



## The Gary A. LaGrange Community Impact Award

*Celebrating our unsung heroes*

The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area strives to unite people and resources to improve lives and build a strong and healthy community. Through direct funding and volunteer engagement, the United Way makes a difference every day. ***It is important for us to recognize those who have gone above and beyond to impact our community. This award is presented to a couple, business, individual, family, or organization who best exhibit commitment, enthusiasm, caring and support in the following areas:***

- ***improving health***
- ***responding to emergencies and meeting basic human needs***
- ***strengthening children and families***
- ***increasing independence and financial security***

**Nominations are due by January 15 each year. E-mail nomination(s) to [director@uwtva.org](mailto:director@uwtva.org). The award will be presented at the United Way Annual Meeting in March.**

**Eligibility Requirements:** Nominees strive to improve the lives of Greater Franklin County residents. (This includes businesses, organizations, or individuals or couples that serve or reside in Franklin County, Livermore, or Livermore Falls.) They consistently go above and beyond to make a difference in our community, and through their distinctive efforts they stand out. It is on the shoulders of these giants of community service that we stand to reach our goals.

**Past recipients include:**

Verso Androscoggin Mill employees  
Brent and Bertha Smith  
Rev. Susan Crane, Ecumenical Heating Fund  
Crystal Cook, United Methodist Economic Ministry;  
Peter Judkins, Franklin Savings Bank  
Barclays Employees  
Trish and Gordie Flint  
Tri-County Mental Health Services  
Flo and John Caldwell, Stratton/Eustis Food Pantry  
The Board of Western Maine Homeless Outreach  
Dennis O'Neil  
Judy Frost, Western Maine Community Action

**About Gary A. LaGrange:** Some people show their special spark even when they're trying not to...to seek joy in what you give, not what you get ... this was Gary LaGrange. Gary's commitment to serving others was lifelong. His passion for helping people with energy conservation fueled his career with Maine Community Action agencies, including building and repairing homes, facilitating fuel assistance programs, conducting energy audits and teaching home buyer education. He was often asked to go the extra step to help a homeowner, and this he willingly did, often on his own time.

Volunteerism had a constant presence in Gary's life ... playing Santa for Headstart classrooms each holiday, directing hundreds of Christmas packages to happy children through Operation Santa Claus and fueling his love for the arts by spending many hours bringing sets to life with the Sandy River Players. Upon retirement, Gary devoted himself to volunteering full time as a lead volunteer with the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area program called the Community Energy Challenge: building interior storm panels to save homeowners' energy and providing energy education help to control their fuel costs – a simple idea with powerful and cost-saving results. He was also a 5<sup>th</sup> Degree member and served on the Executive Committee of the Wilson Grange, as well as a site manager for East Parish Housing Ministry, helping rehab homes with visiting mission groups.

Gary took immense pride in acting without expectation, and encouraging others to do the same. He walked beside us all towards a better community and that is truly impactful. Gary left a loving family and community behind passing away, December 15, 2013. The United Way is honored to continue his legacy of caring with this award.

Current United Way Board members and staff members are not eligible for this award.



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## Nomination Form

**Your Name:**

**Your Mailing Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Nominee:**

**Nominee Mailing Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

Please answer the following questions with as much detail as possible.

1. How does the nominee demonstrate his/her/their commitment and passion for our community?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe how the nominee's activities align with United Way's mission and goals. (Improving health; responding to emergencies and meeting basic human needs; strengthening children and families; increasing independence and financial security.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How has the nominee's service impacted the community? Please include one to two specific examples of how the nominee has made a difference in Greater Franklin County over time.

4. Is there anything else you would like to share with the United Way Board of Directors who will be reviewing the nominations? (For example, civic organizations the nominee belongs to; workplace involvement with the community; awards received.)