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

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!

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. (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
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.

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.](image)

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.](image)
**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.*