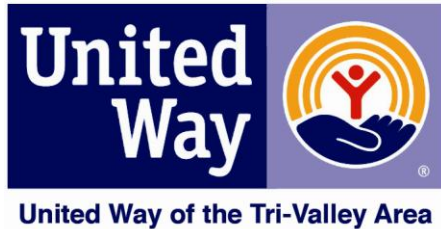


Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

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

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 heating assistance and emergency shelter. The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area funds organizations that make significant community impact. One such Community Partner, funded by your United Way dollars, is Literacy Volunteers. Here is a story that demonstrates the impact Literacy Volunteers has had on the life of an area resident.

“Jody,” a young mother in her mid-30’s with several children, had low level reading skills due to a learning disability. With a tutor’s help from Literacy Volunteers, Jody went from being a non-reader to a level three in the *Wilson Reading Program* in a matter of months. Jody says she feels better about herself, has more self-confidence, is able to do more for herself, and is beginning to read to her children. She especially likes going to the grocery store where now she can read the labels.

Literacy Volunteers is well known for connecting individual tutors and learners. You might not know, however, that an innovative partnership with a group of teens has been nurtured in Stratton for the past seventeen years. Nine teens recently completed one of those group tutoring workshops that incorporates games, improve theater and hands-on learning. These teens share their enthusiasm and love of literacy with younger students. The program is spreading across the region as students who graduate and see the value of the work contact Literacy Volunteers to offer it in their own schools or workplaces. For more information about becoming a Literacy Volunteer tutor, or to be connected to a tutor, contact Joan Moes at 778-3460.

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.