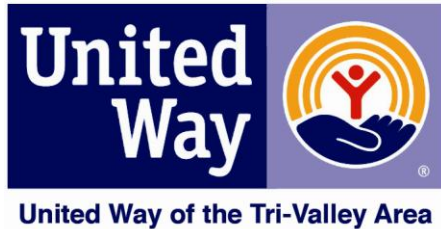


Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

Editor's Note: This is the eleventh 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 has recently funded the good work of twenty area organizations. The funding was raised in its annual campaign and allocated using a process involving many volunteers who generously donated their time and expertise. For a complete list of our 2009 Community Partners, visit www.uwtva.org.

Did you know that the **United Valley American Red Cross** is a United Way Community Partner? Based in Lewiston and serving Greater Franklin County, United Valley American Red Cross provides essential disaster relief service we are all familiar with and grateful for. They will be there to comfort a fire victim and provide short-term housing and other critical services. While disaster relief is a well known Red Cross service, the Red Cross also provides health and safety training, which is what we will spotlight today with the following story provided by United Valley American Red Cross Executive Director, Laurie Levine:

In August, Becky took her son on a day of errands. Their first stop was to the offices of the Sun Journal in Lewiston. While there, Becky's eleven year old son, Adam, began to choke on a piece of candy. Becky panicked and did not know how to help her child. Thankfully, a Sun Journal employee trained by the American Red Cross used his knowledge to successfully give abdominal thrusts to the boy, who quickly recovered. Becky was overcome with emotion, not only because her son's life had been saved by the employee, but also because she did not know herself what to do. If she had been alone with her son or out somewhere and saw someone else in the same situation the results could have been devastating. She called United Valley Red Cross that same afternoon. She not only wanted to commend the employee and his first aid training, but also to ask for a class so that she could be prepared to save a life. She could not afford the cost of the class, and, after verification, she was enrolled at no charge into a Standard first aid and CPR/AED class, thanks to United Way support.

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.