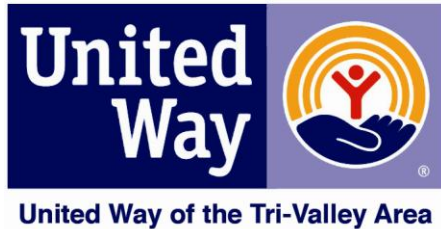


Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

Editor's Note: This is the tenth 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 funds twenty Community Partners by allocating money raised in its annual campaign. Community Partners are organizations that apply for funding in November, and meet with an Allocations Team in January to discuss their proposals. For a complete list of our 2009 Partners, visit www.uwtva.org. The United Way also values its historic partners which include: LEAP, Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice, The Girl Scouts of Maine, The Franklin County Animal Shelter, and Pathway Partners. These organizations have previously received United Way funding, but no longer apply for United Way support.

This week, we spotlight current Community Partner **United Methodist Economic Ministry** which was recently allocated \$11,000. United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) helps meet the basic needs of the elderly, the disabled, low-income, unemployed and underemployed individuals in northern Franklin County. A variety of services and opportunities are provided, including: a thrift shop, food cupboard, housing repairs, outreach services, crafting opportunities such as wreath making to supplement income, emergency assistance, referral services, emergency fuel, a back to school program, a school snack program for elementary schools in the region, baby layettes, Christmas gifts for children and seniors, nutrition information as well a seasonal fresh fruits and vegetable program.

UMEM seeks to provide a safe, friendly and confidential atmosphere where clients feel comfortable to come and talk about their situations. By building relationships with their clients the small, but tremendously productive, staff feels "they are uniquely placed to participate in their clients' life journey by providing encouragement, support, mentoring and guidance."

UMEM has been in existence for 40 years. What started as a food cupboard has grown and grown into a major force for change in northern Franklin County. To reach UMEM, e-mail Kay Webb, Executive Director at kayw@myfairpoint.net or call 678-2611.

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.