

LIVE UNITED



United Way of Hampshire County  
2016 Campaign Report

CONNECTING PEOPLE  
*Changing Lives*







United Way  
of Hampshire County

# UNITED WAY OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

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## SUPPORTING A NETWORK OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT CREATE BRIDGES TO A BRIGHT FUTURE



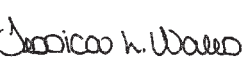
from left: Jim Ayres, Executive Director; Jessica Wales, Campaign Co-Chair; Molly Feinstein, Campaign Co-Chair

United Way of Hampshire County relies on your support to create community connections that help close to 30,000 people each year. A food pantry, elder services, domestic violence victim support, legal services, health care ... and more. Your support of this network truly bridges the gap that puts so many of our neighbors at risk.

In turn, those who participate in our partner programs often are our most generous supporters—volunteering, giving and creating lasting change in their own lives and the lives of others. It is thanks to your generosity that we can continue to serve as a model for the community—bridging the gaps that are too easy to fall into, and forging the connections that bring people, ideas, and solutions together.

We are happy to introduce you to just a few people who have been helped by your support of United Way in the pages that follow. They inspire us to do more every day—and we hope that you feel proud of the positive change that you have made in our community.

  
Jim Ayres

  
Jessica Wales

  
Molly Feinstein

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
Paul Shoul





**“I’m showing my daughter that school is our life, our breath.”**

*Alia Alabsi*

# FINDING STRENGTH

Alia Alabsi fled Jordan in 2011 with her young daughter Bushra to escape from an abusive husband she feared. When she arrived in this country, Alia spoke only Arabic. She knew no one. Despair defined her.

Counseling helped Alia work toward strength, but she felt a lingering sense of depression as she thought her life lacked purpose. Knowing Bushra was watching prompted Alia to take action.

Alia found security, community connection and a sense of belonging with the support of United Way of Hampshire County’s partners. Safe Passage helped the 39-year-old woman learn how to feel protected; the agency also connected her to both the Center for New Americans and The Literacy Project, and they helped Alia become fluent in English and continue her education.

“I was feeling lonely and sad, but when I started with these organizations, I said, ‘Okay, I need to find myself,’ and now, I think I’m a good person. They helped me see how to be rich by giving back. Thank God I am safe, and I have found myself,” Alia says. “I feel worthwhile.”

Gifted with numbers, Alia volunteers twice a week in the math club at Jackson Street School in Northampton, where Bushra will enter fifth grade in the fall. Alia assists 50 students of varying ages, as well as a dozen others including Smith College students—in an Arabic language and culture class she started at Jackson Street. Alia is also a Sunday School leader in a local mosque, which the Northampton resident can easily attend because she now has a driver’s license and a car.

“I feel so happy. I feel proud,” Alia says, noting she continues to attend The Literacy Project’s classes four mornings each week. “I’m showing my daughter that school is our life, our breath.”

“We are not here just to simply exist,” she adds. “We need to do something. My goal is to do something bigger, and my daughter, when she sees me and knows ‘My mom did that,’ she will want to do something bigger.”

It is also Alia’s goal to serve as a role model for other single mothers in crisis. “I have this message for them: Don’t give up. You have children. They need you,” Alia says. “We have to be strong.”

Alia did not give up. She gave back.





“They all help in different ways, and people rely on their services. That’s why I do volunteer work, because I have gratitude.”

Rick Stegeman



# WORKING TO GIVE BACK

Every Wednesday, Rick Stegeman can be found at the Community Breakfast at the Unitarian and Universalist Society in Amherst. He arrives about 9:30 a.m., as people are just finishing their eggs and toast. Rick greets friends and acquaintances and gets caught up on their news. He eats, too, and then he spends the next few hours deep cleaning the kitchen, breaking down cardboard boxes, stacking chairs.

