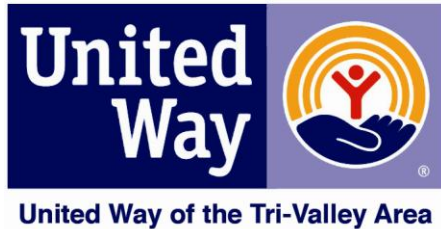


## Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

*Editor's Note: This is the eighth 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 recently announced that twenty organizations applied for, and received, funding from the United Way this year. We would like to welcome a new Community Partner who received an allocation from the United Way for the first time: Friends Together Peer Support and Recovery Center in Jay (Friends Together).

Friends Together was founded in 1995 to relieve the isolation and challenges of mental illness, especially within rural communities. It began with a coffee pot and a donated space where meetings were held once a week. Now located at 70 Main Street in Jay, Friends Together is open four days a week and offers various activities including craft and nutrition classes, music therapy, trips, and much-appreciated socialization. The Center also operates a popular lunch program. A nutritious lunch is served once a week for the low cost of \$1.00. Participants have noted that, "Lunch is great, the food is delicious and eating lunch with everyone makes me feel good inside."

The Center currently serves twenty five individuals on a regular basis but is open to any individual struggling with the trials of recovery from a life challenge or mental illness. Members attend from all over the region, including Livermore, Livermore Falls, Jay, Wilton, Farmington, Chesterville and Avon. Friends Together currently offers transportation on a limited basis for members in the immediate vicinity of Jay, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Farmington and Wilton. The Center is working towards expanding its transportation opportunities.

Friends Together is a member of the Maine Association of Peer Support and Recovery Centers which provides technical and training grants.

Learn more about the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area and our Community Partners by stopping by our booth this Saturday, March 14 at the Business Expo, Nichols Expo Building, Wilton.

*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](http://www.uwtva.org), call 778-5048 or e-mail [info@uwtva.org](mailto:info@uwtva.org).*