

A special section of the Addison Independent • November 12, 2026

Targeted funding makes an impact

United Way of Addison County approved $150,000 in Community Impact Funding (CIF) for the 2026 grant cycle, advancing its commitment to improving lives and strengthening communities across Addison County. Thanks to the continued generosity of local donors, UWAC will invest $22,263 more in partner organizations in 2026 than it did in 2025, supporting programs that address critical community needs.

Each year, UWAC focuses its Community Impact Funding on one of its three strategic priorities: Health, Education, and Financial Stability. The 2026 funding cycle centered on Education, providing resources to organizations that ensure that all people in Addison County are ready

(See Impact, Page 5D)

County lands $3M grant to fight addiction

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Addison County experienced an opioid-involved death rate of 40 per 100,000 residents in 2023 — nearly double Vermont's statewide rate — and yet the county has no inpatient detoxification facility, no residential treatment program, and no hospital-based emergency psychiatric services. An estimated 75% of individuals who need substance use disorder treatment don't receive it.

> *"There are some tangible things that are going to happen in year one that will have a huge impact."*
> *— Helena Van Voorst*

"Geographic isolation, provider shortages and pervasive stigma create compounding barriers that prevent individuals from entering and remaining in care," reads a grant application submitted by United Way of Addison County.

Now, through that application, UWAC has landed a $3 million federal grant that will intensify local efforts to help folks battling substance use disorder.

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program grant, awarded through the Health Resources & Services Administration, will unlock $750,000 during each of the next four years. It will fuel four Addison County nonprofits in their mission to improve access to treatment and recovery services for those fighting addiction — including opioid use disorder.

"There's already so much good work happening in Addison County, and so many good partners doing this work really well," UWAC Executive Director Helena Van Voorst said during an October meeting with the grant principals. "(The grant) is just going to strengthen the connection between those servicers, so that if somebody needs help, there's no wrong door; wherever they land,

(See Addiction, Page 4D)

You are all so generous

Dear Friends of UWAC,

Two years ago, former UWAC Board Chair Ken Stockman challenged our organization to reach the $1 million mark in our annual fundraising campaign. At the time, it felt ambitious and perhaps even a little out of reach. We had just celebrated the most successful campaign in UWAC history, raising $859,941, and while we believed in the generosity of this community, crossing the million-dollar threshold seemed like a lofty goal.

Well, Ken, Addison County did it.

This year, our community made history by contributing $1,011,585 to United Way of Addison County's annual campaign. Every gift, large and small, represents someone who believes that when we come together, we can build a stronger, healthier, and more resilient community. To every donor, volunteer, business, community partner, and advocate who helped make this milestone possible, thank you. Your generosity is nothing short of extraordinary.

In a world where headlines often focus on staggering wealth and widening disparities, I find hope in something much closer to home. Here in Addison County, neighbors continue to invest in neighbors. People choose to give because they understand that the strength of our community is measured not by the wealth of a few, but by the willingness of many to care for one another.

As inspiring as this milestone is, it also reflects an important reality: the needs in our community continue to grow. More families are struggling to afford housing, child care, food, transportation, and other basic necessities. Local nonprofits are seeing increased demand for services while facing rising costs and

(See Generosity, Page 3D)



Who are your contributions helping?

When you support UWAC, you're investing in a stronger, healthier Addison County. Here's a glimpse of how your generosity has helped empower some of our 43 local partner organizations in 2025–2026.

ADDISON ALLIES NETWORK'S purpose is to build a stronger more diverse and inclusive community by providing needed services to and social integration with migrant farm workers and immigrants living in Addison County.
Last year they provided the following:
• 162 adults and 43 children received food support
• 52 individuals received DMV support
• 28 people opened bank accounts
• 160 household goods and clothing requests were filled
• 30 individuals received ESL tutoring

ADDISON HOUSING WORKS develops, owns, and manages affordable housing in Addison County, including rental apartments, mobile home parks, single-family homes, and senior housing. As of 6/30/26 they provided 340 home sites for owner-occupied manufactured homes and 81 shared equity single-family homes that served 1,200 individuals and children in Addison County.

THE OPEN DOOR CLINIC (ODC) provides access to free, quality healthcare services to those who are uninsured or under-insured in a compassionate, respectful and culturally sensitive manner until a permanent healthcare provider can be established. Last year, ODC served/provided:
• 1,336 distinct patients, including 401 new patients
• 572 migrant workers
• 92 H2A and 28 H2B seasonal agricultural workers
• Arranged 2,640 interpreted visits and interactions for 579 people

THE TEEN CENTER offers year-round programming to teens ages 12+. Their mission is to offer space, programming, and resources which supports teen development and well-being. In the past year, they have served 130 teens, including 50 new teens. About 30% identify as LGBTQIA+, including several teens who identify as trans. Approximately 50% are low or very low income, and many attendees are neurodivergent, including teens with autism and ADHD.