This work is the means through which Rick feeds his own sense of self-purpose and shows his gratitude to the organizations in Amherst that have supported him since his mother died 10 years ago. Rick sought relief with United Way partner programs such as Craig’s Doors and the Amherst Survival Center. They offered him shelter and nourishment when he needed it. He offers them his time and talents now, because he can.

“These are all important groups,” Rick says. “They all help in different ways, and people rely on their services. That’s why I do volunteer work, because I have gratitude.”

Rick first moved into Craig’s Doors shelter three years ago, when the house he had been living in was repossessed by the bank. “Basically, it saved my life,” Rick says of the shelter, which he has not accessed for some time. “It was a good place.”

The Amherst Survival Center also provided a critical rescue to Rick around the same time. Not only did he appreciate the healthy meals he ate there, but he was also able to visit the doctor, where he received treatment for bronchitis. “The agencies offer good things, and I appreciate them,” he says.

Everyone in town knows Rick, and people easily see his pride and dedication to paying it forward. They say Rick is intelligent, caring, compassionate, a friend to all.

Rick can often be found volunteering at the Survival Center, and on Saturdays and Sundays, you can find Rick cleaning up and mopping floors after the daily meal has been served at First Congregational Church. Sometimes when there are young people on hand, Rick takes on the role of mentor. “I let them do the helping,” he says, with a laugh.





*With a shared focus on issues that affect children, youth and their families; ensuring the economic security of all of our neighbors; and connecting people to the resources they need to be safe and healthy—our partners and volunteers make a difference.*



*Members of the UWHC community including board members, staff, partners & volunteers build a bridge for positive lasting change in Hampshire County. Photo taken on Parent's Bridge at the Williston Northampton School, Easthampton*

#### **UNITED WAY OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY FUNDED PARTNERS**

##### **Children, Youth & Their Families**

Berkshire Children & Families • Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County (CHD) • Under Five Thrive (Behavioral Health Network) • Cutchins Programs for Children & Families • DIAL/SELF Teen Outreach • Friends of Children • Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts • Healthy Families (Community Action) • Hilltown Collaborative for Children & Families (Hilltown Health Centers) • People's Institute

##### **Economic Security**

Amherst Survival Center • Casa Latina • Supportive Housing Programs (CHD) • Center for New Americans • Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire & North Quabbin Regions • Community Legal Aid • Craig's Doors • Easthampton Community Center • Emergency Food & Shelter Program • Hilltown Supportive Housing Program (Hilltown CDC) • Massachusetts 2-1-1 Helpline • Northampton Survival Center • ServiceNet Housing & Shelter Programs • The Literacy Project • Valley Community Development Corporation • Empower Your Life (YWCA of Western Massachusetts)

##### **Health & Safety**

Behavioral Health Network • FamilyWise Community Service Partnership • Fit Together (ServiceNet) • Highland Valley Elder Services • Hilltown Community Development Corporation • Hilltown Community Health Centers • Safe Passage • Supervised Visitation Program (YWCA of Western Massachusetts)



“They always ask how I’m doing. That’s one of the first questions they ask me.”

*Doris Tirrell*



# DELIVERING PEACE OF MIND

Mid-morning is a good time of day for Doris Tirrell of Easthampton. She doesn’t drive, so she doesn’t get out much. But she knows that each weekday, a volunteer will knock on her door, chat with her and offer a home-cooked meal as part of the Highland Valley Elder Services Meals on Wheels program. “I enjoy the meals, and I enjoy the people,” Doris says. “They always ask how I’m doing. That’s one of the first questions they ask me. I say I’m okay, so far.”

A heart condition and a stroke several years ago are what stopped Doris from taking the wheel of a car. She says the meals program is critical to her, because it allows her to stay in her own home and be independent. “This really helps me out,” she says. “At least I get one good meal a day.” She adds that often, she can save a portion of her lunch and have it for dinner as well.

