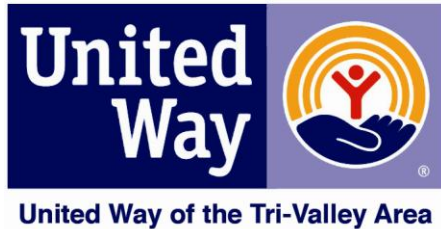


## Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

*Editor's Note: This is the eighteenth 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 supports the important work of Community Dental. The Dental Health Center is located in the Mount Blue Health Center, adjacent to Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington. The Center is fully staffed with a dentist and one to two hygienists Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 52 weeks per year, with the exception of holiday closings and occasional weather emergencies. The patient population includes people of all ages who are in need of dental health care and are at risk due to dental disease and its impact on their overall health, school and job attendance, as well as employment opportunities. The overwhelming majority of patients are unable to afford or receive care from other sources, and access to dental health services is restricted or unavailable due to low income, and/or shortage of dental providers. Community Dental – Farmington (there are other offices, including one in Rumford) is the only Dental Home in the Greater Farmington area that accepts MaineCare reimbursement and offers a household income based on a sliding fee scale. The ability to pay for dental care should not be a factor in people taking care of their oral health.

The United Way is pleased to continue to support Community Dental's operations, most notably the partnership with the Franklin Health Women's Care obstetrics/gynecologist practice in Farmington. Providers at the practice present the importance of dental health to their patients and the effects of dental disease as it relates to birth outcomes. The practice is the primary referral sources for qualifying uninsured low income pregnant women to receive a free dental exam, hygiene and restoration services. Additionally, participants in the program receive dental health education to prevent infant dental disease, baby bottle syndrome, and oral infection. This early intervention has been proven to be a key to long-lasting, cost effective oral health.

For more information about accessing dental services at Community Dental, call 779-2659.

*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).*