



UNITED WAY OF THE FRANKLIN & HAMPSHIRE REGION

Media Release

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2nd Annual Franklin County Nonprofit Summit December 10 **Regional Nonprofits gather to support each other**

GREENFIELD, MA, December, 5, 2025 - Leaders from Franklin County nonprofit organizations large and small are gathering Wednesday, December 10, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM at Terrazza Restaurant to discuss the state of their industry, their needs and concerns, and look for ways to collaborate and support each other in a time of economic and political uncertainty.

Franklin County Nonprofit Collaborative partners, United Arc, LifePath, United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region, The Resilience Center of Franklin County (formerly NELCWIT), Stone Soup Café, The Brick House Community Resource Center, and Valuing Our Children have been meeting regularly to plan this event.

Geoff Naunheim, Executive Director of United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region observed, *"Now, more than ever, the local nonprofit community needs to think collaboratively and work together to address the increasing social needs we are seeing in the area."*

Representative Aaron L. Saunders, 7th Hampden District, Kristen Elechko, Western Massachusetts Director, Office of the Governor, and Koby Gardner-Levine, Regional Manager for the Northampton office of US Rep. Jim McGovern, will be speaking; other regional officials are expected to attend.

As Fred Warren, CEO of United Arc, put it, *"the challenges facing non-profit leaders require us to find new, creative avenues for collaboration to ensure the continued support of our community. This annual gathering is unlike anything in the area and one that cannot be missed."*

Nonprofit leaders will be discussing regional challenges and considering potential solutions. Focused discussions will include fundraising, staffing challenges, sharing resources, inter-agency collaboration, and the ongoing regional food security crisis.

Funding for this event will be provided by LifePath, Greenfield Savings Bank, The Brick House Community Resource Center, the Resource Center of Franklin County, and United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region.

Gary Yuhas, Executive Director of LifePath, noted, *“Getting local nonprofit leaders in the room together to share ideas and formulate solutions really highlights the depth and breadth of the skills of local leadership. We are innovators, problem solvers, crisis responders, and part of an essential safety net supporting our communities.”*

Tom Taaffe, Executive Director of the Brick House, added, *“The 188 nonprofit organizations in Franklin County employ almost as many people as our manufacturing sector, and we provide critical services for many more. We hold our communities together, support them, enrich their lives, and connect them to resources. By collaborating even more to share our assets, leverage our strengths, and support each other, we can all better weather the challenges we face and provide for those we serve.”*

Nonprofit leaders interested in participating in this summit should contact Fred Warren at fredwarren@theunitedarc.org or Amanda Sanderson of the Resilience Center at amanda@rcfcma.org in advance of the event.