

**United
Way**



**United Way
of Lamoille County**

20 Morrisville Plaza, Suite B
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www.uwlamoille.org

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

Summer 2019 Newsletter

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By Doug Boardman

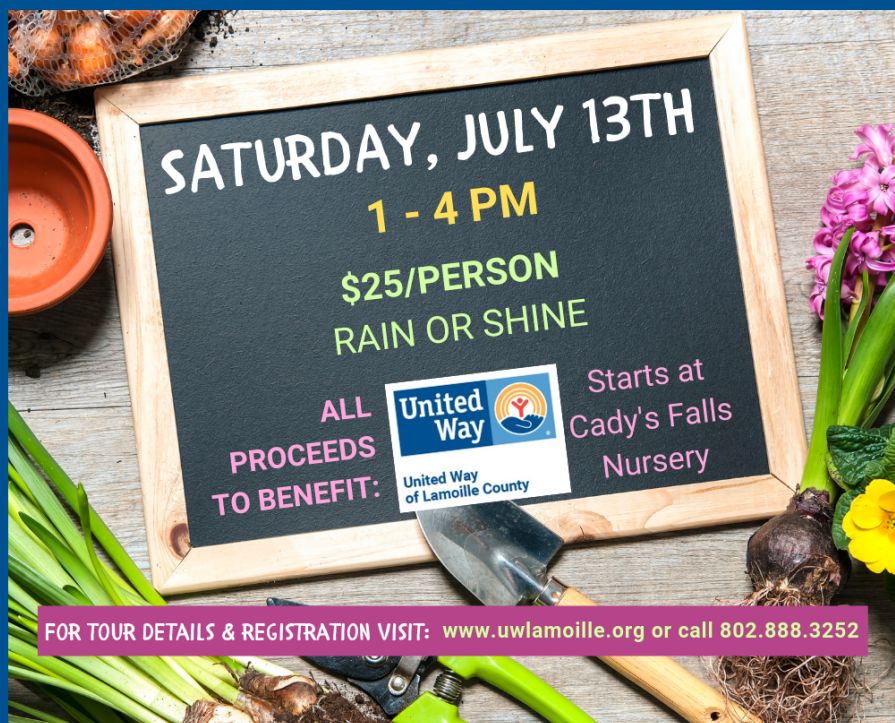
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FOR TOUR DETAILS & REGISTRATION VISIT: www.uwlamoille.org or call 802.888.3252

Lamoille Firewood Project

Seeking Volunteers!

We need help processing over 70 cords of wood! Join us and members of our community to process, stack & deliver firewood to our neighbors in need!



We need volunteers all summer long and on our days of service, September 7th & 11th.

**Call 802.888.3252 or email
unitedway@uwlamoille.org to sign up.**

Thank you!

Thoughts from our Board...



Nan-in, a Japanese master during the Meiji era (1868-1912), received a university professor who came to inquire about Zen.

Nan-in served tea. He poured his visitor's cup full, and then kept on pouring. The professor watched the overflow until he no longer could restrain himself. "It is overfull. No more will go in!"

"Like this cup," Nan-in said, "you are full of your own opinions and speculations. How can I show you Zen unless you first empty your cup?"

This Buddhist parable sums up a lot of what happens in our society today. How often do our own beliefs, pre-conceptions, and opinions stop us from considering another viewpoint or situation? The media talk about an "echo chamber" where we are bombarded by one perspective, insulating and isolating ourselves from any ideas that do not fit our own narrative.

Last winter's debates over homeless shelters and the ongoing public concern over drug treatment programs, low-income housing, even skateboard parks, reminds me of the classic NIMBY phenomenon— we're all in favor of those things, just "not in my backyard".

As a teacher and United Way Board member, I feel it's my job to present all sides of an issue and to value all opinions, without editorializing. As a former journalist, that approach is always on my mind because true journalism is objective rather than subjective. I prefer to listen and get all the facts before I form an opinion and then I favor diplomacy and mediation if some decision has to be reached through a group process like voting, in the hopes that the right thing gets done, even if it involves compromise to achieve that "win-win" outcome.

If our cups have to be full of anything, fill them with compassion and remember, as Plato once said, "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle."

- Doug Boardman, Board Vice President

Upcoming...

Lamoille Valley Private Garden Tour

July 13th

Firewood Project

September 7th & 11th

Stay tuned on Facebook & Instagram to find out about our other upcoming events!

