UNITED WAY OF THE FRANKLIN & HAMPSHIRE REGION
Media Release

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UNITED WAY OF THE FRANKLIN & HAMPSHIRE REGION ANNOUNCES 2026 CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Northampton, Mass., October 10, 2025 – United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region (UWFH) is thrilled to name local business leaders Matt Garrity, President and CEO of Florence Bank, and Eric Mills, Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Mayhew Tools, as the co-chairs of UWFH's 2026 Community Campaign. The community campaign unites local businesses, nonprofits, and individuals in an aligned effort to address the biggest challenges facing our region. Funds raised stay local and directly support a network of programs and initiatives that provide critical services to those most in need. This year, UWFH is focused heavily on supporting access to healthy and nutritious foods, early childhood development, and the youth mental health crisis.

A native of Lee, Massachusetts, Matt Garrity has been the President and CEO of Florence Bank since December 2022. With a strong educational foundation, including both bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration from Ohio University, Garrity also has extensive experience in both retail and commercial banking. Prior to joining Florence Bank, he served as Executive Vice President/Chief Lending Officer at Premier Bank, a 76-branch bank serving customers in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. In addition to building and managing residential and commercial loan portfolios, he was also recruited to serve as Chief Credit Officer for a mid-size bank to help rescue that organization from financial distress and the threat of closure.

Garrity is very active in the Pioneer Valley community. He currently serves on the board of Northampton Dollars for Scholars and has volunteered at The Western Massachusetts Food Bank, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, and The Northampton Survival Center, among other Valley organizations. He and his wife, Lynn, have two children and reside in Longmeadow.

"Our support of the United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region is an important component of our annual planned giving and aligns perfectly with our mission, vision, and values as a community bank," says Garrity. "I'm honored to serve as co-chair of the 2026 annual campaign and look forward to partnering with other local business leaders to support the United Way and their efforts to strengthen and support Valley communities."

Eric Mills is a seasoned Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Mayhew Tools, with over 30 years of experience leading high-performing teams and driving top-line growth across competitive markets. Known for his strategic mindset and results-driven

leadership, he has consistently delivered success by building strong sales infrastructures, aligning marketing initiatives, and developing talent to exceed revenue goals. With a deep understanding of business operations and a hands-on approach to team development, Mills has played a pivotal role in scaling organizations and navigating complex market landscapes. His leadership style blends accountability, mentorship, and a relentless focus on customer value.

Before entering the business world, Mills served six years in the U.S. Army and National Guard, where he developed the discipline, resilience, and leadership skills that continue to guide his professional life. And he earned a BS in Business with a concentration in Accounting from Westfield State College. As a lifelong resident of Franklin County, Mills has continually given back to his community through coaching youth sports, being a Scoutmaster for his local troop, and participating in various United Way events before making the decision to take on the Campaign Committee co-chair role.

About United Way of the Franklin & Hampshire Region

UWFH's mission is to work in partnership with the local community to identify and address the region's most pressing issues. They inspire and engage individuals and organizations to invest together in overcoming those challenges. Their vision is that all individuals and families should have equitable access to the tools and resources designed to support their basic needs and ensure future successes. In doing so, UWFH helps build a strong, vibrant, and inclusive community.