

A Special Section of the *Addison Independent* October 27, 2022

United Way: What's my connection?

As you flip through this *Addison Independent* special section, we invite you to ask yourself: What is my connection to United Way of Addison County?

We recently asked a group of 20 donors, funded partners, and/or community leaders that very same question as part of our strategic planning process. Of course,

the answers were different every time, but one thing remained consistent: every person's connection was deeper than any label or category could convey.

"Longtime donor," one person replied. "UWAC and I share the same sense of community. I like that this organization focuses on doing what's best for

everyone."

"Former Board member," another started. "UWAC is one of the primary ways I stay informed about what's really happening in Addison County. I feel more connected to the community because of my connection to UWAC."

"UWAC provides solutions to many of our needs - not just funding," said one local Executive Director. *"UWAC and I share the same sense of community. I like that this organization focuses on doing what's best for everyone." - longtime donor*

Our donors don't "just" give; they improve lives. Our funded partners aren't just grantees; they are our partners in turning the curve on the biggest challenges our community faces. The recipients of your generosity and of our partners' services aren't just statistics; they are Addison County; they are all of us.

We're confident that upon reflection, you'll find that your connection to United Way of Addison County is greater and more important than ever before. You haven't just "helped" us improve lives and strengthen this community - you've done it. And while the phrase "we couldn't have done it without you" is often overused, we mean it in the most literal way. This organization is guided, funded, and inspired by YOU. We are United Way of Addison County and we are Ready to Live United. Thank you - for everything.

With gratitude,

Helena Van Voorst
Executive Director

Ken Stockman
Board Chair

Reimagine Addison County

Coordinated by United Way of Addison County, Reimagine Addison County is an initiative intended to illuminate the innovative approaches and adaptations forced by the pandemic and encourage shared pathways to an even stronger, healthier community. Despite the many challenges we still face, this is a time of opportunity — a chance to rethink how sustained, collaborative action can better meet our collective needs and boost our economy, culture, and social safety framework.

UWAC worked on this initiative with the Vermont-based nonprofit Youth Catalytics. Doug Wilhelm, a *(See Reimagine, Page 3)*

Vermont Voices tells our stories to create change

In the fall of 2021, we interviewed 19 funded partners and three neighboring United Ways as part of our three-month advocacy listening tour. Talking with our partners improved our understanding of local advocacy efforts and goals, leading to our first-ever policy priority agenda. It expanded our knowledge of policy and legislative efforts in Addison County and across Vermont. We have stronger relationships with our partners and an improved understanding of how advancing advocacy within our organization can support local and statewide efforts.

(See Voices, Page 2)



Helena Van Voorst and Ken Stockman remind us that donors improve lives of their neighbors.

Voices

(Continued from Page 1)

After analyzing our funded partner interviews, we determined a significant need for local-level advocacy support. In addition to our policy priorities, UWAC is committed to helping our funded partners increase organization visibility and share the stories that broadcast

their organizational importance and impact.

The goal of this initiative is to tell our communities' stories and bring them to our legislature and lawmakers, allowing Vermonters to be heard at a local and statewide level.

What is Vermont Voices: Stories for Change? It's a grassroots initiative that raises the voices of Vermonters to create lasting change. The goal of this initiative is to tell our communities' stories and bring them to our legislature and

lawmakers, allowing Vermonters to be heard at a local and statewide level.

What are the goals?

- Lift up the voices of Vermont residents
- Raise awareness of the issues Vermont residents are currently facing
- Bring impactful stories to our local and state representatives
- Use these stories to create lasting change at a local and state level



- Ensure anonymity of storytellers unless requested otherwise

What will be featured this year?

We want to feature what YOU feel is important! What do you want our local and state representatives to know about? What issues are you passionate

about? What are some positive things that are currently happening in your community? What seems to be working well? Which systems have the most barriers? Lawmakers and community members want to hear from you.

Prioritizing youth in Addison County

Last month, United Way of Addison County (UWAC) sent three staff members and five members of our public health coalition PEEPS (Partners Encouraging Environments that Promote Success), to attend the 2022 Planet Youth Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. The conference was three days of presentations and included 42 substance

prevention and public health speakers from across the globe. Also included were networking opportunities, get-togethers, and speakers from Planet Youth. Included in the lineup of impressive presenters was

Kids do not choose where they live; they grow up in the environment we put them in.