For more information, visit our website
uwlamoille.org

If you've already donated, thank you! If you would like to donate, please visit www.uwlamoille.org or send your donation to:

20 Morrisville Plaza, Suite B, Morrisville, VT 05661

Thank you!!

Lamoille Valley Gleaning Program, Renovation Project

We are nearing our goal of \$86,126!

United Way of Lamoille County and Salvation Farms have partnered up to renovate a historic barn in downtown Morrisville to increase production and distribution for SF's Lamoille Valley Gleaning Program. This project will directly impact 22 additional programs and organizations throughout the Lamoille Valley, such as affordable housing units, Meals on Wheels and afterschool programs.

With a recent \$4000 contribution from the Vermont Community Foundation's Green Mountain Fund, and a generous donor's pledge to match dollar for dollar up to \$8,000, we anticipate construction to start in September!

If you would like to donate to this fund, please make a note with your gift how much you would like to contribute. We have until September to meet the match!

CONGRATULATIONS Stephanie!

We want to congratulate our latest New Foundations graduate, Stephanie, as she moves into her new apartment!

Stephanie came to us as a single-parent living in unstable living conditions. Like many New Foundations participants, Stephanie was not able to get ahead in order to provide for her and her daughter. Without an education, work history, rental history, or enough income to secure a rental, it's nearly impossible to provide for a single person much less any children. But she was determined to make it work to provide the best life for her daughter.



She discovered New Foundations and felt it could be an opportunity to become financially stable and learn to live independently. During Stephanie's time with us, she soared to success! She completed half of her Bachelor's degree, obtained a job that she loves and has maintained it for over a year, reduced her debt, improved her monthly budget, and worked on additional personal goals. She left New Foundations still employed at the job she loves, with a monthly budget that can meet her needs, and an apartment unit in her name close to her job.

We are so proud of all her hard work! Congratulations Stephanie!

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

UPDATES

- **The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive** collected 739 pounds of food for local food shelves on May 11th!
- **Come see us at our local Farmer's Markets and Events!** Learn more about what we do, help us with a community art project, and learn more about how we are connected with other non-profits in our area!

July 24th @ Jeffersonville Farmer's and Artisan Market

July 30th @ Tuesday Night Live in Johnson

August 21st @ Wednesday Night Live in Morrisville

September 18th @ Jeffersonville Farmer's and Artisan Market



LIFT Fund

Homelessness is an obstacle to health and economic success for many in the Lamoille Valley. Unfortunately, some individuals and families are unable to obtain stable housing due to prior evictions, damages, and unpaid rents. These individuals and families have an uphill battle before them to make up for past housing mistakes. Even after they have done the work to make permanent housing a sustainable option, housing remains unreachable. This is why we are reviving the LIFT program fund. This fund is meant to compliment the good work already being done by Lamoille County organizations to address homelessness, and provide an additional resource to our community members

The LIFT program fund creates a safety net for landlords and encourages them to rent to “high risk tenants” by providing insurance against unpaid rent; unpaid utilities owed by the renter; damages beyond normal wear and tear beyond their security deposit. The Landlord agrees to work with the partner agencies and tenant to resolve any issues before the eviction process is started.

LIFT renter participants are referred by UWLC or a partner organization. Renters who participate in LIFT receive an orientation and sign a participant contract which includes regular monthly check-ins with the case manager and the landlord.

The LIFT program is based on programs in other communities that have proven effective in opening doors to households who may not otherwise be successful in obtaining housing. The majority of communities have had few to no claims, and successfully reduced the number of evictions in their communities.

The LIFT program will be available once we have raised enough funds to cover a household.

If you would like to contribute to this restricted fund, please make a note with your gift as to what portion you would like to contribute. We are also looking for landlord partners who would like to participate. Please contact Jim Curran at jim@uwlamoille.org or 802.888.3252 for more information on how the LIFT program works.

THANK YOU!

We'd like to thank these organizations and their employees for their continued support of UWLC. Every donation helps!



Moving On...



**Gail Rushford,
Board Member**

Gail has been an invaluable part of our board, adding her unique and educated perspective to countless decisions and conversations.



**Billi Dunham,
Board Member**

Billi has been a strong advocate for our organization for many years now. We appreciate her dedication and commitment!

We would like to thank them for their tireless efforts on behalf of UWLC and wish them all the best as they move on to new adventures! **We will miss you both!**