. The Center provides forensic interviewing for children who are survivors of sexual assault and trauma. Since then, the Center has helped more than 100 children in Franklin County.

Beyond the allocation of funds, the United Way also impacts Community Partners by connecting volunteers to opportunities within their organizations. Through the Franklin Volunteer Network, UWTVA helps partner organizations learn about volunteer management and about building volunteer capacity. UWTVA also hosts Days of Caring, where we invite community members to participate in a wide array of activities ranging from stuffing backpacks for children in need to building window panels to help with energy conservation and the reduction of heating bills.

Even after three years of working with UWTVA I am in awe of the scope of work and the span of impact that this organization has. This work could not be done without the generous support of donors, volunteers, and advocates like you. Thank you for giving your time, energy, and treasure to benefit our community. Great things really do happen when we live united.

Melissa Caminiti  
Board President

## Executive Director's Report



Welcome all friends and supporters of United Way of the Tri-Valley Area. This year's Annual Report is a reflection of activity that was completed in fiscal year 2015. Our 2015-16 Annual Campaign continues until the end of April, 2016 and Dave and Ellie Duley, Campaign Co-Chairs, and I look forward to sharing the status of the Campaign with the community at a special event in June, and celebrating all donors.

Like the ups and downs of spring roads in Maine (which are in rare form as I write this during an unseasonably warm late winter), 2015 brought ups and downs to United Way as well. The announcement that Verso Corporation would significantly reduce its workforce by 300 employees impacted our organization significantly and UWTVA had to carefully plan for this impact.

A strong and diverse board of directors guided by both Larissa Larrabee of Verso and later by current board chair Melissa Caminiti of Beacon Hospice, helped United Way make strategic decisions, however. As a result, we headed into 2016 with new opportunities. Strong work from the Nominating and Governance Committee is expanding the United Way board to strengthen our foundation as well.

With difficult decisions to make, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area was also fortunate to engage a tremendously diverse and hard working team of community members to consider applications through our annual Allocation process. After several weeks of reading applications and interviewing applicants, 2016 Partners are welcomed on page 8 of this report. These allocations are core to our mission. Coupled with Venture Grant funding that supports new and innovative programming, leading or partnering on initiatives and engaging volunteers, UWTVA continues to make a significant impact in Greater Franklin County.

A few highlights of 2015 include exceeding our goal in the Packs for Progress program, and distributing almost 500 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to students in Greater Franklin County; hosting the most successful Great Charity Auction yet; sustaining the Community Energy Challenge (CEC) for the sixth year in a row and honoring volunteers Dan and Amy Palmer for their service with the CEC with a Molina Health Care Community Champions Award.



*Nicole Ditata of the Healthy Community Coalition welcomes community members onto the mobile health unit.*



*Volunteers Eileen Kreutz and Dennis O'Neil share a laugh at a Community Energy Challenge workshop.*



Provided backpacks and school supplies to students throughout Greater Franklin County (including Livermore and Livermore Falls). **475** were stuffed in 2015.



*Sharon Cullenberg and Courtney Frost enjoy helping students get the tools they need to succeed through the Packs for Progress program.*

Kept people warm, saved money and empowered volunteers through the Community Energy Challenge. Since 2009, 2,067 interior storm windows have been installed in almost **400** households and 20 public buildings saving over **\$75,000** annually. In 2015, 42 volunteers were engaged to build and install or repair 173 panels in 29 households and 1 church.

Got **1,357** people the answers and help they needed through 2-1-1 (1,163), direct contacts with the office (157), or by processing Salvation Army Vouchers (37).

Built a more secure financial future for more than **300** individuals by preparing free taxes and connecting people to resources through the Western Maine CA\$H Coalition. **AND SO MUCH MORE!**



*Volunteer "Opportunity Guides" promote saving for the future at the Western Maine CA\$H Coalition tax site. United Way is the fiscal agent for the program, and works collaboratively with New Ventures Maine.*

We also partnered with the Department of Labor, and the Wilton Career Center to respond to the layoffs at Verso Corporation's Androscoggin Mill. A transition team was formed and a meeting held which almost 70 people attended, and a Verso/Community Resource Fair was also held as a result of the team's input.

I celebrate the one-time events in 2015 too, all of which help spread our message to the region. This includes walking in the Chester Greenwood parade introducing new Venture Grant recipient Reading Rescue to the region, and distributing hundreds of books to promote literacy.