Chief Transformation Officer Geoff Couldry of United Way Calgary and Area (pictured here with Jesse Brooks, Director of Advocacy), who shared their Planet Youth strategy and progress.

But why Iceland?

Approximately 20 years ago, Iceland had the highest youth substance use rates in *(See Planet Youth, Page 3)*



Nothing makes us happier than connecting a volunteer to the needs in our community!

Visit our online Volunteer Center to find a volunteer opportunity that fits your interests, availability, and passion!

<https://bit.ly/UWACVolCtr>

For more information, contact Amy Hoekstra at amyh@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org



We are so proud to be a funded partner of UWAC.



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REIMAGINE
ADDISON
COUNTY



Rethinking a stronger, healthier community.

Reimagine

(Continued from Page 1)

Research Associate for Youth Catalytics, conducted interviews with a representative group of key stakeholders and produced a video of those interviews with Irith Fuks, an intern from Middlebury College. They spoke with individuals from the arts sector, clean energy initiatives, town centers, mental health advocates, workforce development, affordable housing, parent/child, and food access programs.

This series debuted in October of 2022 and features videos and written posts highlighting the creative and resourceful pivots that have emerged thus far. Learn how leaders in our community are reimagining solutions to longstanding problems that will ensure a brighter future for all of us.

Watch the videos online at unitedwayaddisoncounty.org/reimagine-addison-county.

Planet Youth

(Continued from Page 2)

Europe. Today, the country has the lowest. Prevention leaders in Iceland report that they have been able to sustain these low numbers because of a method known as the “Icelandic Prevention Model,” or IPM. Planet Youth is the organization behind the method, and studies show that the model is transferable despite Iceland’s unique culture and population. Planet Youth representatives will tell you that the method is not groundbreaking, not complicated, and not difficult to achieve. Yet, Iceland has reduced substance use better than any other country.

“It’s easy to do what we have been doing,” said Jon Sigfusson, Chairman of Planet Youth. “Only a fraction of funding is spent in the direction of prevention. Children are not responsible for their future; we are!”

Planet Youth describes the model as “Social Innovation.” It is a primary prevention strategy that impacts the choices and opportunities within the environment; kids do not choose where they live; they grow up in the environment we put them in. It is easy to focus on the problems and design a patch; the IPM focuses on changing communities for the long term. It is as simple (and as difficult) as that.

“My biggest takeaway from the Planet Youth conference is the importance of prioritizing youth,” said UWAC Youth Coordinator Sean Davison, a member of the Mt. Abraham Union High School Class of 2023. “UWAC has been an advocate of that ideology, and adding some of the practices that were discussed during the conference, I’m sure we can take the big steps to create

a better future for our community.”

In 1998 the vision was a drug-free Iceland using traditional methods of telling kids that drugs were not good for them; “say no to drugs” (sound familiar?). Evidence shows that this approach is ineffective and can even promote drug use. Planet Youth leaders believe that successful messages of substance prevention don’t mention drugs at all; rather, the message is about changing the environment to strengthen protective factors.

The model follows a scientific method that focuses on four domains (family, peer group, school, and leisure time), collects data, and uses the data to mobilize environmental change. This data is not one or two years old; it is typically turned around in one or two months and requires an 80% response rate. This is a best practice of the IPM; when you have real-time data from most of the population, no one can dispute

that these are your local kids from your local community.

Iceland and Vermont might seem like they are worlds apart, but a week in Reykjavik made us appreciate the abundance of similarities. While Addison County is not an island made up of geothermal pools and volcanic rock and surrounded by ocean, we do have a lot of the same values. The outdoors, small businesses, local cuisine, art, and community are just a few that we noticed were the same. These values seem to be the key ingredients to achieving such great success, which is why we believe we can do the same in Addison County. Initiatives such as “Parent Cafes,” “Leisure

(See Healthy youth, Page 9)

“My biggest takeaway from the Planet Youth conference is the importance of prioritizing youth.”

– UWAC Youth Coordinator Sean Davison



Helena Van Voorst



Steve Williams



Erin Reed



Jesse Brooks



Lee Bilson



Amy Hoekstra

Meet the team from UWAC!