JOHN GRAHAM HOUSING & SERVICES (JGHS) has a mission to provide shelter, affordable housing, and essential services to individuals and families without a home or facing housing instability. In FY26, JGHS worked with 340 individuals, including:
• Shelter, housing and/or ongoing services to 180 people at five houses, three Zero Energy Modular Homes (ZEMs), and scattered sites.
• Services such as food, transportation, referral to therapeutic services, outreach, and help with applications to 160 people
• 5,833 total bed-nights of free shelter in JGHS shelter spaces

ATRIA COLLECTIVE works toward the elimination of physical, sexual, and emotional violence through direct service, education, and social change. In one year, they served the following:
• 600 individuals received direct services including safety planning, support groups, emergency and transitional housing, legal support, short term basic needs resources, and on-going emotional support- 10,718 contacts were provided though phone/text contact, in person meetings, electronic communications, and accompaniment to meetings
• 32 adults and 25 children received support through the Supervised Visitation Program services totaling

(See Helping, Page 3D)

Addison County Parent/Child Center

Our Mission:
Providing compassionate and holistic support services that strengthen young families and individuals in Addison County

ACPCC Programs & Services:
Parent Support & Education – provide knowledge of child development to parents.
ConcreteSupports – Addison County diaper bank and emergency family assistance fund.
Playgroups – in Bristol and Vergennes strengthen social connections for parents and children.
HomeVisits, Information, and Referral – Welcome Baby Visits, family outreach support and early intervention services.
Early Childhood Services – therapeutic childcare from birth to pre-k.
Community Development – strong partnerships with Addison County agencies.
Alternative High School Education and Pregnancy Prevention Program–for youth at risk.





Member United Way

Email: info@addisoncountypcc.org • Phone: (802) 388-3171 • Website: www.addisoncountypcc.org

Generosity

(Continued from Page 1D)
uncertain funding. Every day, people in our community are working hard but still finding it difficult to make ends meet.

While we celebrate this incredible achievement, we know our work is far from finished. Reaching this milestone is not the end of the journey — it is a testament to what is possible when a community commits to caring for one another. Together, we will continue to listen, respond, and invest where the need is greatest.

Thank you for believing in United Way of Addison County and for believing in each other.

Helena D. Van Voorst,
Executive Director

Helping

(Continued from Page 2D)
301 units of service which are visits provided or family intakes

• 577 presentations in schools, in the community, professional trainings, and tabling events reaching a total of 11,708 combined youth and adults

ADDISON COUNTY UNIT FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS (ACUSI) and Addison Children's Advocacy Center (ACAC) provides a safe, accommodating, and child-friendly space for victims of child sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, adult sexual violence, as well as abuse of vulnerable adults. ACUSI/ACAC strives to provide a neutral, non-law enforcement, non-threatening setting for families to feel comfortable to come and address their concerns. In 2025-26, ACUSI and ACAC had 84 cases which were broken down to: 69 child cases, 13 adult cases, and 2 senior cases.

VERGENNES COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF operates a monthly home delivery program using community volunteers to help feed Latinx workers and their families living in Addison County who are unable to access existing food shelf services and benefit from access to culturally relevant foods. In June 2026, the program reached 100 adults and 31 children. On average, each monthly delivery directly reaches 109 adults and 27 children who are members of the households which receive the food boxes. Many of these items in the food boxes are used by women in the community to prepare food for other households, bringing the approximate number of people served to closer to 175.

Community-Involved Prevention

Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition is a public health and advocacy coalition comprised of community leaders across health and human service sectors. We come together with the overall mission of improving the health of all residents in Addison County by increasing protective factors, decreasing risk factors, and engaging partners across all sectors. We use evidence-based prevention and public health strategies to support families and individuals in our community. Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition is funded by two federal prevention grants received by the coalition and one state grant awarded in 2022.

VISION STATEMENT

Addison County prioritizes the health and safety of its residents.

MISSION STATEMENT

Improving the health of all in Addison County by increasing protective factors, decreasing risk factors, and engaging partners across all sectors.

Want to join our coalition? Have questions about our work? Need more resources? Email Celia Heath, our Community Initiatives and Grants Manager, at celia@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org.

UNITED WAY
Addison County

Thank you for standing with us and for believing, as we do, that United is the Way.

Please make your gift at UnitedWayAddisonCounty.org

We are proud to be a funded partner of UWAC.

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Addiction

(Continued from Page 1D)

they're going to be able to get the help they need."

United Way applied for the grant and will serve as its fiscal agent. The four local nonprofits that will draw from the funds to ramp up substance use disorder-related services are:

• The Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC), providing outpatient behavioral health treatment and workforce development.

• Mountain Community Health in Bristol, providing primary care and medication for opioid use disorder.

• Peer Recovery Center of Addison County (PRC), providing peer recovery support, overdose prevention, and street outreach.

• Charter House Coalition, providing emergency shelter, coordinated entry, and housing navigation.

Addison County's rural character and a modest safety net for those struggling with drug addiction made this group a strong candidate for the grant award.

So how will the $3 million in funding be deployed?

UWAC and its four nonprofit partners have a game plan that stresses identifying those needing help, engaging them, keeping them in treatment, measuring/maximizing positive outcomes, and getting them on a path to long-term recovery.

