United Way
of the Tri-Valley Area

The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area improves people's lives by uniting people and resources. Money raised through its annual fundraising campaign funds programs in Greater Franklin County. This money is distributed in a variety of ways throughout the year and they are called Community Investments. These investments include funding programs coordinated by Community Partners ***(Community Partner Investments)****; funding for new and innovative projects* ***(Venture Grants)****; support for projects that address emerging needs* ***(Special Projects)****; and funding for children's unmet needs* ***(The Hope Fund)****, which is described below. All decisions are made by a Community Investment Team comprised of diverse community members who represent all regions of Greater Franklin County.*

The Hope Fund

The purpose of *The Hope Fund* is to provide assistance for unmet needs of children in Greater Franklin County, with a particular emphasis on removing barriers to enable low-income children to engage in a wide variety of enriching experiences in which they would not otherwise be able to participate. The Hope Fund seeks to increase aspirations and instill hope for a brighter future.

Assistance through *The Hope Fund* is determined by an application which is available on the United Way website (uwtva.org) and at the United Way office, 218, Fairbanks Rd., Farmington.

- Applicants can receive funding only one-time per year and must be under 18 years of age.
- Applications are due the last day of each month.
- Generally, awards will not exceed $200.00 per request.
- Individuals may apply. Agencies, caseworkers, schools/teachers/guidance counselors, etc. are encouraged to apply to the United Way on behalf of the child/client with his or her knowledge.
- United Way will connect children/families to community supports and available resources as appropriate.
- Parents must sign a waiver form allowing the Community Investment Team (CIT) Hope Fund review committee to review the application and share information with the committee. This form also gives permission for the child to participate in an activity or use equipment if application is funded.
- Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis by Community Investment Team Hope Fund review committee **the first Thursday of every month.** The CIT will have final authority for funding decisions and will provide a report for monthly board meetings one week prior for such meeting for information only. A designated United Way staff person will process and track applications, checking for incomplete information and eligibility, communicate with CIT members regarding meetings, and will provide updated fund balances for meetings. After funding decisions are made, the staff person will communicate decision with applicant. All funding is paid directly to a vendor. The designated United Way staff person is a non-voting, ex-officio member of the CIT Hope Fund review committee and acts as a resource for information.
- A maximum number of eight CIT members will serve on The Hope Fund review committee.

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- At least five voting members must be present to vote on applications.

- ***Funding examples:***

  Because the intent of The Hope Fund is to raise aspirations for area youth and expose young people to opportunities they may not otherwise engage in, support will be considered for a broad range of activities. This includes, but is not limited to: therapeutic recreation; athletic team participation; camps (including summer camps and those for special needs students); UMF Fitness and Recreation and Center memberships; after school programs (i.e., in arts, robotics, etc.). Funding could be used for registration fees and/or for equipment or materials needed to participate.

Revised 9.20.17