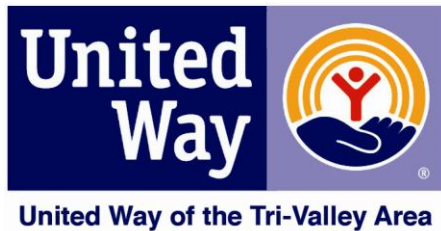


## Partner Profiles



Lisa Park Laflin, Executive Director

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

New Beginnings, Inc. was created in 1977 by a group of community volunteers in Lewiston who were concerned about the lack of placements for adolescents who were unable to live with their families. The agency opened an emergency shelter for youth ages 12-17 in 1980, and has since developed more services to respond to the needs of young people who are runaways, homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. The Shelter and Transitional Living Programs have housed nearly 8,000 young people. New Beginnings is based in Lewiston, but an Outreach Worker is also based in Farmington.

The Outreach Program began in 1990 in order to reach those who were not using Lewiston-based services, but who were clearly in need of housing and related case management, as is the case in Greater Franklin County. These youth are living in unstable and often dangerous circumstances and are disconnected from the traditional service system. The goals of the Outreach program is to create relationships that allow the youth to begin working on building a stable, healthy future.

Nearly all of the youth served by New Beginnings have grown up in poverty and remain poor. Most are unemployed or have, at best, part-time, low wage jobs. Over the past three years, New Beginnings has formally offered case management to 122 clients, and informally connected hundreds of others to community resources. Thirty two percent of the 122 clients were high school drop-outs, and 60% already had diagnosed mental disorders. More than 40% of the caseload was pregnant or already parenting.

If you, or someone you know between the ages of 14-21 are homeless or at risk of being homeless, contact Ernie Gurney at New Beginnings in Farmington at 778-6193.

To view a complete list of UWTVA's 2009 Community Partners and Historic Partners, and witness the great power of volunteering, visit [www.uwtva.org](http://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](http://www.uwtva.org), call 778-5048 or e-mail [info@uwtva.org](mailto:info@uwtva.org).*