The meals are delicious; on this July day, they were prepared by Highland Valley staff with help from employees of Easthampton Savings Bank (see related story on opposite page). Doris says the quiche and the ham with raisin sauce are among her favorites. As important as the nutrition is for this 83-year-old woman, though, the daily check-in with another person is equally as valuable. Doris knows that if some kind of crisis—a fall or an illness, perhaps—prevented her from answering her door to accept the meal, someone from Highland Valley would do everything possible to make contact with her to ensure she was okay.

United Way’s support is, in part, what allows this bridge of sustenance and safety to extend between Doris and Highland Valley, one of our partner agencies.

Meals on Wheels volunteers feel a connection with clients like Doris. Jason Barowski, 31, is one of those volunteers, who says he is always greeted with a smile when he knocks on a door.

Doris enjoys these conversations, however brief they might be. She says she often hears updates from one volunteer about his farm work, and another spoke to Doris about an award she received. “I was so happy for her,” Doris says, adding, “The volunteers are all very nice. I know they can talk for a minute and then they have to get going, because other people are waiting for them.”







# SERVING UP CONNECTIONS

Katie Carr and Jenn Mancini work in different offices for Easthampton Savings Bank, and until recently, they only knew each other as names in their email inboxes. What they had in common was that they were both eager to volunteer in the community.



Knowing Highland Valley Elder Services hoped to enlist new volunteers, our United Way stepped in to help make an introduction, connecting leaders at ESB and Highland Valley. The result: Katie and Jenn spent a morning with a team of bank employees and got to know one another as they helped Highland Valley produce nearly 500 homemade lunches for isolated elders in a dozen communities.

United Way connects organizations and volunteers once a month through our new program called United Way Volunteers. These efforts help employees seamlessly connect to more efficiently serve people in need.

“We’ve always been a big supporter of giving time in the community,” says Michael Roy, a vice president at the bank and chair of ESB’s volunteer committee, noting the bank is always looking for new organizations to serve. “We’ve also always been a strong supporter of the United Way, and this was a great opportunity for us

to give back. But it’s also fun to volunteer with a group of coworkers.”

The work gave them all a sense of purpose in the community. It helped them bond, and it gave Highland Valley 18 extra helping hands; the nonprofit was able to provide 366 meals delivered by volunteers (see related story on page 11) and prepare another 122 meals that were served at the agency’s Northampton site and 11 other locations.

Jenn works in an office farther east, so having a chance to spend time with her fellow employees as she sliced and diced vegetables with Katie and bank staffer Terry Viens was particularly appealing. As a first-time volunteer, the experience made Jenn want to go back to her own community and give of her time. “It was great. Everybody was welcoming,” she says. “It was good to be involved in the community and to know that what you were doing was actually helping someone.”

## LEADERS’ CIRCLE

### ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

Anonymous (3)  
John & Elizabeth Armstrong  
Susan M. Clopton & John P. Levine  
Jack Hornor & Ron Skinn\*

### GOLD LEVEL

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous (1)  
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Julie & Chris Cowan\*  
Kevin & Laurel Day  
Ned DeLaCour & Nancy Lustgarten  
Charles & Kelly DeRose  
Peter & Florence DeRose  
Ruth V. Elcan  
Peter Fiore  
Lyle & Cathy McGeoch  
Eric Weber & Barbara Young

### SILVER LEVEL

\$2,500 - \$4,999

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Michael Ash & Krista Harpe  
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Randy & Cathy Bartlett  
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The Wohl Family

*“Our family is steadfast in our commitment to United Way of Hampshire County. We know that our contributions make a real difference in the community.”*

### PEWTER LEVEL

\$1,500 - \$2,499

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Ray Hubbe & Ginger Burn  
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Kevin Lake & Sallie Deans Lake  
Jonathan & Eleanor Lash  
Ann Leone & Hans Vaegt  
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Christopher Loring & Mary Koenig Loring  
Erin MacEachen Travis  
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Joe & Maria Malmberg  
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Joshua & Davina Miller  
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\$1,000 - \$1,499