Helena Van Voorst, Executive Director

Hometown: Vergennes

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** The compassionate, generous, hard-working, community-minded people!

• **My very first job was:** Cleaning rooms at Skyview Motel in Ferrisburgh

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** Missing lunch

• **Cat person or dog person?:** Although I love and have loved many dogs in my life, I must confess that I am more of a cat person (mostly because if I *don't*, my cat will make me pay)

Steve Williams, Director of Finance

Hometown: New Haven

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** The beautiful countryside

• **My very first job was:** washing dishes at the Brandon Inn during early high school

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** Listening to office conversations that end in "Sorry, Steve!"

• **Cat person or dog person?:** I was born a cat person, as my three-legged tortoiseshell friend Ginger can attest to. However, a chihuahua pug named Pooka, who I visit periodically with her family 657 miles away, has turned me into both!

Erin Reed, Development & Marketing Director

Hometown: Addison

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** The community connections! Even if you've not lived here long (looking at you, Amy Hoekstra), it doesn't take long to become part of the community.

• **My very first job was:** working on a sheep farm

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** having a brainstorming session take place on my whiteboard while I'm on vacation!

• **Cat person or dog person?:** I must remain loyal to my energetic Aussie, Willoughby: D-O-G.

• **My very first job was:** McDonald's

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** Plant care! All they need is water, light, and a little singing!

• **Cat person or dog person?:** Dogs are the BOMB! Dogs rule; cats drool!

Amy Hoekstra, Volunteer & Donor Engagement Coordinator

Hometown: Middlebury

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** Experiencing all the different landscapes throughout different seasons.

• **My very first job was:** Algebra tutor

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** Having to answer "How do I get my iPhone to...?"

• **Cat person or dog person?:** I refuse to choose.

Celia Heath, Public Health & Advocacy Coordinator

Hometown: Starksboro

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** It is home to my favorite people!

• **My very first job was:** Lifeguard & Swim Instructor

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** when the whole office is getting 7 South, but I brought my lunch to work.

• **Cat person or dog person?:** Being a dog person is half of my personality.

(See UWAC Staff, Page 5)

Jesse Brooks, Director of Advocacy

Hometown: Ferrisburgh

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** The history! It's all around us.

• **My very first job was:** Stockroom associate at JCPenney

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** When I make a mistake! The realist side of me knows that no one is perfect; the stickler side of me demands that I try to be.

• **Cat person or dog person?:** Both make me smile!

Lee Bilson, Office Administrator

Hometown: Bristol

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** What is not to love?

THANK YOU

Four photos showing children in various settings: three children at a table, a group of children on a path, four children sitting on a bench, and two children walking together.

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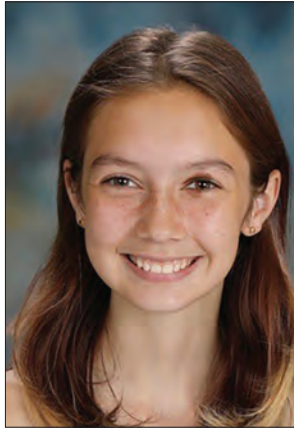
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Celia Heath



Sean Davison



Gina Lebeau

UWAC Staff

(Continued from Page 4)

Sean Davison, Youth Coordinator
Hometown: Bristol

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** I love being able to meet so many of the members of our community. I couldn't live without the trails in my hometown, and our swimming holes are amazing in the summer too.

• **My very first job was:** Walking dogs around town.

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** Showing up for a meeting at the wrong location...

• **Cat person or dog person?:** Dog person!

Gina Lebeau, Youth Coordinator
Hometown: Panton

• **My favorite thing about Addison County:** Aside from Goodies Ice Cream, I love Addison County's natural beauty.

• **My very first job was:** Youth Coordinator at United Way of Addison County.

• **My UWAC coworkers would say my biggest office pet peeve is:** As a new hire at UWAC, I have not discovered any pet peeves yet.

• **Cat person or dog person?:** I'm a dog person all the way, specifically big lap dogs! They are just so cute and cuddly!



We can all be Uniterers!