All of this and much more is captured on our newly designed website: [uwtva.org](http://uwtva.org).

(Which, in addition to a robust, password protected board area that fosters communication, and an events calendar, it also has an online Resource Guide for the Unemployed, replacing outdated paper copies.) Please visit it soon! And while we are talking technology, I am also hoping you are keeping up with United Way activity via a new monthly Constant Contact newsletter. If we do not have your e-mail on file, please share it with us so that you can stay connected.

Lastly, I had the pleasure of welcoming Kendra Baker in 2015 as Finance and Operations Coordinator for our organization. It is a genuine pleasure to work with Kendra. Her enthusiasm for our mission is tangible and her efficiency is to be applauded.

Thank you to Western Mountain Financial Services for designing and producing this Annual Report and to board member Mary Frank for her leadership planning for the March 23, 2016 event at which this report was initially distributed.

Lisa Park Laflin  
Executive Director

## Treasurer's Report



Once again your United Way turned in excellent financial results. Total income for the year from all sources was \$450,730.82 against a budgeted amount of \$409,365.00 Corporate contributions came in at \$50,939 against a budgeted amount of \$23,000 and Undesignated Grants were \$10,000 better than budget.

There was excellent expense control as total expenses came in at \$411,145.51 against a budgeted amount of \$409,365. There were various pluses and minuses within the expense accounts that created variances but the net net was right on budget which should be considered spectacular expense control and management. As a result, the excess of revenue over expenses for the full year was \$39,585.31 which will serve us well going into a difficult period for the communities we serve. Going into a difficult year of 2016 which is fraught with uncertainty, the cash position is strong with \$215,750 on hand and we intend to draw that down during 2016 to continue to meet the needs of the community and the mission of the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area.

Our external auditor provided a satisfactory audit report which was reported to and reviewed by the Board of Directors and all required reporting and tax withholdings were done as required.

During the year your United Way was served by an able Finance Committee composed of Becky Davis-Allen of the Bangor Savings Bank and United Way Board member Aaron Knapp of Western Mountain Financial Services as well as staff members Lisa Laflin, our Executive Director and Finance and Operations Coordinator Kendra Baker. Throughout the course of the year this group convened to review the insurance needs of the organization, craft and review critical financial policies including a much needed cash reserve policy which will help the organization manage its cash. The Finance Committee also provided guidance and input for the budget process for the 2016 budget. We are grateful to them for their hard work and service.

Ken Lust  
United Way Board Treasurer

Improved access to dental services for **1,284** low income local community members through Community Dental.

Assisted over **12,000** individuals with heating assistance needs.



*By having a very successful workplace campaign, Farmington Hannaford employees help United Way positively impact the community.*

Venture Grant funding helped launch Franklin County Children's Task Force's *Children in Change* program. This program uses an educational and support group curriculum model with children who have experienced significant change in their families, including the death of a parent, having a parent in jail, a family member's military service, or substance abuse. **12** Mt. Blue Middle School students attended the first-of-its kind session. A second session will be offered in 2016.

*(Numbers are based on actual impact reported by United Way-funded Community Partners in 2015.)*

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area also...

Improved access to affordable prescription medication through FamilyWize (familywize.org). This program has saved individuals over **\$33,800** to date.

## A snapshot of 2015 community impact:

Met the basic needs of more than **2,600** individuals through the Care and Share Food Closet, SeniorsPlus, Clearwater Food Pantry and United Methodist Economic Ministry.



