

United
Way



United Way
of Lamoille County

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*Advocating for the health, financial
stability and education of Lamoille
County residents.*

Spring 2019 Newsletter

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Firewood Project

It's hard to believe it's that time again. Spring. Like most folks who burn wood to stay warm, I am looking at my own wood pile thinking what a long winter it has been and about getting ready for next year. While we were busy distributing firewood to those who struggled to stay warm this winter, the State of Vermont and various community members have delivered over 50 cords of logs to our firewood lot. This means that we are starting to get ready for the next firewood project.

Currently we are looking for groups who would like to set up volunteer days for this summer. If you would like to volunteer this summer with your group or business, please call our office or email jim@uwlamoille.org. All skill levels are welcome!



Thanks!

Jim Curran, Executive Director

Upcoming...

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

May 11th

2nd Annual UWLC Garden Tour

July 13th

*For more information, visit our website
uwlamoille.org*

Thoughts from our Board...



I am passionate about trying to make the world more positive, welcoming and inclusive. My music, my work with children and the way I treat my fellow-humans are ways in which I do my minuscule part to achieve those goals. Being on the Board of United Way of Lamoille County is another.

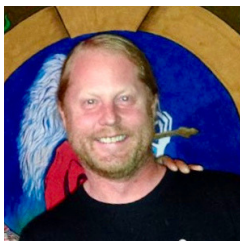
Like many of us, I've served on a few boards where we just sat around and listened to ourselves spout well-meaning words without truly accomplishing anything. UWLC is nothing like that. We have immediate, vital, life-changing impact on our neighbors.

With our Firewood Project, we cut, split and deliver cord after cord to families in need. To be in the cab of one of those full, donated town trucks and watch the faces of folks receiving their source of winter warmth is a reaffirming experience beyond words. We have countless projects that uplift and give hope to every population of our county, from newborns to the elderly.

UWLC is undergoing a true renaissance and I'm honored to be on a board full of dedicated, committed, creative and tireless people. Changing our world for the better is something all of us should live and strive for. Serving on the Board of United Way of Lamoille County inspires and nourishes me. It makes me feel hopeful, and there's no finer gift.

- Jon Gailmor, Board President

THANK YOU!

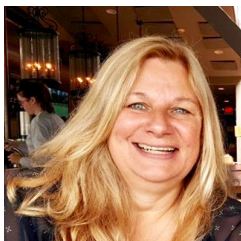


Thomas Moog

For hosting Jingle Jam, for your tireless efforts on behalf of our entire community, & for your fantastic taste in music!

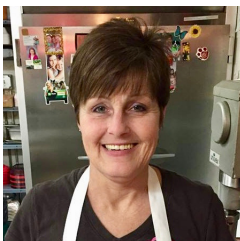
Deb Nevil

For attending our events, making yummy baked goods for those events & being a great community investment partner!



Deb Papineau

For supporting our events, lending a helping hand & feeding the community!



Community Spotlight



Cajsa Schumacher, Board Member

Now retired to Morrisville, Cajsa feels like her life as a Vermonter has come full circle. After growing up in Brattleboro, graduating from UVM and then the UVM College of Medicine, Cajsa practiced pediatrics (with her husband) for 38 years in Albany, NY. She continues to be inspired by this wonderful community, who seem to share her passion for the health and well-being of children and families.

She and her husband, Jeff, have 3 adult children, 3 grandchildren and a fur-child, Coco, a 1 year old mini-Goldendoodle. In her free time, Cajsa enjoys family, friends, communing with Nature, and gardening (except when Coco pulls out the flowers or digs to China).

Have you heard about our New Foundations program?

New Foundations is an innovative, transitional living program for single parents and their children. The program is designed to move single parents out of a life of poverty and into a life of self-sufficiency and independence by giving them the tools they need to succeed. The program is operated out of two buildings in the village of Morrisville. We are able to serve five single-parent families who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or struggle to remain adequately housed.

While in the New Foundations program, participants receive a furnished apartment for up to two years. During that time, participants do not pay rent but do pay into a savings account. We take the worry of housing off the table for our participants, allowing them to concentrate on improving their lives for themselves and their families.

We offer 1:1 guidance from our Program Manager to develop highly individualized goals, tailored to the needs, learning style, and capabilities of participants. Participants work on furthering their education whether a technical program, certificate or diploma. The participants are required to save up to 30% of their income, and participate in financial coaching which includes budgeting, improving monthly cash flow and addressing credit issues.

The short term change for New Foundations participants is stable housing, advancing their education, and providing educational opportunities for their children.

The long term change for New Foundations participants is living a life free of public assistance, higher earning power, landlord references and a break in the cycle of poverty.

If you would like to apply for the program, or if you'd like to donate, visit our website uwlamoille.org.



A Renovation to Build Food Security

United Way of Lamoille County (UWLC) owns a historic barn in downtown Morrisville. Through a blossoming partnership with Salvation Farms, it became clear that if renovated, this space could be used to improve community wide health. It is the perfect size to house the Salvation Farms Lamoille Valley Gleaning program, allowing the program to increase the amount of produce it handles and diversify their distribution methods.

Salvation Farms is a local non-profit dedicated to reducing food loss on farms and increasing the use of locally grown foods. Based on a 2016 study conducted by Salvation Farms, it was calculated that nearly 1 million pounds of edible produce is lost on Lamoille Valley farms annually; an area where roughly 12% of the population, or 6,000 individuals, are experiencing food insecurity. In response to this, Salvation Farms' Lamoille Valley Gleaning program serves the community by moving unsold produce from local farms to those who need it most: the young, the sick, the elderly, and those experiencing food insecurity. In 2018, this program gleaned more than 70,000 pounds of produce, logged over 900 volunteer hours, and served 31 recipient sites.

The UWLC's renovation will include reinforcing the existing structure and adding insulation, electricity and plumbing. Windows, doors, and interior stairs will be replaced and an ADA bathroom, waste oil furnace, and walk-in cooler will be added to the space. The second floor will be transformed into an office and meeting space; the first floor will house equipment and infrastructure for safe food handling and supply storage. The hope for this project is to increase food security in the Lamoille Valley, and will touch multiple organizations providing basic needs in Lamoille County.

NEW BOARD & STAFF MEMBERS



Savannah Brown, Board Member

Savannah Brown is a photographer based out of Stowe. Her goal is to have an impact on her local community and to create positive change in the world.

Savannah Riddle, New Foundations Program Manager

Savannah supports the single parents in our program during their two year stay with us while they work toward independent living and self-sufficiency.



Clarissa Gottshall-French, Marketing & Campaign Coordinator

Clarissa is responsible for building relationships with community members through our website, social media and events.