

**United  
Way**



**Monadnock United Way**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT  
REPORT 2021**





# Strengthening Collective Impact



Statistics of the community's impact in 2021 are outlined on the following pages.

Monadnock United Way believes that by bringing the various strands of our community together, we amplify the work of all entities, heighten the chance for success, and solve issues collectively.

It is this belief that has been the theme of our work this year. We continue to fight for Children, Education, and Financial Stability by providing funding and consulting support to our partners as well as spearheading a series of cross-sector collaborations intentionally grounded in collective impact.



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

### Monadnock Resource Alliance

This group of business, non-profit, and community leaders serves as a catalyst, bringing the community together to leverage financial, human, and civic resources to strengthen the vitality of the Monadnock Region.

### Monadnock Food Pantries Collective

This Collective came together shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The pantries work together to improve access to basic needs and reducing food insecurity in communities across the region.

## CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

### Early Childhood Region 1

Impact Monadnock was named Lead Agency for New Hampshire's Early Childhood Region 1, a coalition focused on improving education, health, and social-emotional outcomes for children prenatal through age eight.

### Community Cafés

The **Monadnock Alliance for Families (MAF)**, a collaborative backed by Impact Monadnock, hosted several Community Cafés designed to help families of young children gain new ideas and strategies for nurturing healthy child development and strengthening their relationships with their children.

Collective impact and bringing together various sectors of the community is part of our strategic plan and continues to be the focus of our work. Your gift to MUW supports collectives and cross-sector collaborations so that the community can continue to grow stronger!

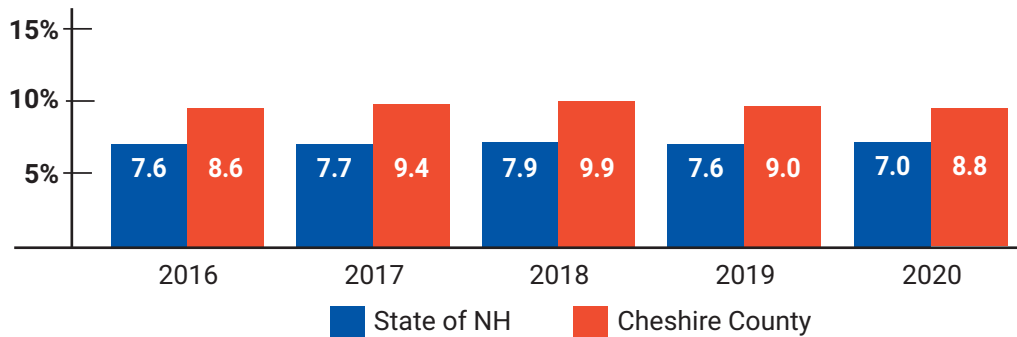
# FINANCIAL STABILITY

We envision that Monadnock area community members have the financial resources they need to live healthy, happy, productive lives.

## POPULATION LEVEL GOALS

Monadnock area residents achieve financial stability and well-being. To measure success, MUW tracks the percentage of individuals living at or below the federal poverty line in the Monadnock Region.

Percentage of residents living at or below 100% of the federal poverty level in NH and Cheshire County



In 2020, 8.8% of Cheshire County residents lived at or below 100% of the poverty level.

Source: [https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/?s\\_state=33](https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/?s_state=33)

Poverty is defined as individuals on or below 100% of the poverty threshold, based on family income, size, and composition. In 2020, the federal poverty level for a family of four was \$26,200.

Source: <https://carsey.unh.edu/what-is-new-hampshire/sections/economy>



## Why it Matters

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, "To help children grow into prepared, productive adults, parents need jobs with family-sustaining pay, affordable housing and the ability to invest in their children's future."

Source: [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)

## OUR IMPACT IN 2021

### Indicators of Success

- 371 residents received emergency housing assistance through the **Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative**. Slightly over 50% of those clients participated in a housing focused case plan.
- 75% of visitors to local food pantries in 22 towns received fresh produce and recipes through the **Monadnock Food Pantries Collective** – up from 63% in 2020.
- 245 children from low to moderate income families received childcare scholarships to access quality affordable care at local childcare centers.



## Collaborating on Housing Stability

### Monadnock Resource Alliance

MUW and the NH Community Loan Fund launched a cross-sector coalition to help solve key problems affecting our region. One such issue is housing in all its forms: availability, affordability, quality, stability, and homelessness to name a few. Members of the Alliance, businesses, towns, community groups, and other stakeholders understand the complexity of our housing challenges and have access to community building resources needed to ensure that everyone has stable housing.

