

Corporate Champion Circle: Celebrating those who Support our Community

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area launched its Corporate Champion Circle in the summer of 2018. Circle members partner with United Way for one year, support their community, and receive unique marketing benefits. Corporate Champion Circle members contribute at one of three giving levels - Platinum (\$5,000), Gold (\$3,000), and Silver (\$1,500). To recognize Corporate Champion Circle members, and to get to know those who are passionate about United Way, we have started a series that profiles these dedicated businesses. Next in our series is Kim Turner, President and CEO of OTIS Federal Credit Union in Jay.

Kim grew up in Lewiston and moved to Livermore in 2005. She has been working in or with Credit Unions since 1997, where she started working as a teller after school and during school vacations. She attended Thomas College for one year, and then finished her college education at the University of Southern Maine, graduating with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus in Finance. She has been working at OTIS Federal Credit Union since December of 2013 and on January 1, 2018, she assumed the position of President/CEO. She shares that she, "has a wonderful husband, who I have been married to since 2007. We love to spend time outdoors motorcycling, ATVing and snowmobiling. Our favorite spot to be at on the weekends is camp – this is the one place that we can literally leave all of our stresses right at the door"!

When asked about the history of OTIS, Kim shares, "OTIS Federal Credit Union was established in 1954 and back then our mission was to serve families of millworkers who couldn't find financing at other local financial institutions. OTIS FCU is very community-oriented and our current mission is to serve the consumers of Franklin County and the eleven surrounding communities; providing them with the various financial products and services they need to be financially sound and healthy. We currently have thirty-one employees that are dedicated to our members' financial needs. We spend a lot of time raising money for the Maine Credit Union League's Ending Hunger Campaign. All of the funds raised throughout the year benefit food banks and pantries in our Field of Membership".

When asked about becoming a CCC member Kim states that "United Way does so much for the communities of Franklin County and their dedication and commitment to the success of the people that reside in these communities aligns very well with the culture of OTIS FCU. We absolutely love and appreciate all of the hard work that the employees and volunteers of United Way give to provide our communities and the people within them the tools they need to live, whether it is assisting with tax returns, [referrals for] heating assistance, addressing food insecurities or filling backpacks for kids of less fortunate means – it may seem like a hopeless task at times, but you do make such a positive difference and I can't imagine what life would be like for the families you assist if the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area didn't exist".

Kim shared that she feels some of the greatest challenges in Greater Franklin County include the age of the population, the poverty that exists, including food insecurity. She feels that "We are so fortunate to have the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area to help with these challenges".