Early funding will provide for the purchase of a vehicle to ferry people to counseling and/or treatment; Narcan distribution; the hiring of two substance use disorder clinicians to be embedded at schools; making available opioid use disorder medication (Buprenorphine) prescribed through an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at the PTC's drop-in center; more telehealth opportunities; expanded peer recovery support through newly-hired specialists; more help for those seeking housing and related supports; and a countywide stigma-reduction campaign.

"What's really exciting is that there are some tangible things that are going to happen in year one that will have a huge impact," Van Voorst said.



THESE OFFICIALS REPRESENT organizations that will deploy the $3 million grant, recently won by United Way of Addison County, to boost services for people struggling with substance use disorder. Pictured from left are Chelsea Delisle of the Charter House Coalition, Jubilee McGill and Danielle Wallace of the Peer Revery Center; United Way's Celia Heath, Heidi Melbostad of Mountain Community Health, Helena Van Voorst of United Way, and Taylor Morley of the Counseling Service of Addison County.

Independent photo John Flowers

> *"(The grant) is just going to strengthen the connection between those servicers, so that if somebody needs help, there's no wrong door; wherever they land, they're going to be able to get the help they need."*
>
> *— Helena Van Voorst*

Danielle Wallace is executive director of the Peer Recovery Center, which will see a staffing and programming boost from the new federal resources. The organization is already shopping for an electric vehicle.

"Transportation is always a barrier, whether it's getting someone to treatment, or helping them get to appointments," Wallace explained, noting that public transportation can't always reach folks in the most rural parts of the county in a timely fashion. A new hire at the PRC will, among other things, drive the new vehicle and help direct PRC guests to sobriety-related services.

In addition, the grant funds will allow PRC to expand its hours and bolster its street-outreach efforts. As recently reported by the *Independent*, new guardrails on state funds recently cut off funding for Addison County's street outreach program.

Heidi Melbostad, CEO of Mountain Health, said the new grant resources will give patients more access to peer recovery, as well as more telehealth options for medication-assisted treatment.

"We know when we treat substance use disorders, we're most effective when we can meet people wherever they are," she said of the importance of telehealth.

In addition to adding a nurse practitioner, the funding will allow Mountain Health to bring on a nursing care coordinator. Once they cross Mountain Health's threshold, they'll also have access to the health center's primary and dental care services.

"Substance use disorders are chronic conditions, and they're just one part of someone's overall health and wellbeing," Melbostad said.

> *"Substance use disorders are chronic conditions, and they're just one part of someone's overall health and wellbeing."*
>
> *— Heidi Melbostad*

Taylor Morley is executive director of CSAC. Morley noted the grant money will help CSAC pivot to a Vermont Certified Community-Based integrated Health Center. This kind of center offers a wide range of services, including 24/7 crisis care, outpatient mental health and substance use disorder treatment, primary care screening and monitoring, and peer support services.

"As part of that change in our model, we are asked to do more with substance use disorder than we've done historically," Morley said. "We view our role as being in collaboration with (Mountain Health) and Porter Hospital. We don't see ourselves as becoming *the* primary provider in the county for those services, but we will be providing them to the folks we serve."

HELP IN SCHOOLS

The new infusion of grant money will allow CSAC to train and credential its current staff on best-practices for substance-use prevention and treatment techniques, rather than hiring new employees, according to Morley.

CSAC officials have for years been assisting local schools with mental health supports. Now the organization will be able to hire two substance use disorder clinicians to help youth and young adults.

Morley anticipates those new clinicians will begin their roles next fall.

Meanwhile, Middlebury's Charter House Coalition will be able to use part of the grant money to help homeless folks struggling with addiction.

Many guests who find their way to the Charter House Emergency Shelter at 27 N. Pleasant St. in Middlebury are dealing with addiction.

Chelsea Delisle is a Charter House staff member and housing coordinator. She's grateful the new grant will fund two full-time positions, one of whom will help integrate substance use into the shelter's screening process to better serve those so-afflicted and a housing specialist who will help guests transition to permanent abodes.

What happens after the grant expires?

Local stakeholders plan to build a solid foundation with what they'll be receiving.

"While it's a four-year grant, the work that's going to happen will have a much longer impact on our community and create a really strong system that will last beyond the four years of funding," Van Voorst said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



New Community Project thanks UWAC for its support of our Food Share and Food Justice Garden Programs in Starksboro

Learn more at www.newcommunityproject.info



Impact

(Continued from Page 1D)

to learn and can acquire the skills and competencies to succeed.

Through the CIF process, UWAC establishes new three-year funding partnerships with nonprofit organizations whose missions align with its focus areas. Funding decisions are informed by a thorough review process led by Addison County volunteers, who assess applications, evaluate community needs, and provide recommendations to UWAC's Board of Directors.

A hallmark of UWAC's approach is its commitment to trust-based philanthropy. Rather than requiring extensive grant proposals, organizations begin by submitting a brief Letter of Interest. UWAC's volunteer review team then conducts additional research, reviews relevant community data, and visits organizations to gain a deeper understanding of their work, impact, and goals. This collaborative process helps ensure funding decisions reflect both local priorities and the realities facing nonprofit partners.



"Community Impact Funding represents more than financial support; it is an investment in the people and organizations working every day to make Addison County stronger," said Helena Van Voorst, Executive Director of UWAC. "We are committed to providing flexible funding that allows nonprofits to respond to emerging needs and maximize their impact. By aligning our financial resources with strategic partnerships and community relationships, we can help create lasting change."

