

Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

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

Western Maine Community Action (WMCA) is a United Way of the Tri-Valley Area Community Partner. The organization has historically applied for, and received funding from the United Way to support a wide variety of programs through its Community Services Department. This includes the Seeds of Life Project, and the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program. This year, however, WMCA requested funds to support and expand the important work being done through its Energy and Housing Department. Specifically, WMCA plans to further reach out to Greater Franklin County's low income families and provide energy conservation education. With the assistance of an Energy Conservation Educator, homeowners will develop an individualized, long-term solution to the problem of escalating energy costs. Experience and research all indicate that the best way to create wealth is to build both individual assets *and* the capacity to save.

Outreach will be varied, and will include a series of community forums that will help homeowners to understand their house as a system, and how to apply practical energy conservation measures. In addition, WMCA's outreach efforts ensure that the energy educator provides a comprehensive description of all services available through WMCA's Energy and Housing Resources Department. This includes budget counseling, the emergency crisis intervention program, case management, and low interest loan and grant programs for making energy improvements.

While spring is in the air, it is not too late to be planning ahead for another long winter. Please contact Western Maine Community Action at 645-3764 for more information on how you can make informed decisions about conserving energy, and getting a return on your investment.

Special Reminder: Western Maine Community Action's Fuel Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is still taking applications until April 30. If you have not applied since July of 2008, you could receive a benefit.

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.