

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. Franklin Savings Bank is featured here.

Franklin Savings Bank was organized in Farmington November 16, 1868 as Franklin County Savings Bank.

The charter for the new bank was created February 24, 1868, when Governor Joshua Chamberlain signed into law a bill incorporating Franklin County Savings Bank. Familiar surnames populate the list of original incorporators: Robert Goodenow, Joseph W. Fairbanks, Stillman Tarbox, Daniel V. B. Ormsby, Samuel Belcher, Hannibal Belcher Simeon H. Lowell and Reuben Cutler of Farmington, Charles J. Talbot of Wilton, Jeremy W. Porter of Strong, Daniel Howes of New Sharon and Seward Dill of Phillips. That charter was put into effect in November, when Daniel Ormsby was chosen as the bank's first president.

Since its early days Franklin Savings Bank has grown exponentially. There are now eight locations and approximately 122 employees.

When asked why Franklin Savings Bank joined the United Way's Corporate Champion Circle Anna Lyon, Assistant Vice President and Marketing Director said, "Community is at the core of everything we do. As a community bank, we have long been invested in projects and initiatives that further develop our communities."

And invested it has been. "We created the Franklin Savings Bank Community Development Foundation in 2000 to enable us to better serve the needs locally. Through this Foundation we generally contribute more than \$160,000 annually, though we doubled that in 2018 for our celebration of the bank's 150th anniversary. Since its founding through the end of 2018, we have contributed \$2.6 million to charitable and economic development projects in our area. We contribute generously to education, funding \$36,000 annually in scholarships and \$15,000 annually to sponsor the UMF Partnership for Civic Advancement internships, and many other local academic and cultural programs. We also support a number of health-related non-profits," explained Lyon.

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area is proud to have Franklin Savings Bank support its work at the Platinum level. As part of membership in the Corporate Champion Circle Franklin Savings Bank has chosen to benefit the following events and initiatives: Color ME United 5K; Packs for Progress schools supplies drive; and The Great Charity Auction.

In addition to membership in the Corporate Champion Circle, Franklin Savings Bank runs a successful fundraising campaign with its employees each year, and supports United Way events and initiatives through participation – including hosting United Way Pantry Project shelves to collect food for food pantries, and collecting diapers as part of a United Way diaper drive. Two employees are actively engaged on the United Way board of directors as well. They are truly a community bank that cares.