The funding process was coordinated by UWAC Community Impact Manager Amy Hoekstra, who guided the review and recommendation process.

"We are grateful to the volunteers, community partners, and Board members who dedicated their time and knowledge throughout this cycle," Hoekstra said. "Their thoughtful work helps ensure that our investments are equitable and focused on achieving meaningful outcomes for our community."

(See Page 6D for donation breakdown)

Thank you to the donors, staff, and volunteers of United Way of Addison County.



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Explore volunteer opportunities at our online Volunteer Center. Search by project, organization, or interest!

UNITED WAY
Addison County

The campaign dollars raised in 2025-2026 will allow UWAC to invest in three impact areas with the following partners in the coming Community Impact Funding cycle:

Health: $133,046

Addison Allies Network:	$9,597
Addison Children's Advocacy Center:	$8,000
Addison County Home Health & Hospice:	$12,500
Addison County Relocalization Network:	$10,000
Age Well:	$10,000
Atria Collective:	$19,449
Elderly Services:	$8,700
Have-a-Heart Food Shelf:	$5,000
Lund:	$2,000
Mountain Community Health:	$12,500
Open Door Clinic:	$22,500
Peer Recovery Center:	$12,800

Education: $150,000

Addison County Parent Child Center:	$15,500
Addison County Readers:	$2,500
Bristol Family Center:	$12,000
The Commodore Club:	$7,500*
Common Ground Center:	$2,000*
DREAM Program:	$1,000
Henry Sheldon Museum:	$3,500*
The HUB Teen Center & Skatepark:	$10,000
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum:	$6,500*
Mary Johnson Children's Center:	$10,000
MAUSD Mentoring:	$1,000
Middlebury Area Land Trust:	$5,000
Middlebury Community Music Center:	$5,000*
Otter Creek Child Center:	$10,000
Red Clover Children's Center:	$4,000
Rokeby Museum:	$5,000*
Starksboro Cooperative Preschool:	$12,000
The Teen Center:	$7,500
Town Hall Theater:	$5,000*
Vermont Adult Learning:	$15,000
Willowell Foundation:	$10,000

Financial Stability: $155,584

Addison Housing Works:	$20,584
CVOEO:	$5,000
Charter House Coalition:	$22,500
Counseling Service of Addison County:	$20,000
HomeShare Vermont:	$10,000
HOPE:	$22,500
John Graham Housing & Services:	$22,500
New Community Project:	$5,000
Tri-Valley Transit:	$22,500
Vergennes Community Food Shelf:	$5,000

*** Indicates new funded partner in FY27**





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It helps to remember our homeless neighbors

Addison County Homelessness Awareness Day 2026 was recognized on Thursday, Jan. 22. The theme was "Remembering Those We've Lost."

It was an event organized by the Addison County Housing Coalition (ACHC) and planned in tandem with statewide Homelessness Awareness Day events. In recognition of those from the unhoused community who have died in Addison County, people gathered for a candlelight walk through town from the College Green just south of the roundabout, down Main Street, culminating at the Middlebury Town Green Gazebo for a brief vigil to memorialize those who are often forgotten.