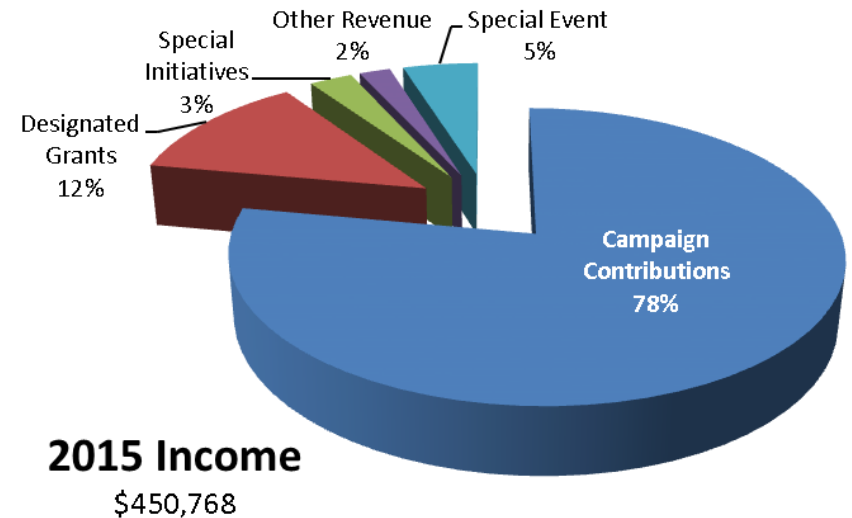
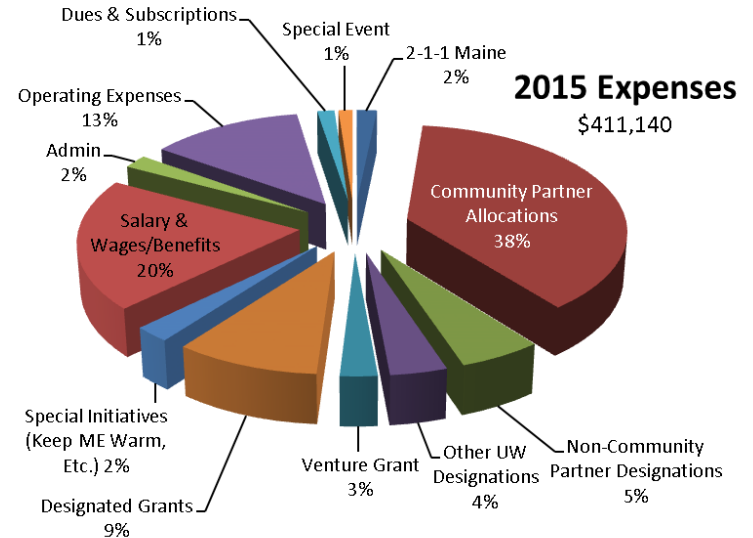
Safe Voices apparel on display; raising awareness of local efforts to prevent domestic violence and support survivors of abuse.

Provided **7,200** parents and students direct support and the tools to prevent child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence through Franklin County Children’s Task Force, Safe Voices, and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services.



University of Maine at Farmington students participate in a Buttons for Babes workshop as part of UMF’s Month of Service. They made bracelets to help meet critical needs of children in Greater Franklin County.

## United Way of the Tri-Valley Area 2015 By the Numbers





## 2015-16 Campaign Cabinet

Dave Duley, Hannaford, Co Chair

Ellie Duley, Duley College Counseling, Co Chair

Ken Lust, UWTVA Board Member, Retired Banker

Lisa Laflin, UWTVA Executive Director

Kendra Baker, UWTVA Finance and Operations Coordinator

Autumn Wilbur, Community Member, Farmington

Byron Davis, Riverbend Property Management

Shane Cote, Farmington Police Department

Dan Ryder, Mt. Blue Campus

Michele McCormick, Pediatrician

Peter Addicott, Retired Community Member, New Vineyard and Memphis, TN

Tia Flaherty, Hannaford Loaned Executive

Elizabeth Jennings, Retired Community Member, Farmington

Karleen Andrews, New Ventures Maine

Dyan Macomber, Bangor Savings Bank

Courtney Frost, Student, University of Maine at Farmington



*The United Way is presented with a check from Verso in December.*

## 2015-16 Allocation Committee

Ken Lust, UWTVA Board Member, Retired Banker, Chair

Lisa Laflin, UWTVA Executive Director

Kendra Baker, UWTVA Finance and Operations Coordinator

Becky Davis-Allen, Community Member, Bangor Savings Bank

Melissa Caminiti, UWTVA Board Member, Beacon Hospice

Brenda Clark, UWTVA Board Member, Verso Corporation

Dave Duley, Community Member, Campaign Co-Chair, Hannaford

Ellie Duley, Community Member, Campaign Co-Chair, Duley College Counseling

RaeAnn Hargreaves, UWTVA Board, Franklin Savings Bank

Jane Haszko, Community Member, Retired IT Project Manager

Jennifer Zweig Hebert, Community Member, Starks Town Clerk, RSU 9 Board Chair

Rhonda Irish, Community Member, Wilton Town Manager

Aaron Knapp, UWTVA Board member, Western Mountain Financial Services

Gayle Long, Community Member, Retired Healthcare Management

Lorraine Pratt, UWTVA Board member, University of Maine at Farmington

Susan Terhune, Community Member, State Farm Agent



*Members of the allocation committee meet in January.*