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Nalini Bhushan & Richard Millington

Lorna Blake  
David Bloomberg & Brenda Philips  
Charles Bowles  
Jacqueliine Brousseau-Periera  
Michelle Bugbee  
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DJRJ Charitable Fund  
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Roger Kaufman  
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John Martin  
Mary & Ernest May  
John McCarthy & Elaine Woolford  
Lee & Patrick McCarthy  
Kathleen McCartney & William Hagen  
Micky McKinley  
Molly Mead  
Renee Moss & Eric Bachrach  
Robb & Valerie Morton  
Sharon M. Moulton  
Stanley W. Moulton  
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Peg Murray  
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Allan J. Quimet  
John & Anne Quimet  
Lou & Martha Pacilio



Justine & John Holdsworth  
*“Having made provisions in our estate plan for a gift to the United Way of Hampshire County relays to our children a powerful message on caring and giving back; what has meant the most to us.”*



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Laura Pearson-Smith  
Charlene Pellegrino  
Dale & Lorna Peterson  
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Roy & Laurie Regozin  
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*\*Donors marked with an asterisk have included UWHC in their estate plans and are recognized members of the Legacy Circle. If you have included UWHC in your long-term plans, please let us know. Call our office at 413-584-3962 and we will be happy to welcome you to the Legacy Circle of Supporters.*

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Nancy Huff  
Timothy & Marlene Baer  
Jon & Diana James  
Beverly & Neil Keeney  
Tighe & Bond

In Memory of Bruce Fogel  
Benjamin A. Barnes  
Charles & Kelly DeRose  
James & Janet Hutchins  
Keegan Werlin LLP  
Northampton Radio Group

IN MEMORIAM BRUCE M. FOGEL



Our dear friend Bruce Fogel passed away in May 2016. Bruce was a champion for our United Way for decades, serving as Campaign Co-Chair in the late '70s, and as a member of the Board of Directors from 2006-2015.

WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS  
CORPORATE

\$100,000 and above  
L-3 KEO\*\*  
\$50,000 to \$99,999  
C & S Wholesale Grocers\*\*

Easthampton Savings Bank\*\*  
Florence Bank\*\*  
\$25,000 to \$49,999  
Packaging Corporation of America\*\*  
PeoplesBank\*\*

\$10,000 to \$24,999  
Daily Hampshire Gazette  
Eversource Energy\*\*  
Wright Builders\*\*  
\$7,500 to \$9,999  
National Grid\*\*

Whalen Insurance\*\*  
\$5,000 to \$7,499  
Goggins Real Estate\*\*  
Greenfield Cooperative Bank/  
Northampton Cooperative Bank\*\*  
Syncnicity\*\*  
Webber & Grinnell Insurance Agency\*\*  
Wright Architectural Millwork\*\*  
\$2,500 to \$4,999  
Applied Mortgage Services\*\*  
Channing Bete Company  
Country Bank\*\*  
Finck & Perras Insurance  
King & Cushman Insurance\*\*  
Market Street Research\*\*  
Paragus Strategic IT\*\*  
Pearson  
Stop & Shop Supermarkets\*\*  
TD Bank\*\*  
\$1,000 to \$2,499  
Amherst Dental Group\*\*  
Atkins Farms\*\*  
Bete Fog Nozzle  
Brockway-Smith Company\*\*  
ChartPak  
Country Curtains\*\*  
Eastman Chemical Company  
Integrity Development & Construction  
ISO New England  
Saint-Gobain Industrial Ceramics\*\*  
Travelers Companies  
UMass Five College FCU  
Walmart

\$500 to \$999  
Big Y Foods\*\*  
CISabroad  
Encharter Insurance  
Lincoln Financial Group\*\*  
Macy's East\*\*  
Target Stores  
UPS  
VCA\*\*  
\$250 to \$499  
Abbott Laboratories

