

Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

Editor's Note: This article is part of an ongoing series that demonstrates the community impact of the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area (UWTVA), its funded Partners, collaborators, and recipients of donor-designated funds. To learn more about how you can give, advocate, or volunteer in your community, or to view the article archive, visit www.uwtva.org. To contact staff, call (207) 778-5048 or e-mail info@uwtva.org.

The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area (UWTVA) recently awarded a Venture Grant to Western Maine Center for Children in Carrabassett Valley. UWTVA Venture Grants are designed to provide the resources needed to support projects that are innovative, collaborative, sustainable, and will fulfill the needs and improve the lives of people living in Franklin County, Livermore, and Livermore Falls.

Western Maine Center for Children offers childcare and after school programs for families of the Carrabassett Valley region. It is one of the only licensed childcare centers between Rangeley and Kingfield and serves children eight weeks to five years old. Western Maine Center for Children's primary goal is to provide families with a nurturing social, and academically stimulating, environment for their children's optimal growth and development. The Center's funding request notes also that "the availability of quality child care programs in close proximity to a parent's worksite contributes to increased job performance and satisfaction; this in turn, results in healthier, happier families, a stronger business climate, and a more cohesive community." To illustrate the importance of quality child care and after school programming, the Walton family shares their story: They fell in love with the quality and flavor of life in northern Franklin County. Laura works two different jobs year round, and Joe's position changes with the Sugarloaf seasons. Their children attend child care between 3 – 5 days per week year round. Without child care options available, they noted that one of them would need to leave a job (or two) which would reduce their income dramatically. Child care provides the parents the opportunity to continue their professional roles in the community, and provides the children with social and educational opportunities to enhance their early learning and allows them quality whole family time on a regular basis.

Western Maine Center for Children is a collaborative effort of the community. It has recently transitioned to a new building housed in the new Carrabassett Valley Public Library and Community Center. The partnership between the Center and the Library is a natural one, as both are locations to foster learning and growth in young minds and young people.

There is a continual partnership between Western Maine Center for Children, the Town of Carrabassett Valley, Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, area businesses, funders, and the private sector that will continue to make this program possible along with the Board of Directors' commitment.

If you would like more information about Western Maine Center for Children please call 237-3223.