### Members include:

Center for Population Health at Cheshire Medical Center  
Cheshire County  
Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College  
Greater Keene and Peterborough Chamber of Commerce  
Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship  
Individual Community Leaders  
Mascoma Savings Bank  
Monadnock Interfaith Project  
Monadnock United Way  
NH Community Loan Fund  
Savings Bank of Walpole  
Southwest Region Planning Commission  
Southwestern Community Services

## Monadnock Food Pantries Collective

**2021 was a busy year for the seven pantries that comprise the Monadnock Food Pantries Collective:**

The Community Kitchen  
Gert's Pantry  
Joan's Pantry  
Federated Church of Marlborough  
Helping Hands of Troy  
Jaffrey Food Pantry  
Kidz Cupboard

Despite a reduction in volunteers and the loss of donated food during 2021, pantries regularly served more than 2,000 people around the region. By embracing this collective impact model for their work, the pantries experienced the benefits of working together. They were able to leverage buying power, share information, and provide more fresh, healthy food to their clients.

**“Having pantry leaders commit to being in a collective has changed the outlook of all concerned and has given us a sense of belonging.”**

– Phoebe Bray, Lead Agency for The Monadnock Food Pantries Collective

# CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

We envision that children in the Monadnock Region live in safe, nurturing, healthy homes and communities and Monadnock area community members receive an education that enables them to achieve their fullest potential.

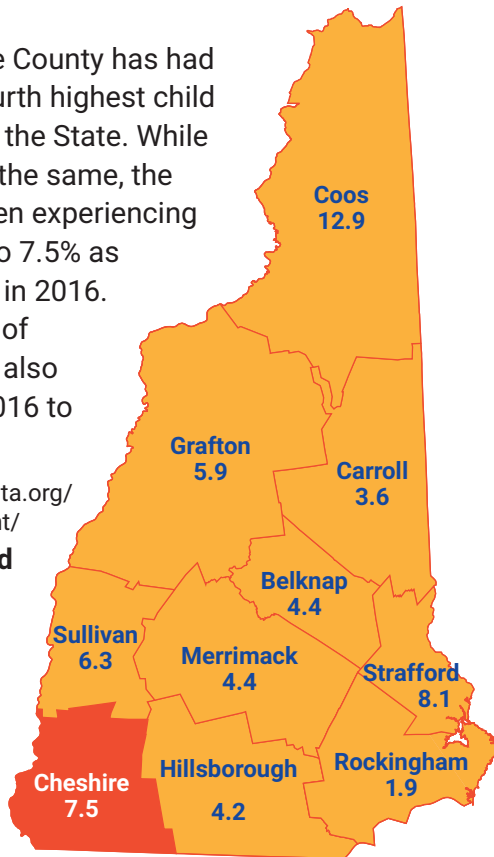
## Why it Matters

Since 2016, Cheshire County has had either the third or fourth highest child maltreatment rate in the State. While the ranking remains the same, the percentage of children experiencing maltreatment is up to 7.5% as compared with 6.9% in 2016. The rate in the State of New Hampshire has also risen from 3.5% in 2016 to 4.6% in 2019.

Source: <https://nhchilddata.org/health/child-maltreatment/>

### New Hampshire Child Maltreatment Rate Per 1,000

State of NH 4.6



## POPULATION LEVEL GOALS

Young children aged 0–5 years and school-age children (6–17) are safe, healthy, and resilient. One way MUW measures the success of this goal is by tracking the child maltreatment rate per 1,000 children at the State and County level.

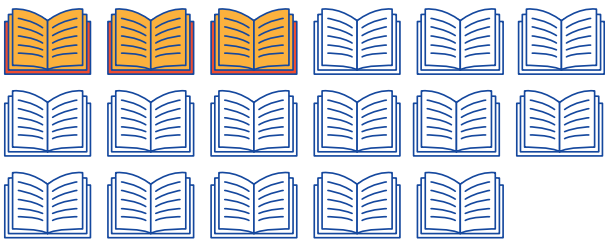
Monadnock Region children are ready to learn by the time they enter school. MUW measures success by tracking English Language Arts proficiency at the end of third grade.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2021

### Indicators of Success

- 848 children aged (0–5) (compared to 46 in 2020), across 34 towns participated in enrichment programming such as play groups, art classes, cooking classes and more through the **Monadnock Alliance for Families**.
- The **Southwestern Community Services Dental Screening Program** resumed after an 18-month hiatus and was able to provide 64 children with dental screenings and preventative dental services in just the first four months of the school year. This program is now managed through Head Start.
- The **Monadnock Region After School Collective** provided safe, educational settings for 938 children and had an 80% reduction in behavior incidents.

### Fourth Grade English Language Arts



Of the 17 districts reporting in our service area for 2021, three had students score at or above the State average of 49% in the 2020 fourth grade English Language Arts exam.

