

# Partner Profiles



United Way of the Tri-Valley Area

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*Editor's Note: This article, written, in part by Judy Rawlings, Executive Director of SAVES, is part of an ongoing series that demonstrates the community impact of the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area (UWTVA), its funded Partners, and recipients of donor-designated funds. To learn more about how you can give, advocate, or volunteer in your community, or to view the article archive, visit [www.uwtva.org](http://www.uwtva.org). To contact staff, call (207) 778-5048 or e-mail [info@uwtva.org](mailto:info@uwtva.org).*

Every April, which is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month, SAVES (Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services) organizes the **March for Violence Free Communities**. The March is sponsored by Peace in Our Families, a collaborative effort of SAVES, the Franklin County Children's Task Force, the Abused Women's Advocacy Project, the Healthy Community Coalition, and the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area. This year, the University of Maine Farmington and other organizations and individuals are collaborating with Peace in Our Families to sponsor the March. The March for Violence Free Communities includes a walk throughout the streets of Farmington, a speaker, a community award and a speak-out for survivors and others. **This year's March is being held on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m. in Meetinghouse Park in Farmington.**

Please join other community members to show that violence in our communities will not be tolerated, because violence doesn't just affect the victims, it affects everyone in the community. Help Franklin County and every one of our communities be a Violence Free Community.

While the March for Violence Free Communities is a very visible and recognizable effort in which SAVES is involved, SAVES offers many services to victims/survivors in Greater Franklin County:

The **Crisis and Support Helpline** provides a response within minutes, any time, night or day, 365 days a year at 1-800-871-7741. The Helpline is staffed by trained volunteers who respond to calls from victims and survivors, family members, partners, and community members.

A variety of **Support Groups** are available to victims and survivors of sexual abuse, incest or rape. Working in cooperation with area high schools, SAVES provides teens the opportunity to join a school-based support group. Each year, many victims and survivors participate in support groups.

The **Sexual Assault Support Team** works closely with local law enforcement and with individuals from the legal system, medical profession, and the community to support victims and survivors' needs and to create a cohesive community response to sexual violence. The most helpful support for victims of sexual assault or abuse may be provided by using a team response.

The **School-Based Program**, which is funded by the United Way, provides on-site prevention programs, intervention and advocacy services and consultation with faculty and staff for the four high schools in

Franklin County. The school-based educator works one-on-one with students, co-facilitates support groups and provides prevention education programs as requested by faculty.

The **Community Education and Outreach Program** provides education regarding healthy relationships, internet safety, sexual violence and other topics to local organizations, professionals and others in Franklin County.

*The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area's (UWTVA) mission is to improve people's lives by focusing the caring capacity of our communities. One of 10 United Ways in Maine, UWTVA conducts an Annual Fundraising Campaign, contributions to which are reinvested in Greater Franklin County, by supporting programs run by area 501 (c)3 health and human service organizations. UWTVA also coordinates the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and collaborates with area volunteers and organizations to conduct initiatives that support the community, including food drives and homeless prevention activities.*