



United Way
of Lamoille County

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Winter 2019 Newsletter

In This Issue

2

HOPE &
Teen Gift Card Updates

3

New Foundations

4

Gleaning Project
Renovation
Update

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Hello again! As we move into a new year it is often a time of reflection and changes. Some of the changes we make stick and some do not, but it's all about the attempt. That's what the United Way of Lamoille County is all about: trying to make lasting change for our community, individuals and families.

You can make a change by investing in your community and supporting the programs you love. Your investment supports a single parent's journey to financial stability through the New Foundations Program, keeps your neighbors warm through the Firewood Program, keep seniors at home so they can age comfortably and still receive the services they need through the Shoveling Program. It supports our efforts to help families and individuals in crisis and establishes new partnerships in the community that have widespread impact like Salvation' Farms Lamoille Gleaning Program, Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County, and Central Vermont Recovery Center.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this campaign. We are 30% of the way to our community appeal annual goal. With your help we will get there!

- Jim Curran, Executive Director



To learn more & donate, visit www.uwlamoille.org

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

THANK YOU!

**Thank you to the Cummings and Gold families
for their generous support of our New
Foundations program in honor of their parents
Norma and Jack!**



Thoughts from our Board...



When I joined the board of United Way 25 years ago, I was a single mother of four teenagers living off one part-time salary. I wanted to give back to my community but donating money wasn't possible. I learned as a child how important it was to help your neighbors, my father strongly believed that it is everyone's responsibility. When my friend approached me about joining the United Way board, it seemed like a great fit.

Joining the board gave me an opportunity to donate my time instead of money. I could help at events, volunteering rather than giving money I did not have. United Way inspired me because it has a ripple effect. We work with and support other agencies in the community, creating a wider ripple of change. We actually involve not just other agencies but community members for help with our projects. It provides opportunities for people to help their neighbors where it might not be possible otherwise.

Most organizations are set up to deal with just one issue, we are looking at a wider scope. That's a magical thing, it's amazing. United Way is a true living organism, what we are doing now is very different than what we were doing 25 years ago. We are always willing to check the pulse of the community. Instead of getting stuck in our ways, we are always fresh, looking at the current issues and moving in that direction. The issues we are currently focusing on are housing, substance misuse, transportation and life skills education.

I wanted to help more people than I can help alone. I want to be on the ground floor, changing people's lives. It feeds me. At United Way, I don't just feel like I am helping people, I have found my community here. A group of like-minded people who share the same values and feel responsible for their community.

- Vicki Rich, Board Member

HOPE Program

Thank you to all who donated gifts to our local seniors! In total, 42 seniors were nominated and adopted!



Teen Gift Card Program



Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards to local low-income teens!

Move-In Day

As I was driving to work, I saw my soon-to-be New Foundations participant literally dancing down the sidewalk beaming with a smile from ear to ear. I knew it was going to be a good day. What keeps me in this line of work are the meaningful interactions that fill my soul and one of my favorite experiences working with people is always move-in day.

Two weeks prior to moving in she was generally cheerful but her eyes were heavy with stress. **Today her eyes were bright, her smile bigger, and her step was purposeful.** As a New Foundations participant she will be starting college, saving money, and building on her life skills.

When we interviewed her for the program she was living in a shelter. She expressed that one of the challenges for communal living is that her youngest son likes to grab a healthy snack whenever he is hungry (he likes apples and oranges best!). She is raising her kids to have independence and wants them to be able to eat healthy foods when they are hungry. But with a shared kitchen space, he can't have that freedom.



On move-in day, he walked around checking everything out. He flopped on the bed and then bounced off to check out the kitchen. He found a bag of apples his mom had just bought and looked up with wide eyes, a grin, and said "I'm going to have a snack!". My heart filled with the kind of joy that only comes from human interactions like this one. Welcome home little buddy.

- Savannah Riddle, Program Manager

Your support makes these moments possible. To donate to New Foundations, visit our website uwlamaille.org.

Coming up . . .



Jingle Jam

January 26th



MyFreeTaxes

February-April 2020



Casino Night

March 2020

Check us out on



@uwlamaille or visit our website www.uwlamaille.org to find out more!

Lamoille Firewood Project

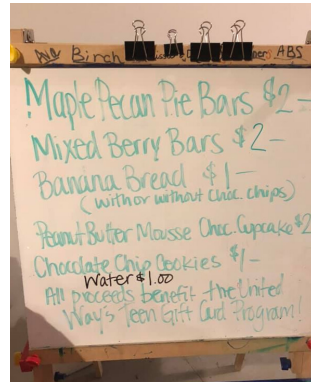
We've delivered over 45 cords of firewood to our neighbors this year to date, and we have a good supply of processed wood to deliver emergency heat this winter as well. Our Staff and Board thank you for the help, and our wood bank is well stocked heading into the long winter months!



Recent Grants Received:

- **Ben & Jerry's Grant:** \$10,000 to New Foundations
- **Hoelh Foundation:** \$30,000 over 3 years to New Foundations
- **Building Community Grants:** \$17,000 to Renovation to Build Food Security

THANK YOU!



A HUGE thank you to
Ava and Cole Shinnars
 for hosting a bake sale at Yankee Home Solutions to benefit the Teen Gift Card Program for the second year in a row!
 You guys are amazing!

Lamoille Valley Gleaning Program Renovation Project

The concrete has been poured and preconstruction bracing has been done! Structural improvements are under way.

Stay up to date, follow us on Facebook & Instagram: @uwlamoille.

