



United Way  
of the Tri-Valley Area

# The Hope Fund Policy

## The Hope Fund

The purpose of *The Hope Fund* is to provide assistance for unmet needs of children in Greater Franklin County, Livermore and Livermore Falls, with an emphasis on removing barriers to enable low-income children to engage in a wide variety of enriching experiences in which they would not otherwise be able to participate. **The Hope Fund seeks to increase aspirations and instill hope for a brighter future.**

Assistance through *The Hope Fund* is determined by an application which is available on the United Way website (uwtva.org) and at the United Way office, 218, Fairbanks Rd., Farmington, ME.

- Applications are due by the last day of each month.
- Proof of income is required with your application. Proof of income could include:
  - A copy of the most recent pay stub/s for all income in the household
  - A copy of your Social Security award letter
  - Copy of the most recent W2, etc.
- The Hope Fund Committee meets the first Thursday of each month to review applications from the previous month.
- This program is for low-income families, it is NOT a scholarship program.
- **Individuals** may apply. Agencies, caseworkers, schools/teachers/guidance counselors, etc. are encouraged to apply to the United Way on behalf of the child/client as long as the parent or guardian gives permission. Awards will not exceed \$200.00 per request for individuals.
- **Non-profit organizations** may apply for funding up to \$2,000.
- Applicants are eligible for funding only once every year and must be under 18 years of age if an individual and serving those under 18 if a non-profit.
- Individual requests require parental signature on the Hope Fund waiver form to complete the application process.
- Applications are reviewed on a monthly basis by the Hope Fund review committee **the first Thursday of every month**. The Hope Fund committee chair will provide a report for monthly board meetings. A designated United Way staff person or volunteer will process and track applications, check for incomplete information and eligibility, communicate with the Hope Fund committee members regarding meetings, and will provide updated fund balances for meetings. After funding decisions are made, the designee will communicate the decision with applicant. Funding for individual requests is paid directly to a vendor. Funding for non-profit programs will be sent directly to the non-profit. The United Way designee is a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Hope Fund review committee and acts as a resource for information.
- A maximum number of eight members will serve on The Hope Fund review committee. The Chair of the Hope Fund Committee must be a Board member.
- At least a quorum of voting members must be present to vote on applications.
- **Funding examples:**  
Individual requests: Because the intent of The Hope Fund is to raise aspirations for area youth and expose young people to opportunities they may not otherwise engage in, support will be considered for a broad range of activities. This includes but is not limited to therapeutic recreation; athletic team

participation; camps (including summer camps and those for special needs students); Specific UMF Fitness and Recreation programs (not UMF memberships); after school programs (i.e., in arts, robotics, etc.). Funding could be used for registration fees and/or for equipment or materials needed to participate.

Non-profit requests:

These funds may only be used to finance the expressed services of this organization in accordance with The Hope Fund's mission to provide for the unmet needs of children in the UWTVA region. It may not be used to provide private benefits (salaries, refreshments, entertainment etc.) for infrastructure, to satisfy operational costs or to support the organization's promotional ventures.

What would be funded: A non-profit applies for funds to purchase new materials that will enhance the experience the children receive from that organization, materials/resources for youth group presentations, etc.

What would not be funded: A non-profit applies for funds to offset the cost of an activity that some parents typically pay for, but others cannot afford.

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