PLEASE HELP WHERE AND WHEN YOU CAN. LET'S ALL DO OUR PART TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED WAY OF ADDISON COUNTY!

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Two new CIF partners join UWAC

UWAC's Board of Directors approved the addition of two new organizations to its Community Impact Funding (CIF) partners in 2022: Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) and Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (PCAVT).

UWAC's funding to ACORN will include \$5,000 per year (for three years) to support their "Pharmacy: Food as Medicine" programming. This "Prescription CSA" or "Food is Medicine" program addresses three major needs in Addison County: diet-related illness, food insecurity and local farm viability.

UWAC's funding to PCAVT will include \$3,000 per year (for three years) to support the Nurturing Parent Program (NPP), a family-centered parenting program that was specifically designed for the prevention of abuse. The NPP has been proven to be effective in promoting positive protective factors and in decreasing the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

Historically, UWAC has accepted CIF applications every winter in one of our three priority areas: health, education, and financial stability. Funding commitments are made for three years (dependent on the success of annual fundraising efforts) and focus each year on one of the three priority

areas. A diverse team of dedicated Addison County citizens carefully review and evaluate applications and make program recommendations to UWAC's Board of Directors.

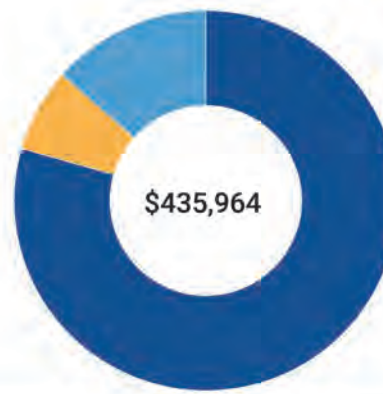
"UWAC's ability to increase our financial investment in the community in the midst of an ongoing pandemic speaks volumes about the people who live and work here."

— Executive Director Helena Van Voorst

This year, UWAC accepted applications in the health priority area using a hybrid model; level funding their existing health partners and accepting applications from new-to-UWAC organizations addressing health challenges in Addison County. In total, \$117,460 in funds will be distributed to 14 health partners (and \$336,857 to all 31 partners) in 2022 thanks to the generous support of the community.

"UWAC's ability to increase our financial investment in the community in the midst of an ongoing pandemic speaks volumes about the people who live and work here," said Executive Director Helena Van Voorst. "As the needs of the community have grown in number and scale over the past 2.5 years, the community's support of UWAC has grown with them. Our Board, staff, volunteers, nonprofit partners, and donors are strongly united in our fight to improve lives and strengthen the community - and that has made all the difference."

Community Investments

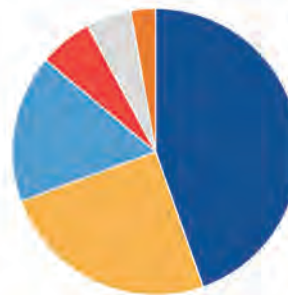


Community Impact Funding Grants
\$346,278

UWAC Community Programs
\$58,761

UWAC Mission Investments
\$30,925

Community Programs



- 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
- Stuff the Bus**, an annual program that provides 500 backpacks and school supplies to Addison County students
- Days of Caring** connects volunteers with nonprofits for two days of making a change in our community
- Youth Scholarship Awards** recognizes three Addison County students for their volunteerism
- Learn United**, a collaboration with Hedgehog + Fox to bring free professional development opportunities to nonprofits

Mission Investments

\$25,025 Addison County Housing Solutions Group: to support individuals experiencing homelessness and the agencies providing services

\$5,900 Addison County Racial Equity Learning Community: to facilitate conversations with local nonprofit leaders who support each other to address and dismantle systemic racism both within our organizations and within our communities

The United Way helps to support the Addison County Parent/Child Center's Learning Together Program.

The Learning Together Program is an intensive, twenty-eight hour per week training program which focuses on helping young people gain the job readiness and retention skills along with other skills that prepare participants to be successful in the work place, as parents, and in life.

The program consists of six basic components, while representing a general framework, are balanced through a schedule that is individualized for each participant. Participants spend the bulk of their hours in Learning Together at an on-the-job placement doing childcare, clerical work or food service at the Center. The focus is on learning how to get along with co-workers, how to take supervision, how to be reliable and dependable and able to avoid distractions while on the job.

