Dear Neighbors and Friends,

They seemed hesitant at first, but it didn’t take them long to find their voices. They were speaking from their own experiences so the words came easily and with confidence. They didn’t speak loudly, but they had the room’s attention because everyone knew no one could better explain how Vermont youth are responding to marijuana legalization than, well, Vermont youth. Watching Olivia and Madeline, both freshmen at Vergennes Union High School, advocate on Capitol Hill with 14 of their peers for sustained substance use prevention funding was one of many instances I got to see United Way of Addison County at work in concrete, meaningful ways during my first year as Executive Director.

At United Way of Addison County, we unite people around problems and around solutions. We unite health and human service experts in our county to one another, to funding, and to resources that support their unique missions. We unite people who need help with the people and programs that can help them. We unite people who care about Addison County with the opportunity to make a difference through charitable giving, volunteering, and, as was the case with Olivia and Madeline, advocating for change. We do this because we believe in the power of collaboration. We know we are stronger together because, for 51 years, we’ve seen it work.

It is my pleasure to present our 2018/2019 Annual Report. In the pages that follow you will find the commitments we’ve made to Addison County as a result of our new 5-year strategic plan, an explanation of how we make community impact investment decisions and a summary of where your donations are currently being put to work. You’ll read about Dale and Paulette, two people whose lives have been changed because of your investment in UWAC. You’ll read about the social impact UWAC’s own programs have had on our community this year, find a presentation of the past two years’ audited financial information, and learn how you can get involved.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the people we serve, thank you for entrusting UWAC with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the past 51 years. We continue to make remarkable strides toward a stronger, healthier Addison County because of you. If you have any questions or would like more information about anything you read about in this report, please call or email me.

With Gratitude,

Helena D. Van Voorst, Executive Director
helena@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org
802-388-7189
Our Strategy & Commitments

Always Evolving & Forward Thinking

Leading in Collaboration

Raising Awareness & Growing Support

Our Commitments to Addison County:

- Growing and changing with our community
- Finding new solutions to old problems
- Ensuring that our Board of Directors reflects the communities we serve

- Providing ongoing support to local nonprofits making real change
- Identifying gaps in service and opportunities to collaborate across sectors and fields
- Convening community members and groups to maximize resources and local expertise

- Being responsible, transparent stewards of our community's resources
- Demonstrating the outcomes of our Community Impact Funding
How We Invest Your Money

Our community invests its own resources.

Have you ever wondered what United Way of Addison County (UWAC) does with the money it raises from individual and corporate donations? Most of it goes back to the community in the form of grants that fund life changing programs implemented by a variety of local nonprofits. The funding process involves many people, many steps, big decisions, and serious commitment from the volunteers who help to allocate the money each year.

United Way’s Community Impact Funding (CIF) team is comprised of volunteers of different ages and backgrounds – some with full or part-time jobs, some retired, some stay-at-home parents and even some college students. In January, after receiving the appropriate training, the 2019 team was charged with reviewing and scoring grants submitted to UWAC by nonprofits that depend on funding to do their good work. In addition to reviewing grants to assess each program’s strengths and challenges, CIF volunteers visit each of the nonprofits, on site, to better understand their work and meet staff members, as well as those they serve.

“UWAC takes its responsibility to support and assist participating agencies very seriously, working to stay informed and involving community members to take an active role in its work,” veteran CIF reviewer Linda Schiffer says.

Linda adds, “I’ve learned a lot and continue to learn as we move forward together to provide families and individuals with the tools they need to move towards self-sufficiency and independence. Because it really does require a village.”
$321,814 Invested in 3 Areas of Need

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<th>Area</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>$111,080</td>
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<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>$92,881</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL STABILITY</td>
<td>$117,853</td>
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**HEALTH $111,080**
- Age Well
- Elderly Services
- End of Life Services
- Lund Family Center
- MiddSummer Lunch & Recreation
- Mountain Health Center
- Open Door Clinic
- Pathways
- Turning Point Center
- Women Safe

**EDUCATION $92,881**
- Addison Central Teens
- Addison County Parent Child Center
- Addison County Readers
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes
- Bristol Family Center
- Mary Johnson Children’s Center
- Otter Creek Child Center
- Starksboro Co-operative Preschool
- The DREAM Program
- The HUB Teen Center & Skatepark
- Vermont Adult Learning

**FINANCIAL STABILITY $117,853**
- Addison County Community Trust
- Addison County Transit Resources
- Charter House Coalition
- Counseling Service of Addison County
- John Graham Housing & Services
- HOPE
Dale is a proud, hard working man who always supported his family. Then he found himself feeling hopeless and needing help for the first time in his life.

United@Work was his answer.

Dale now works two jobs, is able to provide for his wife and son and has improved his credit enough to feel hopeful about soon buying a house.
Asking for Help Isn't Always Easy

Dale's wife awoke from her back surgery unable to walk, which was not the outcome they were hoping for. While he tried to manage the crisis and care for her, he missed a lot of work and subsequently lost the job he had held for 11 years. Shortly afterwards, his landlord told him he was selling his house and they would have to find a new place to live. To top it off, the brakes stopped working on his rusty old car. Dale felt hopeless, lost and didn't know where to turn. He found a low-wage, part-time job with Porter Medical Center, but it didn't pay enough to cover their expenses and without computer skills, he didn't know how to search for an apartment.