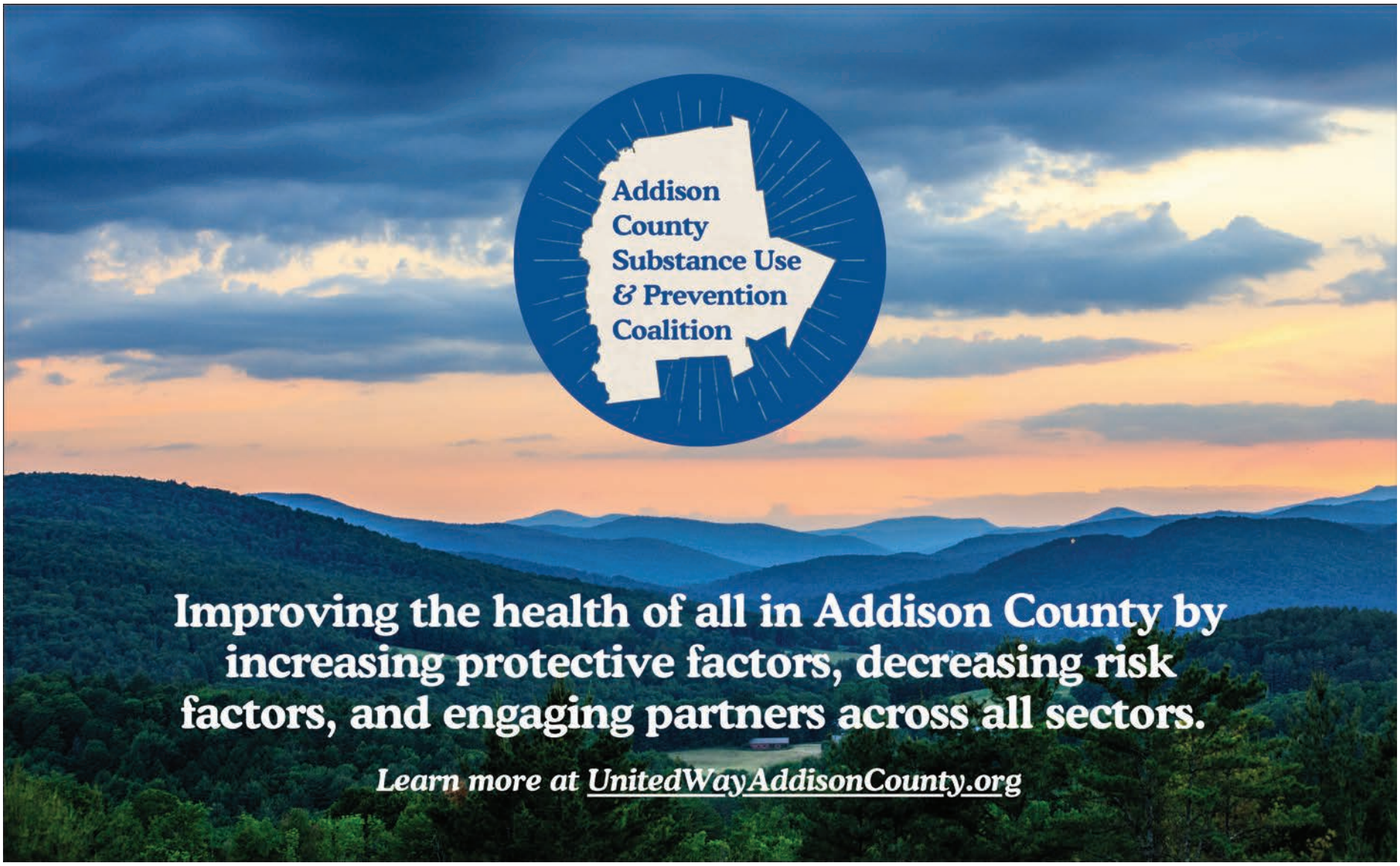


Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

LED candles were provided to attendees, with gratitude from the Porter Family Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation. Warm drinks and snacks were provided at the gathering on the green, compliments of Middlebury College. United Way of Addison County provided material support for signage.

At the gazebo, Charter House Coalition Executive Director Heidi Lacey delivered opening remarks followed by a ceremonial naming of those we've lost, followed by a moment of silence.

Closing remarks came from the Rev. Johny Daigan Widell, Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community, Vermont Cares, and Turning Point Center of Addison County.





Addison Wright wins United Way scholarship

United Way of Addison County fosters community service for all community members, but especially for our youth in Addison County. In that spirit, UWAC honors a local high school senior through the UWAC Youth Volunteer Scholarship Award. On behalf of a generous donor, one student is chosen annually for the award, recognizing a high school senior who has volunteered in their community and is interested in advancing their education. This award comes with a $3,000 scholarship for the Addison County student to be used for post-graduation education.

Addison Wright of Monkton is the 2026 UWAC Youth Scholarship Award recipient! Addison has spent her high school career volunteering weekly for the UCC Middlebury's Community Supper program. Through her volunteerism, Addison learned how easy it is to connect with others in your community through something as simple as a warm meal.

"I have found my place in my community, with my fellow volunteers, as well as the people sitting down for dinner," said Addison. "My volunteer work has never felt difficult or burdensome. I have enjoyed each day at Community Supper because when I am there, I am immersed in my community. I feel supported and valued, and I strive to help others feel the same."



ADDISON WRIGHT

"My volunteer work has never felt difficult or burdensome. I have enjoyed each day at Community Supper because when I am there, I am immersed in my community. I feel supported and valued, and I strive to help others feel the same."
— Addison Wright

Julianna Doherty has supervised Addison at Community Suppers and said that where Addison has really shone has been behind the scenes.

"The cast of volunteers changes regularly and includes individuals of all ages and abilities. I am consistently impressed with Addison's ability to lead, regardless of the demographic involved," said Julianna. "She leads with confidence, and it is clear she understands that Community Supper brings much more than a plate of food to our guests; it brings connection and a sense of community."

After graduating from Mount Abraham Union High School, Addison planned to attend Tulane University this fall.

From the Board and Staff of United of Addison County, congratulations, Addison! Thank you for your volunteerism!









COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHERED at the gazebo on Middlebury's town green in January of 2026 for Addison County Homelessness Awareness Day 2026. Participants gathered in recognition of those from the unhoused community who have died in Addison County.

Photos by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

Addison County Unit for Special Investigations
& Child Advocacy Center



At Addison County Unit for Special Investigations and Child Advocacy Center, children affected by abuse have a safe, welcoming place to share their experiences with a trained forensic interviewer.

We bring together medical and mental health professionals, law enforcement, child protection, and advocates to coordinate a response centered on each child's needs—reducing repeated retelling of traumatic experiences and connecting families with support and care.

Our local impact

July 1, 2025–October 30, 2026

103 clients served, plus family members who also received support.

- Over 100 school staff members and community partners trained to strengthen our community's response to child abuse.
- Counseling available right at our center, bringing compassionate care to children and families in a familiar, supportive setting.
- 30% of our 2026 cases involved an online or technology-related crime component, through October 30.