Parental Resilience: We work with families in their homes, in community and in our Learning Together Program. Each family has an outreach worker who can support them in ways that the family is expressing as helpful. Learning Together provides support through classes, groups, peer connections and counseling opportunities. Outreach workers offer families help with housing, transportation, medical appointments and financial help.

Social Connections: Learning Together, which offers 28 hours per week of programming for parents and youth at risk of dropping out of school and/or becoming parents early. Participants

are able to get and give peer support and receive professional supports while their children are in a therapeutic childcare setting.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development: We teach parenting weekly, as well as give individual supports to parents who are with us in childcare or in their homes. Parents spend time in childcare and learn strategies in the room, with their child.

Concrete Support in Times of Need: we have a family assistance fund where families can access up to \$250 per year to help them through hard times, lessening stress in their lives. We also provide supports such as food, clothing and help to find housing.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children: The core of Learning Together is that one third of the time a parent is in our program; they are in childcare with professional caregivers and their children. We teach parenting through teaching child care job skills and focus on development and well-being for children. We focus on emotional regulation for children and other developmental and pro-social behaviors. We have key phrases to help parents and children. We focus on building the relationship between the parent and child. Our therapeutic program works on the social and emotional well-being of infants and toddlers.



**Addison County
Parent/Child Center**

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addisoncountypcc.org

388-3171





2022 UWAC Board of Directors

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Give. Advocate. Volunteer.

United Way of Addison County's advocacy focus creates and frames a strategic policy agenda. We aim to improve every person's health, education, and financial stability in Addison County by improving public policy and systems that support local services and efforts.

Our Policy Guidelines:

We are committed to achieving a more comprehensive approach that invests needed resources in education, childcare, healthcare, affordable housing, job training, and other programs and services that promote social determinants of health to build safer and more vibrant communities.

Our Guiding Principles

As we evaluate policy proposals and legislation, we specifically examine the extent to which they:

- Decrease disparities and promote equity
 - Include funding needed to implement and achieve desired outcomes fully
 - Are championed by advocates with lived experience or who are from impacted communities
 - Align with UWAC's community impact work and investments
 - Provide long-term bipartisan solutions
- In the fall of 2021, we interviewed 19 funded partners and three neighboring United Ways as part of a three-month listening tour. Our learnings included:
- A better understanding of our partners' advocacy efforts and goals
 - Real-time information to create a policy priority agenda at UWAC
 - Expanded knowledge of policy and legislative efforts in Addison County and across Vermont
 - Strengthened relationships with funded partners and legislators
 - Increased collaboration with neighboring United Ways

Together we can do more

For years, we have provided Addison County with a robust volunteer center to strengthen community ties and broaden a network of support for our community. Thanks to our generous donors, UWAC has secured and increased funding to ensure the sustainability of the high-quality services local organizations

provide. Moreover, during times of crisis, additional emergency funding was made available. However, there is more we can do for Addison County. This year we were pleased to announce our commitment to advancing our impact through advocacy.

Advocacy is not new to United Way. It is part of our three calls to action:



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 2021-2022 Members

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Champlain Valley Properties appreciates all the good work done by United Way of Addison County and is happy to be supportive of this Agency!



Champlain Valley Properties

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Porter Medical Center employees, above, take a break from their Days of Caring work last month, while, below, two players on the Middlebury College women's basketball team organize some reference material at Bixby Library on the same day. Each September, United Way of Addison County connects hundreds of volunteers like these with dozens of nonprofits for two days of hard work, laughter and making a change in our community. It's a great way for individuals to deepen their understanding of local human service needs.



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Federal grant dollars at work

United Way of Addison County has been the recipient of both State and Federal substance use prevention grants since 2016. Since that time, we've been working with community leaders to decrease risk factors that lead to an increased likelihood of adolescent substance use and increase protective factors that make it easy for local youth to make healthy choices. Below are our investments in the community as a result of those grant dollars.