AT&T  
Bank of America\*\*  
Berkshire Design Group  
Best Buy Company  
B-G Mechanical Contractors  
Comcast  
Federal Express  
Gap\*\*  
General Dynamics Aviation  
General Electric\*\*  
Hanover Insurance  
Holyoke Gas & Electric  
Illinois Tool Works\*\*  
J.C. Penney  
Liberty Mutual  
M.J. Moran Mechanical Contractors  
Nationwide\*\*  
Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance  
True Value  
United Health Group\*\*  
Verizon Foundation\*\*



Steve Monteiro of Smith College  
"I've supported United Way of Hampshire County for 15 years. I know that they will make sure that my contribution supports the greatest needs in our community."

HIGHER EDUCATION

\$75,000 and above  
Smith College  
UMass Amherst  
\$50,000 to \$74,999  
Amherst College

Up to \$10,000  
Five Colleges Incorporated  
Hampshire College  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
\$10,000 and above  
Cooley Dickinson Health Care  
\$5,000 to \$9,999  
Baystate Mary Lane Hospital  
Behavioral Health Network  
Collaborative for Educational Service  
Highland Valley Elder Services  
ServiceNet  
Stavros Center for Independent Living  
\$1,000 to \$4,999  
Berkshire Children & Families  
Community Action  
Community Enterprises  
Cutchins Programs for Children & Families  
Hilltown Community Health Centers  
Hitchcock Center  
United Way of Hampshire County  
Valley Community Development  
Corporation

\$500 to \$999  
Baystate Health Systems  
Center for Human Development/  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire  
County  
Center for New Americans  
Hilltown Community Development  
Corporation  
People's Institute  
Safe Passage

Up to \$499  
Amherst Survival Center  
The Carson Center, A Program of  
Behavioral Health Network  
Community Legal Aid  
Forbes Library  
Friends of Children  
Girl Scouts of Central & Western  
Massachusetts  
Hampshire Regional YMCA  
The Literacy Project  
Western Mass Elder Care

GOVERNMENT  
\$5,000 and above  
City of Northampton  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Employee Charitable Campaign  
\$1,000 to \$4,999  
Combined Federal Campaign  
Town of Amherst  
Up to \$999  
Hampshire Council of Governments  
Northampton Retirement Board

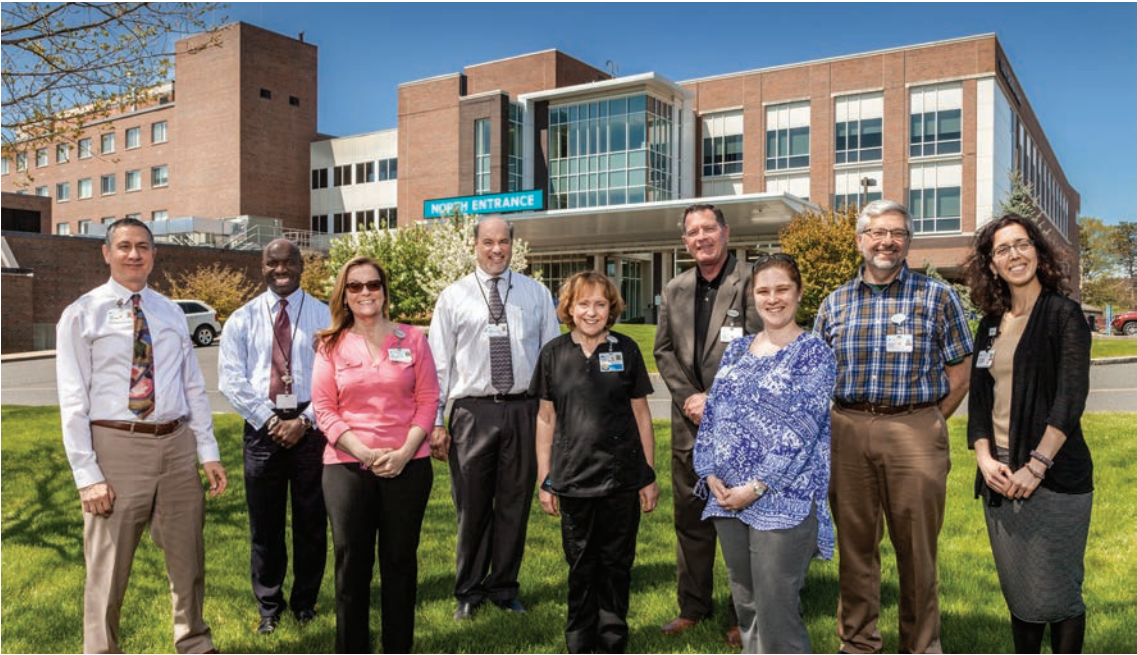
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS K-12  
\$2,500 and above  
Northampton Public Schools  
\$1,000 to \$2,499  
Amherst-Pelham Regional School  
District  
Easthampton Public Schools  
Williamsburg Public Schools  
Williston Northampton School