From forensic interviews and family advocacy to on-site counseling and prevention education, we help children and families move toward healing—at no cost to families.
Proud to be a funded partner of United Way of Addison County.

Together, we help make safety, support, and healing possible.

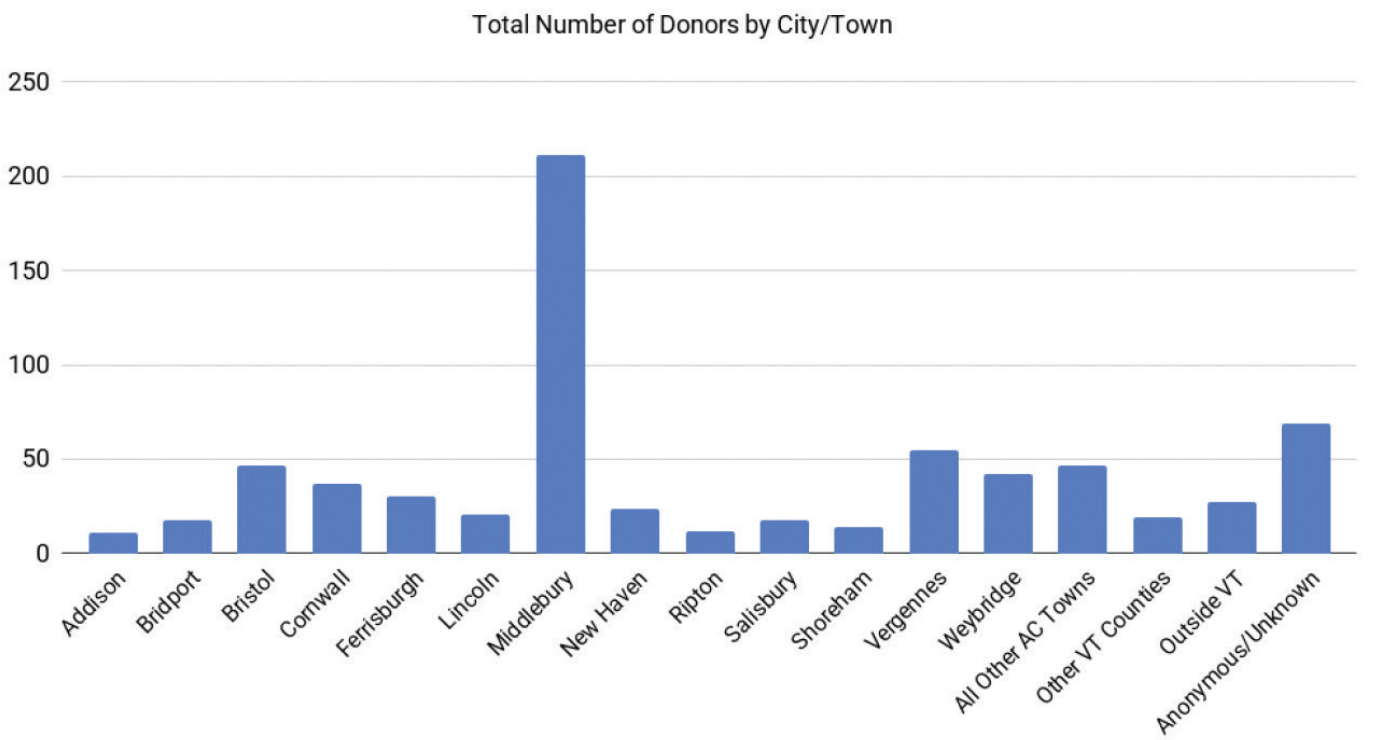
Learn more, get involved, or donate: www.acusi.org

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!
Facebook: @Addison County Unit for Special Investigations
Instagram: acusi_acac

2025-26 UWAC Donors

Campaign Goal: $785,000
Campaign Dollars Raised: $1,011,585

Total Donors by Household: 691
New Donors by Household: 42



Free, confidential, peer-led recovery support throughout Addison County.

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Volunteer labor makes a big difference

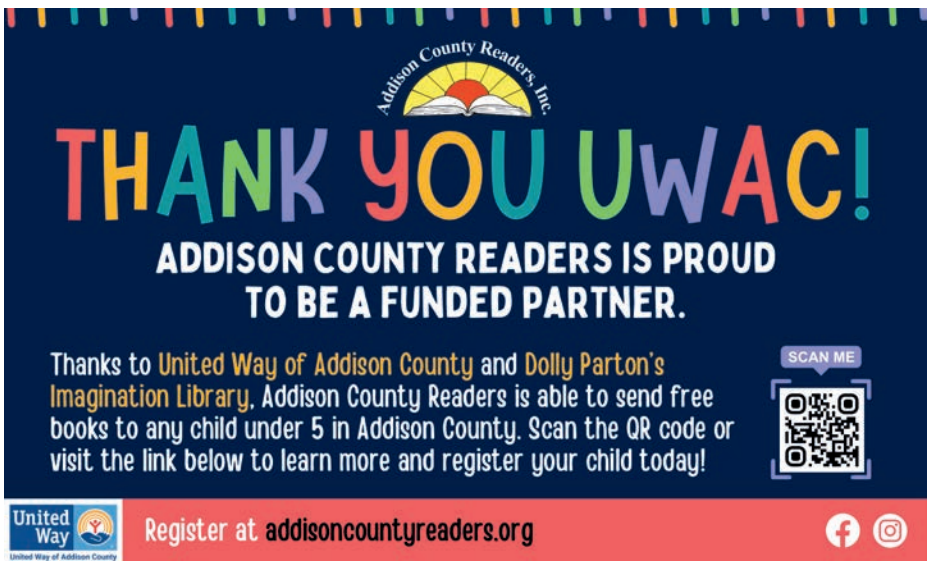
United Way of Addison County supports volunteering on the special Days of Caring each September, but also through the year. Your generosity empowers volunteers across Addison County to make a meaningful impact every day.