Celebrate Safely is a campaign to prevent and reduce underage drinking and youth substance use during high risk times like prom and graduation

Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Parent Survey on Youth Substance Use are conducted to inform and improve substance misuse prevention programs

for Addison County youth and families

Getting to Y allows students to bring meaning to their own Youth Risk Behavior Survey data through youth leadership, partnerships with adults, participatory action research, and peer and community engagement

Family Fun Kits, filled with activities that encourage healthy family time, were distributed to libraries throughout Addison County

"Spread the Love" campaign took place in the three Addison County high schools during National Prevention Week, bringing awareness to youth substance misuse

Professional Development opportunities are offered at no cost to community partners, increasing Addison County's capacity to support youth.



Making an Impact

Your support of United Way of Addison County is an investment that impacts the entire community. **Here is a snapshot:**

49,364 patients visits by **Addison County Home Health & Hospice** staff

12,350 new books mailed to children (from birth to age 5) **from Addison County Readers**

Leased up **37** apartments at Addison **County Community Trust**

41,498 meals served to seniors by **Age Well's** Meals on Wheels program

2,000 individuals served by **Addison County Parent Child Center**

280 people received shelter, housing, and/or services like food, transportation, therapeutic services and more from **John Graham Housing Services**

4,028 visits from **223** teens at **The Bristol Hub**

2,409 individuals utilized food programs at **HOPE** (Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects)

513 individuals received direct services including safety planning, support groups, emergency and transitional housing, legal support, and more from **WomenSafe**

1,315 patients served (including **526** Latino migrant workers, 121 H-2A temporary agricultural workers, and **5** H-2B temporary non-agricultural workers) by **Open Door Clinic**

53 students served by **Vermont Adult Learning's** College & Career Readiness program

7,510 bednights to persons in need at **Charter House Coalition's** emergency shelter

Healthy youth

(Continued from Page 3)

Vouchers,” and suggested guidelines that support healthy youth development are just a few parts of the model we are looking to replicate.

“We live in a world today where it sometimes feels impossible to tackle big issues like substance misuse,” said Amy Chesley, PEEPS Coalition Member. “The Icelandic Prevention Model taught us concrete ways through evidence-based findings that the needle can be moved. When the collaboration of schools, parents, kids, and government come together for a common cause, prevention is possible!”

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce youth substance misuse in Addison County, UWAC is committed to using the Icelandic Prevention Model to further invest in our community's overall health, education, and financial stability. We will conduct an in-person tour to share and discuss the model with towns and municipalities across our county. Stay tuned for tour dates and much more!

“The Icelandic Prevention Model taught us concrete ways through evidence-based findings that the needle can be moved. When the collaboration of schools, parents, kids, and government come together for a common cause, prevention is possible!”

Attending the 2022 Planet Youth Conference: Ryan Cornellier, Mt. Abraham Union

– Amy Chesley, PEEPS Coalition Member

High School, Sean Davison, United Way of Addison County, and Mt. Abraham Union High School; Celia Heath, United Way of Addison County; Amy Johnston, Robinson Elementary School of Starksboro; Jesse Brooks, United Way of Addison County; Amy Chesley, PEEPS Coalition Member, and Mt. Abraham Unified School District; Brooke Jette, Middlebury Union High School; Sylvie Choiniere, BluePrint for Health at Porter Medical Center.



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peer guided enhancement of recovery
Providing peer-based recovery support to all; we seek to enhance the spiritual, mental, physical, and social growth of our community affected by substance use disorders and addictive behaviors.

cultivating hope, support and success
We focus on cultivating hope, support, and success for all people affected by the challenges of substance use disorders and addictive behaviors. We envision a future where stigma and stereotypes are overcome by an empowered community.

THANK YOU FOR GETTING INVOLVED. CHANGING LIVES. LIVING UNITED.

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Turning Point Center of Addison County



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Leaf Reiderer

Teen volunteers recognized with scholarships

United Way of Addison County fosters community service in all community members, but especially in our youth. In that spirit, we are pleased to honor local high school seniors through our “LIVE UNITED” Volunteer Scholarship Award. On behalf of a generous donor, three students are chosen annually for the “LIVE UNITED” Volunteer Scholarship Award, recognizing students who volunteer in their community and who are interested in advancing their education. This award comes with a \$1,000 cash award for each student, to be used for post-graduation education (college, trade school, Adult Education, etc.). Congratulations to the 2022 scholarship recipients!

