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# A Dozen Things You May Not Know About United Way of the Tri-Valley Area

*The mission of United Way of the Tri-Valley Area is to unite people and resources to improve people's lives and build a strong and healthy community.*

1. United Way seeks solutions to meet immediate basic human needs and create long lasting positive change!
2. To visualize what United Way does, picture a three-legged stool 1.) Community Investments; 2.) Information and Referral 3.) Volunteer Engagement
  - Thousands of dollars are invested locally because of donors' generosity.
  - Hundreds are connected to information that betters their lives whether it is directions to the closest food pantry, or how to get help with an overdue electric bill because of a sudden medical issue in the family.
  - Thousands volunteer annually to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others. From IRS-certified volunteers who dedicate time to help the community as part of the Western Maine CA\$H Coalition, to volunteers who help stuff backpacks or work in the office – all are valued and so appreciated.
3. United Way's community investments are made by volunteers who follow strict guidelines to ensure donor dollars impact the community most effectively.
4. Money contributed to the United Way Community Fund can be stretched to support multiple programs. It is the easiest and most effective way to help many needs in your community.

5. More than 12,000 people sought help from United Way of the Tri-Valley Area supported services last year – from domestic violence survivors to those struggling with mental illness. That's 1 in 3 people relying on United Way. Maybe it's your co-worker, neighbor, friend, or even your family member.
6. Giving up just a few cups of coffee a week at \$5.00 can connect 37 children and family members to direct support for cribs, diapers, clothes and education. Parent education is critical to reducing child abuse and neglect.
7. More than 400 backpacks are stuffed with school supplies and distributed to students in need throughout the region annually as part of the Packs for Progress program.
8. More than \$30,000 dollars have been saved to date by people using the Familywize prescription drug card which is distributed through a partnership with United Ways. Visit [Familywize.org](http://Familywize.org) to learn more.
9. 99% of every dollar raised stays local.
10. The volunteer-led energy conservation program called the Community Energy Challenge, has engaged more than 500 volunteers to date. More than 2,000 interior storm window panels have been created for 19 public buildings since 2009. Almost 400 households have received window panels as well. Volunteers have donated more than 15,000 hours.
11. United Ways of Maine participate in a state-wide Keep ME Warm emergency heating assistance program, and locally, United Way supports the Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry's heating fund, Tri-Town Ministerial Association's heating fund, and the United Methodist Economic Ministry. Hundreds stay warm because of generous state and local donations.
12. United Way of the Tri-Valley Area serves Greater Franklin County. This includes all of Franklin County and Livermore and Livermore Falls. The valleys are the Androscoggin River Valley, Sandy River Valley, and the Carrabassett River Valley.

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