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United Way of Tri-County Board Appoints Liz Leonard as Interim President & CEO

Framingham, MA – June 26, 2026 – The United Way of Tri-County (UWTC) Board of Directors, are pleased to announce the appointment of Liz Leonard as Interim President & CEO of the United Way of Tri-County, effective July 6, 2026.

Leonard assumes the leadership role following the sudden passing of longtime President & CEO Paul Mina in May. Mina dedicated more than 30 years to the organization, helping transform the United Way of Tri-County into a leading provider of food security, mental health, crisis intervention, and community support services throughout MetroWest and Central Massachusetts.

As Interim President & CEO, Leonard will provide steady leadership and continuity while the Board of Directors conducts a search for the organization's next permanent leader. Her focus will include supporting staff, strengthening community partnerships, ensuring operational excellence, and addressing the growing demand for food and basic needs assistance across the region.

"Liz is a proven leader who embodies the mission and values of the United Way of Tri-County," said Kristen Pope, UWTC Board Chair. "Her deep understanding of our programs, her commitment to the communities we serve, and her compassionate leadership make her uniquely qualified to guide the organization during this important transition."

Leonard currently serves as Director of WHEAT Community Connections, a United Way of Tri-County program that provides food assistance, daily meals, case management, and community support services to residents of Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Lancaster, and Sterling. Under her leadership, WHEAT has expanded its reach and strengthened partnerships throughout the Greater Clinton area.

In her interim role, Leonard will divide her time between UWTC's Framingham headquarters and WHEAT's Clinton location while continuing to oversee the day-to-day operations of the WHEAT food pantry, community café, and Hidden Treasures thrift shop.

"I am excited and honored to continue the momentum we achieved under Paul's exceptional leadership," Leonard said. "Together, we will continue anticipating and meeting the needs of our community, making a positive impact, and supporting one another along the way."

Leonard brings extensive leadership, operational, and community engagement experience to the role. A graduate of Merrimack College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, she previously held leadership positions at State Street and BNY Mellon before dedicating herself to community service and nonprofit work.

Her journey with the United Way of Tri-County began as a volunteer, collecting donated food from local supermarkets for the pantry. She later joined the organization as a part-time case manager, advancing to Program Manager and then Director of WHEAT Community Connections in 2024.

Throughout her tenure, Leonard has played a key role in expanding community outreach initiatives, strengthening partnerships with local Councils on Aging, increasing access to food resources for seniors, and growing programs focused on financial literacy and health education. She also serves as a leader of Clinton Area Community Partners, a collaborative network of organizations dedicated to supporting children, families, and individuals throughout the region.

"The need in our community is greater than ever," Leonard said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to carry forward the important work that has been accomplished across the United Way of Tri-County family of programs for decades. We remain committed to evolving and growing to meet the challenges facing the individuals and families who depend on us."

When Leonard was promoted to Director of WHEAT in 2024, Mina praised her leadership and dedication, stating, "Liz is a collaborative and generous team member with a positive approach to the many challenges of running a direct service program. She is a strong leader who has already demonstrated a positive impact in the community."

For more information about the United Way of Tri-County, visit www.uwotc.org.

About the United Way of Tri-County

The United Way of Tri-County is a community-building organization that brings people together to care for one another. Through direct service programs, volunteer engagement, community partnerships, and advocacy, UWTC addresses critical needs and strengthens the quality of life for individuals and families throughout the 37 communities it serves. Programs include food

security initiatives, early literacy programs, Mass 2-1-1, Call2Talk, and other essential community services.

About WHEAT Community Connections

WHEAT Community Connections, a program of the United Way of Tri-County, serves residents of Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Lancaster, and Sterling through a food pantry, community café, case management services, and the Hidden Treasures thrift shop. WHEAT is committed to reducing food insecurity and connecting individuals and families with the resources they need to thrive.

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