Anna Doucet of Bristol began regularly volunteering with Open Door Clinic (ODC) in early 2021 with the outreach program, which visits Addison County farms to provide vaccines and health screenings to agricultural workers. A supervisor at ODC says that Anna sees the big picture of community, culture, and kindness which is impressive. Anna is a 2022 Mt. Abraham Union High School graduate and will attend Middlebury College to major in International Affairs

in the fall. **Viviana Hammond** of Middlebury has been a member of the Middlebury Union High School chapter of Best Buddies throughout her high school career.

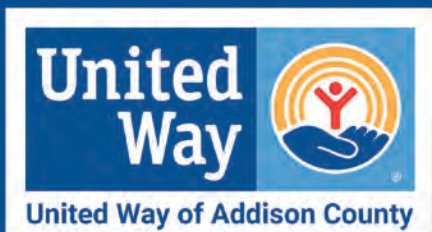
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Viviana’s volunteer efforts have led to a more inclusive school, positively impacting all our members and the surrounding community as a whole. Viviana’s staff advisor says that Viviana demonstrates “Live United” even when it may not be a popular stance with her peers. Viviana will major in Marine Biology at Duke University this fall.

Leaf Reiderer of Granville has volunteered with WomenSafe since his sophomore year at Middlebury Union High School, helping to make concrete changes in how our schools and communities worked around Rape Prevention Education (RPE) and equality. A WomenSafe educator said that Leaf’s work with WomenSafe has opened so many doors for teens in Addison County to get the education and support they need to live healthier, safer lives. This fall, Leaf will attend St. Michael’s College to major in Biology and Environmental Science.

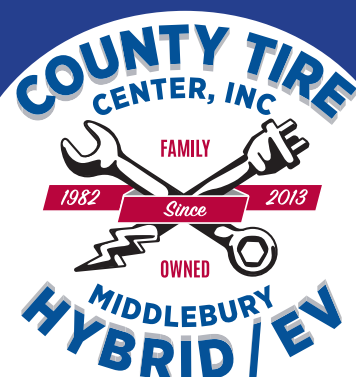


Teams of volunteers came together for two days last month to provide truly hands-on work to area non-profits during the United Way of Addison County’s Days of Caring. This annual tradition not only helps the community it can be perfect team-building opportunity for families, coworkers, teams and clubs. It’s also a chance for individuals to find a cause they care about, roll up their sleeves, and get to work making a difference. Shown here make a difference are, above, the Middlebury College women’s lacrosse team at lislely Library, and, below, Oxford Rug Hooking employees pitching in with some badly needed cosmetic work.



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The United Way of Addison County staff took a break from the 0.5K race event for a group photo. Pictured are, front row, from left: Steve Williams (Director of Finance), Jesse Brooks (Director of Advocacy), Celia Heath (Public Health & Advocacy Coordinator); and back row, from left, Amy Hoekstra (Volunteer & Donor Engagement Coordinator), Lee Bilson (Office Manager), Erin Reed (Development & Marketing Director), Helena Van Voorst (Executive Director).

Thank you, United Way, for your work in our communities!



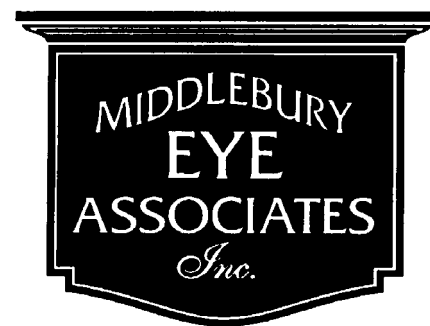
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TOGETHER, WE CAN.

Strong communities need strong United Ways to convene problem solvers, advocate for policies that advance equity, invest in local programs meeting evolving needs, and provide the people power needed to make things happen. Just as no person should face homelessness, hunger, or poverty alone, no organization should respond alone. United Way of Addison County is Addison County's local nonprofit resource hub, providing resources, training, data, and connections that make our support network strong enough to lead our community to a thriving future.

We live in a special place, and one-size-fits-all solutions don't match the uniqueness that *is* Addison County. Your generosity keeps our services local and our community stronger.

**Together, we can make a difference.
Together, we can Live United.**



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