

Nate Lesperance
Campaign “Up, Up & Away” Award Recipient
The Woodmill of Maine

Operations Manager at The Woodmill of Maine and car enthusiast Nate Lesperance is being honored with the *Up, Up & Away* Award, which recognizes individuals, businesses and organizations that are newly supporting the United Way and whose enthusiasm for the work United Way does is growing. “I feel that every business should be able to give back even a little bit, and that’s why I advocated for the mill to donate” says Nate.

In 2019, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area witnessed Nate Lesperance be a growing supporter of what we strive to do for the Greater Franklin County Area. He has and continues to grow in his involvement on our committee for Special Events, helped with our Trail of Terror event at Titcomb Mountain, and sponsored a team at our annual Dodgeball Tournament. He also helped to produce the “Live United” t-shirts worn at our annual COLOR ME UNITED 5K, and lobbied for the mill to donate prizes towards the event.

I asked Nate what it meant for him to be recognized for his efforts towards the community this past year. “It honestly doesn’t mean much, but I appreciate it!” He says, “I feel like if you’re volunteering for solely the recognition alone, then you really shouldn’t be. It doesn’t matter if an individual or a company gives \$1, \$100, or \$1,000 it should be done because they want to, because they can, and because they recognize the need; and I feel that’s what I try to promote at the Woodmill.” I completely understand what Nate is conveying, and many others have recently stated similarly that it’s a great recognition, but it’s not what drives them to continue helping the Greater Franklin County Area.

Lastly, I asked Nate what he would suggest to persuade others to volunteer as he does. “To be honest” he says, “every person is different. What motivates some may cause others to turn the other way. They have to not only be aware of the need around us, but also show that they care. I don’t think we should force people to volunteer, as it will only cause them to push back harder. I would suggest keeping an open mind and spreading the word; eventually the message is going to reach the right people who truly care and want to donate their time selflessly.”

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area is proud to recognize Nate Lesperance, for his selfless efforts towards helping to make our programs and events more successful, in turn helping the community. We appreciate his efforts to not only work with us as an individual, but to advocate for us at work and in community.