



January 22, 2021

Subject: Building MLK's beloved community

My dear UVM colleagues,

With this week's celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the moving transfer of presidential powers, my heart is full thinking about the ways this family of colleagues and friends continues to come together to make our community a better place.

I write to you today, with that sense of community in my mind and my heart, to let you know that this year's [UVM United Way 2021 Campaign](#) is officially underway. I hope you will join me in supporting our friends and neighbors through United Way. With all the challenges of this time, especially those exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need this year is greater than ever.

In its many collaborative efforts, United Way of Northwest Vermont raises prospects for — and changes the lives of — many of our neighbors and friends. This organization means so much to me personally, especially through my work with its Women United program and the United Way Youth Workgroup. Serving on United Way's Board of Directors, its diversity, finance, and governance committees, and being honored with their 2010 Community Impact Award focused my commitment to and care for community while giving me an up-close view of how United Way works.

A truly people-powered organization, United Way of Northwest Vermont transforms every \$1 raised into \$2.25 invested back into our communities through volunteers, nonprofits, and businesses working together with United Way to address community-defined priorities. This year, I am helping United Way reach a goal of signing on 425 UVM community members as supporters by March 31. Over 200 of us who supported United Way last year have helped get a head start on this year's campaign. I hope you will join us.

[It's easy to make a secure gift online using your UVM net ID.](#) And you can spread your gift across pay periods if you would like.

Thank you for joining this effort, and for each act you make that lifts up our neighbors and strengthens our communities. I am constantly inspired by those around me who turn caring into doing. I look forward to seeing our great spirit and power as we work to meet the challenges of this time, together.

With deep affection and gratitude,

Wanda