



United Way
of the Tri-Valley Area

Press Release

Contact:

Lisa Park Laflin
United Way of the Tri-Valley Area
PO Box 126, 218 Fairbanks Rd.
Farmington, ME 04938
207.778.5048
director@uwtva.org

November 18, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Team Allocates LEAP Explosion Funds

On September 16, 2019 the LEAP building tragically exploded in Farmington killing one firefighter, severely injuring other firefighters and LEAP's maintenance person, displacing 33 people and significantly affecting 14 LEAP employees and two adjacent businesses. United Way of the Tri-Valley Area established the LEAP Explosion Fund immediately after the explosion to help those affected – firefighters, those displaced behind and adjacent to the building and LEAP employees. In all, United Way is approaching \$180,000 in generous gifts from 550 donors. (We recognize generous leadership donors who gave \$350 or more below. Thank you to all.)

The community also generously donated to other funds that were established, including the Go Fund Me page for LEAP employee Larry Lord, the Farmington Firemen's Benevolent Association, and the Farmington Disaster Relief Fund.

United Way has swiftly allocated LEAP Explosion funds to ensure immediate needs were met.

A committee was formed with representatives from the Town of Farmington, the business community, Franklin County Emergency Management, Farmington Police, social service agencies, the mental health field, LEAP and United Way. It has met three times and allocated \$132,985 in immediate funding to help with a variety of needs, including first and last month's rent and security deposits; replacement of household items; transportation costs and infrastructure repair.

The committee is now meeting monthly to steward the remaining dollars so that yet-to-be determined needs can be addressed, such as mental health services and medical needs. The committee is also reviewing ways to potentially provide a community contribution to an affordable housing project grant to leverage additional dollars to provide low-cost housing – which is so hard to find in the region. (This

was demonstrated loud and clear in the weeks following the explosion as United Way, Emergency Management, the Town of Farmington and others were trying to secure housing for those who had been displaced.)

As winter sets in and time passes, the trauma of September 16th may be hard to handle alone. Please do not hesitate to reach out for help by calling 211 (24 hours a day), seven days a week for a list of mental health services in the region. If cost is a barrier, the LEAP Explosion Fund may be able to help. Requests can be made to Megan Goodine at megan@leapcommunity.org.

If you are interested in volunteering or have goods or services to provide, or you were affected and need something, United Way established a Facebook page to connect people. Please post to www.facebook.com/farmingtonexplosionassistance. Not a Facebook user? Call United Way and staff will post for you.

The more we work together, the more we will heal in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Megan Goodine
Chair, LEAP Explosion Fund

Lisa Laflin
Executive Director
United Way of the Tri-Valley Area

LEAP Explosion Fund Donors (\$350 and above)

Bangor Savings Bank	\$ 25,000.00
TD Charitable Foundation	\$ 25,000.00
Verso Corporation	\$ 15,000.00
Anonymous	\$ 10,000.00
MaineHealth/FCHN Employees	\$ 7,982.00
Kyes Insurance	\$ 5,000.00
Falmouth Middle School Staff and Students	\$ 4,393.42
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care	\$ 3,000.00
Kelly Kading	\$ 2,500.00
Regina Longyear	\$ 2,500.00
Otis Federal Credit Union	\$ 2,500.00
Falmouth Football Boosters	\$ 2,300.00
UMF Athletics	\$ 2,051.21
Maine Community Foundation donor advised Umma Fund on behalf of Babbie and Stu Cameron	\$ 2,000.00
Verso - Androscoggin Mill Employees	\$ 1,875.00
United Healthcare Employees	\$ 1,600.00
Rockwell T. Bjorn	\$ 1,000.00
Annette and Wally Backus	\$ 1,000.00
Renys	\$ 1,000.00
Spurwink	\$ 1,000.00
Morgan Stanley Gift Fund - John and Nancy Cureton	\$ 1,000.00

Church of Christ, Farmington Falls	\$ 1,000.00
The Frederick Onion Rev Trust	\$ 1,000.00
Employees of Androscoggin Home Healthcare & Hospice	\$ 1,000.00
Bridgton United Methodist Church	\$ 1,000.00
Goodwill of NNE	\$ 1,000.00
Franklin County Bar and Library Association	\$ 1,000.00
Consolidated Electrical Distributors/Goings Electric Supply	\$ 1,000.00
Kathleen Hickey-Western Maine Stress Reduction Program	\$ 1,000.00
Katelyn Crane	\$ 1,000.00
Tia Duppler	\$ 1,000.00
Katie Zinn	\$ 1,000.00
Alvin Da Costa	
Pete Plummer	\$ 1,000.00
1st Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Farmington	\$ 1,000.00
Mt. Blue Regional School District Employees and Students	\$ 936.00
The Whiskey Barrel	\$ 900.00
RSU #73 Spruce Mountain Middle School Employees and Students	\$ 771.00
JobsInME Com	\$ 750.00
Waterville Elks Lodge #905	\$ 713.00
Allied Physical Therapy	\$ 600.00
Mt. Blue Middle School Employees and Students	\$ 550.35
Emery Goff	\$ 500.00
M.C. Bardo and D.D. Bardo	\$ 500.00
Marietta M. Coll and Eugene C. Coll	\$ 500.00
Robert C. and Myrna J. Vallette	\$ 500.00
David M. and Susan A. Carlisle	\$ 500.00
Brenda E. Holman	\$ 500.00
Hight Chevrolet*Buick*GMC	\$ 500.00
Farmington Water Department	\$ 500.00
Farmington Ford	\$ 500.00
Franklin Chrysler, INC.	\$ 500.00
University Credit Union	\$ 500.00
McCarthy Environmental Services	\$ 500.00
Franklin-Somerset Federal Credit Union	\$ 500.00
Southport United Methodist Women-Elaine Goodwin	\$ 500.00
Grace Communion International	\$ 500.00
Loomis, Sayles & Co - Walton	\$ 500.00
John and Wendy Schlosser	\$ 500.00
Raymond Glass	\$ 500.00
Katherine Benthien	\$ 500.00
John McKim	\$ 500.00
Hilary Holm	\$ 500.00

Sean Walton	\$	500.00
Eric and Jodie Gunther	\$	500.00
Carrie Baker	\$	500.00
Peregrine Corp, DBA STRIVE	\$	500.00
Robert Moran	\$	500.00
Adam Matthews	\$	500.00
Michael Molinsky	\$	500.00
Bruce Foster	\$	500.00
Burton Knapp	\$	500.00
Summit Support Services - Christa DiGiuseppe	\$	500.00
Academy Hill School Employees and Students	\$	493.35
Livermore Residents	\$	429.00
Bremen Union Church	\$	400.00
Joseph Musumeci – Farmington Escape Room	\$	375.00
Spinnaker Trust - Employees	\$	369.00

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area Mission

The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area strives to unite people and resources to improve lives and build a strong and healthy community; it does this by identifying local needs and addressing their root causes, raising funds to meet those needs, and collaborating on local initiatives that create a measurable difference in Greater Franklin County.

To learn more about United Way, visit uwtva.org, or follow them on facebook or Instagram.

###