**Luckily, Porter Medical Center participates in United@Work.**

Dale's supervisor recommended he look into the United@Work program. He resisted, at first, stating that he preferred to handle his own affairs and not accept charity, but his supervisor eventually succeeded in getting Dale to check it out. It turned out to be one of the best decisions he has made. "Trish helped me find an affordable place to live that was handicap accessible for my wife, she helped me fix my credit, and buy a car that fits the wheelchair." Dale adds, "All those things were really great, but more importantly, she gave me back my hope."
It got to the point where I just couldn't take it anymore." Paulette was desperate to find a new living situation. She had moved to Vermont to provide in-home care for a family member, but the duties were overwhelming and the family dynamic was volatile and unhealthy. After a particularly bad argument, she knew she needed to leave, but couldn't find housing she could afford on her disability income. "I decided to Google emergency shelters and John Graham Shelter showed up," explains Paulette. "When they called back to say they found a room for me, I threw my hands up and knew I was going to be free of this terrible situation and start a new chapter in my life!"

"My experience with John Graham Shelter has changed my life. I'm so grateful for all they've done for me."

After setting her up with group housing, John Graham staff connected Paulette with counseling from Counseling Service of Addison County, which she credits with helping her heal some old wounds, making it possible for her to move forward towards independence. She found the peer support from other John Graham clients who have had similar struggles to be invaluable in improving her self-esteem and sense of hope. Currently, Paulette is receiving vocational training to support her goal of finding a career that allows her to be fully self-sufficient.
Paulette thought her only choices were to live in her car or remain in an intolerable living situation.

Then she found John Graham Housing & Services.

The support Paulette received from John Graham staff, clientele and community partners has boosted her esteem and prepared her to pursue a path to independence.
How We're Helping

Days of Caring
2 days of extreme volunteerism
309 volunteers, 26 non-profits
$21,917 saved in labor costs

MyFreeTaxes
127 people with a household income of less than $66,000 served
$34,671 in tax preparation fees SAVED
$154,654 refunded to low income households in Addison County

Substance Use Prevention & Education
14 partner organizations engaged in coalition work
88 Addison County students served by our school-based prevention program, HELP. (Talking to students about substance use and prevention reduces their likelihood of using by 50%)
Every $1 invested in substance misuse prevention saves $10–18 in costs associated with health care, criminal justice, and lost productivity
United@Work

Too often, barriers such as childcare, reliable transportation and acute need for emergency financial assistance derail good employees and disrupt workplaces.

This year we contracted with three local employers to provide on-site services to their low-resource employees. As a result, 141 people in Addison County received confidential advice and assistance with issues such as money management, substance use disorder, housing, childcare and transportation.

United@Work improves workplace productivity, retention, advancement, and financial stability.

Our United@Work coordinator also connects employees with training opportunities to advance their education and/or employment, and facilitates income advance loans that help them meet emergency needs, build credit and begin saving.

Know a workplace that could use United@Work?
Contact us!
FY 18 annual administrative & fundraising costs as percentage of direct public support were 16.1%, an increase from 15.3% in FY 17.
About Our Donors

Number of donors by giving amount:

- Tocqueville ($10,000+): 7
- Robert Frost ($1,250+): 109
- $500-$1,249: 136
- Under $500: 469

Number of donors by town/city:

- Bristol
- Middlebury: 400
- Vergennes: 300
- Other AC Towns: 200
- Out of County: 100
Board & Staff Leadership

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Left to right, back to front

Bruce Grove, Bruce Bayliss, John Dale (President), Ken Stockman, Logan Price, Nial Rele, Abby Blum (Secretary), Shannon Lyford, Ann Hanson, Darcy Tarte (Treasurer), Jerrod Rushton (Vice President)

Amy Bodette Barr, Development & Marketing Director
Lee Bilson, Office Manager
Jesse Brooks, Prevention Coordinator
Trish Brown, Workplace Resource Coordinator
Linnea Oosterman, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
Steve Williams, Accounting & Data Manager
Helena D. Van Voorst, Executive Director
Grant Ryder, Seasonal Development Associate
How You Can Help

GIVE

Monthly gifts, planned gifts, one-time donations, gifts of stock. Gifts of every size and type help change lives and make our community stronger!

UnitedWayAddisonCounty.com/give

ADVOCATE

Policy change can be big or small and you can play a role, regardless of age or circumstance. What does it look like? Advocating can mean anything from petitioning politicians to mobilizing friends and family to fight for a critical cause.

UnitedWayAddisonCounty.com/advocate

VOLUNTEER

We're your one-stop-shop for volunteering! Whether you're an individual who wants to offer your time and expertise or you're a non-profit in need of help, we can help you find a customized solution!

UnitedWayAddisonCounty.com/volunteer
For 51 years, our mission has been to mobilize the compassion and generosity of individuals and organizations in Addison County to improve lives and strengthen the community.

United Way of Addison County
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