Up to \$999  
Amherst Pelham Regional High School  
Belchertown Public Schools  
Hampshire Regional Schools  
Ware Public Schools

\*\*Workplace Campaign total includes corporate support.

LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS  
\$2,000 and above  
Thornes Marketplace  
rk Miles

\$1,000 to \$1,999  
A Child's Garden  
Advanced Auto Parts  
Banh Mi Saigon  
Borawski Insurance  
Don Muller Gallery  
Hadley Garden Center  
Hotel Northampton  
Ostberg & Associates  
The Murphys Realtors



2016 Workplace Champions, Cooley Dickinson Health Care, increased employee participation by 117% and giving by 84%.

LOCAL BUSINESS 365  
\$365 to \$999  
Amherst Farmers Supply  
A 2 Z Science & Learning Store  
Big E's Supermarket  
Boyden & Perron Garage  
Cathy Cross for Women  
Cooper's Corner &  
State Street Fruit  
Danco Modern, Danish Inspirations  
Don Muller Gallery  
Downtown Sounds  
Fitzwilly's Restaurant  
Gazebo  
GoBerry  
Greater Northampton Chamber of  
Commerce  
J. Rich  
Johnson & Hill Staffing Services  
Local Burger  
Ode Boutique  
Paradise Copies

Pioneer Valley Travel  
Polish National Credit Union  
Provisions  
Saga Communications of New England  
Sansom & Sansom CPA's  
Serio's Pharmacy  
ServiceMaster of Northampton &  
Amherst  
Sylvester's & Roberto's Restaurants  
Thornes Marketplace Merchants

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Acme Surplus  
Backstop Seated Massage  
Booklink Booksellers  
Captain Candy  
Cedar Chest/Noteworthy  
Cookie.Works  
Cornucopia/Heavenly Chocolate  
dani.fine Photography  
Forget me not Florist  
Herrell's Ice Cream

Jackson & Connor  
Nourish Juice Bar  
Paul & Elizabeth's Restaurant  
Rao's Coffee & Cafe  
Strada  
Upton-Massamont Realtos  
WEBS America's Yarn Store

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Saga Communications of New England  
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Annual Ski Benefit for UWHC  
\$7,000





United Way  
of Hampshire County

## United Way of Hampshire County

P.O. Box 123, 71 King Street, Northampton, MA 01061

Tel 413-584-3962 Fax 413-584-5114

[uwhamshire.org](http://uwhamshire.org)

For more detailed financial information, visit [www.uwhamshire.org](http://www.uwhamshire.org), where UWHC's most recently filed Form 990 and audited financial statements are available.

*United Way of Hampshire County is committed to ensuring the most updated and accurate reflection of our donor and volunteer community.  
We apologize for any misspellings, omissions or other unintended inaccuracies. Thank you for your understanding.*