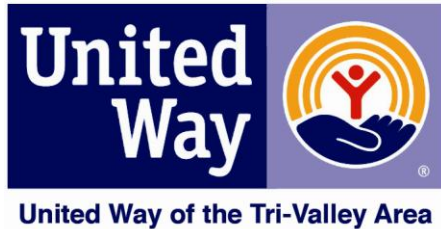


Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

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

Many issues face parents and young adults with disabilities as they transition from a very structured school setting to adult services. These include issues of guardianship, social security, medical coverage for pre-existing conditions, access to post-secondary services, reasonable accommodations in the workplace, accessibility to public spaces, transportation, and support for housing. The Maine Transition Network Western Maine Region (MTN) is part of a regional network coordinating services for youth and young adults with disabilities in Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties. MTN is also a United Way of the Tri-Valley Area Community Partner, having applied for, and received, funding this year from the United Way's 2008-2009 Campaign.

MTN's mission is to identify and assist youth and young adults, ages 14 – 25, with disabilities, in a successful transition to community by creating opportunity and promoting personal choices. MTN works with schools, local and state agencies, parents and students themselves to help students have a successful transition from school to the adult world.

MTN focuses on six transition areas: Employment, Education, Health, Community Participation, Legal Rights and Responsibilities, and Housing and Support. MTN's Western Maine Regional Office works within these areas by coordinating various opportunities including:

- Workshops (such as Independent Living for Young Adults with Disabilities).
- Monthly Regional Council Meetings and a Professional Development Series (Schools, agencies, parents and students meet to talk about collaboration, available transition services, and provide peer support when collective assistance is needed. In addition, experts from various professions conduct presentations on diverse topics such as neuropsychology, mentoring, emotional intelligence, signs and symptoms of substance abuse, and adaptive equipment.) Extensive transition packets are also provided to all who request information.
- The Transition Outcomes Project, which is designed to improve transition services by providing evidence-based research. Schools are involved in this project on a volunteer basis. Both Livermore and Jay School Systems have been part of the project. MSAD #58 and MSAD #9 are newly engaged this year.

To learn more about the Maine Transition Network Western Maine Region, contact Mary Redmond-Luce at mlyce@mainetransition.org or (207) 592-0940.

For a complete list of UWTVA's 2009 Community Partners, visit www.uwtva.org.

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.