

## **Wiles Remembrance Centers**

*United Way of the Tri-Valley Area launched its Corporate Champion Circle (CCC) in the summer of 2018. CCC 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 CCC members, and to get to know those who are passionate about United Way, we have started a series that profiles these dedicated businesses. **Please welcome Wiles Remembrance Centers owned and operated by Kent Wiles and Rhonda Wiles-Rosell, central office located in Farmington, Maine.***

Kent Wiles and Rhonda Wiles-Rosell, children of Gerry and Roma Wiles, grew up locally and attended Mt. Blue High School. Kent went on to attend Bentley University (BA in Business Management) then Mount Ida college, New England Institute of Funeral Service Education where he received his Associates in Funeral Service. Rhonda attended Boston University (BA in Communication) then NE Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences where she received her Associates in Funeral Service. In 1962 Gerry and Roma Wiles purchased what was Edwards Funeral Home (in Wilton), changing the name to Wiles Funeral Home and over the years expanded to include 3 more facilities in Jay, Dixfield and Farmington. After many years in the business, Gerry and Roma sold the family business to Kent and Rhonda in 1998.

Since taking ownership, Kent and Rhonda have consolidated the operations and expanded services and products, as well as renaming the facilities to Wiles Remembrance Centers.

Wiles Remembrance Centers, located in Farmington, Dixfield and Jay, currently employs three full-time and three part-time employees, with a major loss of long-time friend and employee, Bucky Leighton. Wiles Remembrance Centers offer live stream celebrations of life/funerals along with Zoom video conferencing for arrangements. They also have a full-service monument shop which can design, build and provide lettering for cemetery or home memorials/gravestones.

When asked what challenges and opportunities are in the community, Kent replied, "I feel there is a lack of good paying jobs, as well as retainable employees". "There are socio-economic needs in the community and substance abuse is prevalent". From a community member standpoint, "there needs to be more education on recreational resources available, because there are so many out there that are underutilized." Kent also spoke about the "small town American Values" and "how the community is there for each other when needed".

When asked about becoming a CCC member, Kent replied, "we are happy to be able to invest our resources by partnering with United Way to support our local community where we live and serve".

Kent lives in Farmington with his wife Susan and their three dogs. He has four grown children that he likes to spend time with and enjoys deer/bird hunting, boating, skiing, snowmobiling and traveling in his spare time. Rhonda lives in Belgrade and has one grown son. She enjoys fly fishing, traveling, gardening and antiquing in her spare time.