Whether they're assembling backpacks for local students, tending community gardens, painting fences, or serving on nonprofit boards, volunteers are helping build a stronger, more connected community, and your support makes it all possible.

That spirit of service shines especially bright each September during Days of Caring. Over the course of two days, hundreds of volunteers join forces with dozens of local nonprofits to tackle projects that make a lasting difference. It's a lovely reminder of what can happen when neighbors come together with a shared commitment to helping one another.

Your investment does more than fund programs; it sparks volunteerism, strengthens partnerships, and creates opportunities for people to give back in meaningful ways. Thank you for making this work possible. Together, we are creating a stronger, more resilient, and more vibrant Addison County.







Addison County Youth Survey

The 2025 Addison County Youth Survey was conducted to provide data that can help inform and improve substance misuse prevention programs for Addison County youth and families. This data will also be used to support the evaluation of the United Way of Addison County's (UWAC) Drug Free Communities grant. Similar surveys were conducted in 2021, 2023, and 2024.

60.5% of Addison County High School Students ⋮ **65.9%** of Addison County Middle School Students

Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they smoke marijuana/cannabis once or twice a week.

59.7% of Addison County High School Students ⋮ **61.2%** of Addison County Middle School Students

Think people have moderate or great risk of harming themselves if they use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to them.

88.5% of Addison County High School Students ⋮ **93.3%** of Addison County Middle School Students

Believe parents think it is wrong or very wrong for them to use electronic vapor products.

Scan here for the full summary of results of the 2025 Addison County Youth Survey:

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See the full survey online at tinyurl.com/UWACyouthsurvey2025. Or click on this QR code:

New Data for 2025

The following data is related to issues that students are concerned about and was asked for the first time in the 2024 and 2025 Addison County Youth Surveys.

Addison County students feel that the following issues are a big concern for youth in their school and/or community:

	MS %	HS %
Bullying	24.7	15.6
Dating or relationship violence	18.8	16.3
Racism	36.8	21.4
Sexism	31.0	21.7
Homophobia/transphobia	32.6	27.3
Religious discrimination	21.2	14.4
Xenophobia	21.1	14.4
Ableism and barriers to accessibility	22.0	16.0
Body shaming	39.4	25.8
Alcohol use	20.7	22.4
Marijuana/cannabis use	23.9	25.7
Vaping	37.4	39.7
Other drug use	24.4	22.0
Mental health	35.6	38.8
Suicide	28.6	21.5
Having enough money	21.6	18.9
Having enough food	21.6	18.2







UWAC Staff

Pictured, left to right, are Executive Director Helena Van Voorst, Development & Marketing Director Erin Reed, Community Impact Manager Amy Hoekstra, Accounting & Operations Coordinator Maria Collette, Director of Finance Steve Williams, and Community Initiatives & Grants Manager Celia Heath.

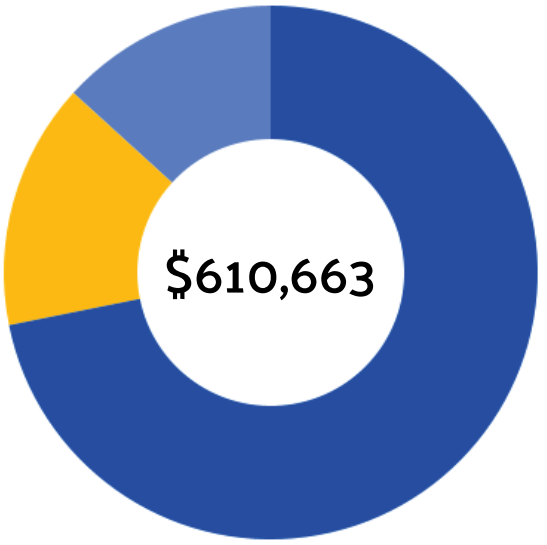
UNITED WAY Addison County 365 Business Circle

The Addison County 365 Business Circle provides busy entrepreneurs, business owners, and managers an opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of people in your community - with just one gift. Get involved at UnitedWayAddisonCounty.org.