Source: NH Dept of Education  
<https://dashboard.nh.gov/t/DOE/views/iReport/FrontPage?%3Aiid=1&%3Atabs=no&%3Aembed=y&%3Atoolbar=no>

## Why it Matters

According to NH Kids Count, proficiency in reading at the end of third grade is a crucial marker in a child’s educational development. Reading proficiency is measured during the fourth grade through the statewide English Language Arts exam.

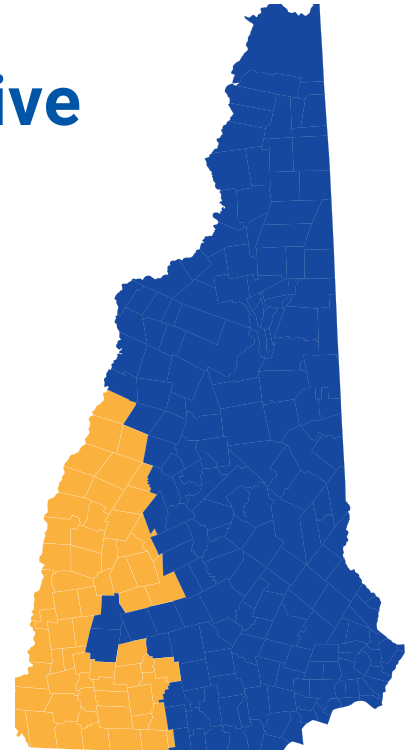


# Learn, Be Healthy, and Thrive

## New Hampshire's Early Childhood Region 1

MUW's **Impact Monadnock** was selected in September 2021 as the Lead Agency for New Hampshire's Early Childhood Region 1 (ECR1), a 61-town region spanning the Greater Monadnock, Greater Sullivan, and Upper Valley regions of NH.

The ECR1 Coalition is comprised of experts from a variety of sectors including childcare professionals, schools, family support agencies, behavioral and public health professionals, and families. The Coalition's vision is that all young children can learn, be healthy, and thrive. One major goal is that all families of young children have access to a comprehensive, sustainable, and coordinated system of support.



**A system that is simple to navigate and provides the right services at the right time, exactly when families need them.**

In its role of Lead Agency, Impact Monadnock is drawing upon its proven collective impact record to forge new partnerships and a high level of collaboration with early education programs, schools, family support agencies, health agencies, and more across the expanded region. All are working together to improve the experiences of families with young children.

### **As a result of the coalition's work:**

- Children's social-emotional, educational, and health outcomes will improve
- Families will have a genuine voice and role in the services that benefit their children
- Families of young children will more easily access unduplicated services when they need them

This newly formed coalition has already started building collaborative relationships throughout the 100-mile long corridor, listening to the needs of families and identifying solutions to implement together – and with the families themselves.

**To learn more about the vision for New Hampshire's Early Childhood Region 1, visit [www.muw.org/ECR1](http://www.muw.org/ECR1).**



# Community Cafés: Conversations that Matter

Community Cafés are designed to empower parents, family members, and/or caregivers to explore ideas and strategies for strengthening relationships within families.

Cafés are typically family-hosted gatherings where people come together as equals and participate in a guided conversation around a topic or theme. Participants share ideas and concerns, build community, and learn new skills.

Cafés create a safe space for all participants to be heard, build networks, and take action to improve the lives of children.



## Tanis Elliott, Community Café Participant

I was very grateful to Amy Trippodi for getting me involved in the Supporting Siblings of Children with Special Needs Café. When she first invited me to participate, I assumed that I would be participating in more of an educator's role. How blessed I was to have gained so much as a sibling of an adult with special needs above and beyond anything that I could have offered.

For me, the Café experience was a safe, "real" space to discuss fears, doubts, feelings, joys, and challenges of being a sibling (in my case) or parent (for many) of an individual with special needs. By hearing first-hand experiences in a small-group community, I was able to grow, heal, and understand many of the feelings and issues directly related to the topic and how it has affected and continues to affect my life.

The experience made an immediate impact on me by helping me identify my role as a sibling and the challenges we face as a family having recently lost our mother, who was a leading force in addressing my sister's special needs. After the Café, I was immediately able to make positive changes in my relationship with my sister and with my own personal issues related to our reality.



# We win by **LIVING UNITED.**

By forging unlikely partnerships.

By finding new solutions to old problems.

By mobilizing the best resources.

And inspiring individuals to join the fight against  
our community's most daunting social crises.

Every day, Monadnock United Way works alongside  
our dedicated partners throughout the area to serve  
those in need and find ways to advance our giving  
across nearly 40 communities in the Monadnock region.



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