

Corporate Champion Circle Profile

Susan Terhune – State Farm Agency

Susan Terhune's energy and compassion radiated from her welcoming smile as I sat down with her at her office recently. Susan owns the State Farm agency in Farmington and recently joined the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area's Corporate Champion Circle.

Susan was born in Titusville, Florida (the home of the Space Shuttle). She went to school at Stetson University in Deland, Florida where she acquired a degree in accounting. She then continued her professional studies and became a Certified Public Accountant. She moved to Maine in 1991 and shortly thereafter opened the State Farm Agency which will celebrate its 25th year in business in 2019.

Susan has a busy life that includes commuting to Southern Maine where she lives with her partner Hunt. She also has a daughter who is studying business at the University of Connecticut. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, sailing on Penobscot Bay (she docks a boat in Rockport), and traveling. When asked what her favorite place is to visit, Susan took a deep breath and with a smile on her face she said, "Italy." "I can't wait to return there soon. I will be taking a sabbatical soon and spending a month there. There is so much to explore."

When Susan isn't traveling, she is dedicated to community service. She has served on the board of Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services which is now known as Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Services, and currently serves on the board of United Way, serving as the Communications and Marketing Committee Chair.

I asked Susan why she is obviously so passionate about United Way. She, paused, leaned forward and said "I don't think I realized the need that we have in this area and my eyes were opened through my involvement with the United Way. I can't get over how much the United Way accomplishes in this area for the community and how passionate the people are who work there and volunteer there. It is inspiring and allowed me to understand what is going on in the community. To really realize the need, you need to get your arms around it... and to get your thoughts around it. You just need to really be involved. It is a powerful resource that we have."

Sexual abuse continues to be of interest to Susan, but it is the extreme poverty she became aware of that has caught her attention the most. "I have a real respect for the work health and social service personnel do in this community every day."

I asked why she continued to commute to and invest in Farmington as she spends so much time in Southern Maine. "It is a forgiving community, people are so, well, human. I can relate to my customers here and it's REAL and genuine. I feel like I can make more of a difference here."

Susan joined the new Corporate Champion Circle at the Gold level and she felt like it was a way to support the United Way in what it is trying to accomplish. "I believed in the plan they put together and collaborating on marketing opportunities is valuable. The more we can work together and support each other in this community, the better."

I feel like the United Way can decide as to where the money is needed better than I can, and the Corporate Champion Circle is a great opportunity for me to give money and promote by business at the same time. It's a win-win!"