Thank you to our 2025-2026 Members

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Bristol Financial Services
Champlain Valley Properties
Energy Futures Group
Gaines Insurance Agency
Grapevine Grille
Green Mountain Electromagnetics
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Sweet Cecily
Vermont Book Shop
Vermont Gynecology
Wildflower Ironworks

UWAC FY26 Community Investments



Community Impact Funding Grants: $438,630

Community Programs: $80,911

Mission Investments: $91,122

Community Programs

Days of Caring connects volunteers with nonprofits for two days of making a change in our community

Stuff the Bus, an annual program that provides 500 backpacks and school supplies to Addison County students

The Volunteer Center connects volunteers with opportunities that match their interests, availability, and passion

Vermont 2-1-1, the helpline that connects callers to available human services including food, shelter and healthcare

Youth Scholarship Award recognizes an Addison County student for their volunteerism

Mission Investments

$2,238	**Warming kits** for individuals experience homelessness in Addison County
$15,724	**Addison County Housing Solutions Group:** to support individuals experiencing homelessness and the agencies providing services
$25,000	Donor-designated funds to five different **Addison County food shelves**
$48,160	**Fiscal agent:** administrative and financial support for area nonprofits



UWAC Board of Directors

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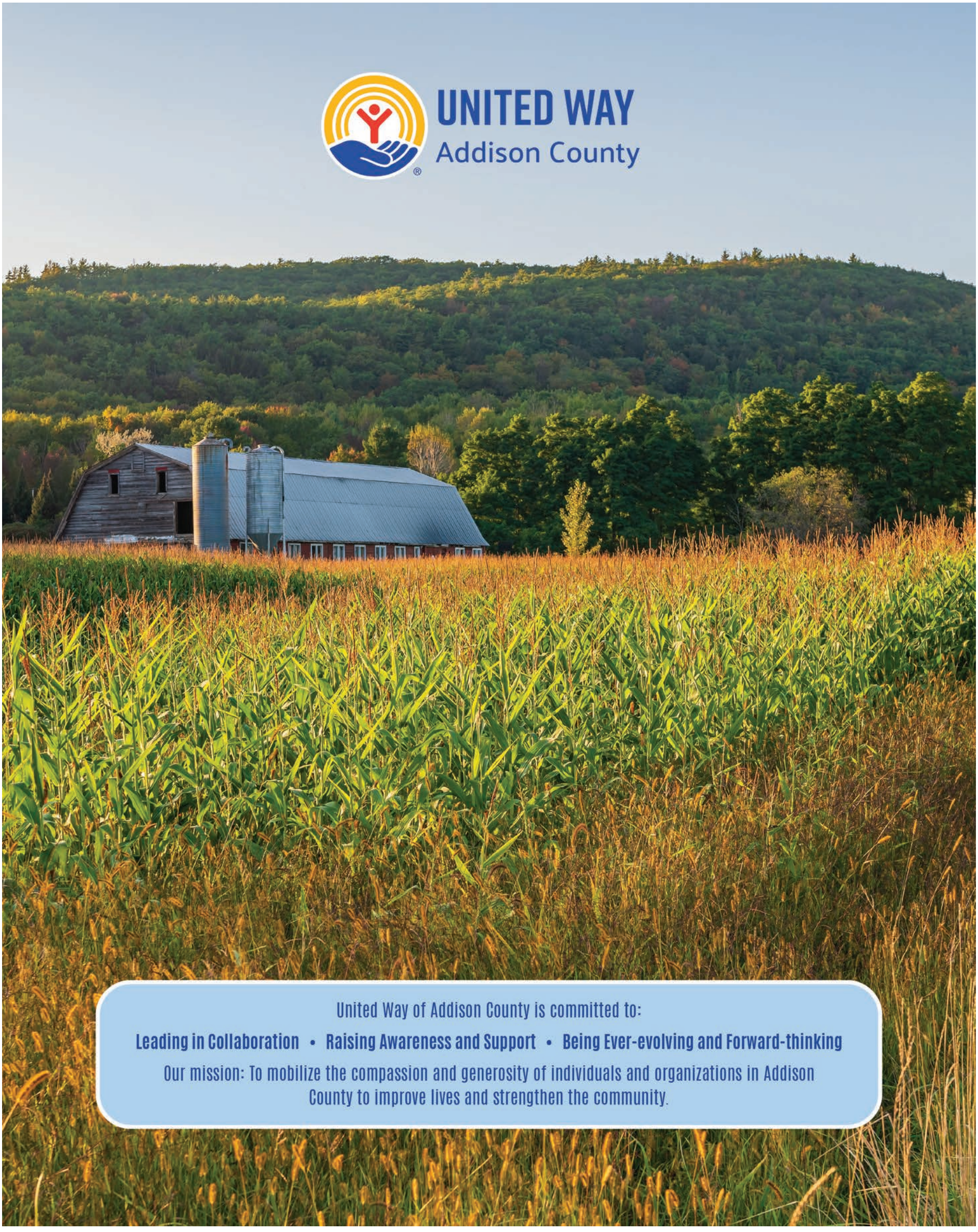
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Thank you for all you do!



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UNITED WAY
Addison County
United Way of Addison County is committed to:
Leading in Collaboration • Raising Awareness and Support • Being Ever-evolving and Forward-thinking
Our mission: To mobilize the compassion and generosity of individuals and organizations in Addison County to improve lives and strengthen the community.