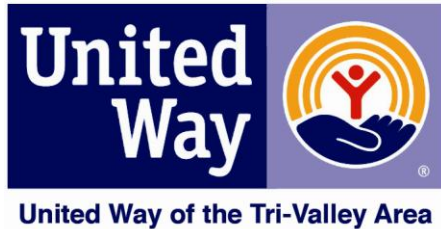


Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series of articles that demonstrates the community impact of the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area.

The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area (UWTVA) is part of an international system of organizations. There are more than 1,280 United Ways in the US, a growing number of United Ways in places such as Japan, India, and South America, and 10 in Maine. United Ways focus on long term efforts to improve income, education, and health. They also work with Community Partners to develop ways to address more urgent issues in our community, such as the need for emergency shelter and food. One such Community Partner, funded by your United Way dollars, is Rural Community Action Ministry (RCAM). Gil Ward, Executive Director of RCAM shares this story of how a United Way investment improved the lives of a family in Northern Androscoggin County, a part of the United Way of the Tri-Valley Service Area:

A portion of local United Way contributions are allocated to Temporary Homelessness Prevention Services. Due to a job loss, a family in Livermore was living in a tent with a five month old infant girl and a three year old. RCAM was able to house them for a short time in its homeless shelter and assist them in securing a Section 8 voucher to use for a future affordable housing payment. They are now in affordable housing and are both employed.

Homelessness in our region continues to be an unfortunate reality. It is a hidden issue that many in our community are creatively addressing. Continued support of the United Way of the Tri-Valley will ensure these efforts can continue. If you are interested in learning more about what you can do to prevent homelessness or provide shelter, please attend a Greater Franklin County Homeless Coalition meeting. It meets the fourth Thursday of every month from 10:30-12 at Western Maine Community Action's Service Center in East Wilton (near Athena's Restaurant on Rts. 2 & 4).

The mission of the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area is to improve people's lives by focusing the caring capacity of our communities. For more information or to give, advocate, or volunteer in your community, visit www.uwtva.org, call 778-5048 or e-mail info@uwtva.org.