



MUW General Campaign Chair Special Update

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A huge “thank you” to everyone who gave to this year’s Better Together campaign!

Click [here](#) to listen to Liz LaRose and GCC Ted McGreer on The Weekend with George Hansel!

Thank you from General Campaign Chairs Laura, Ted, and Alan!



PLEASE NOTE:

With the importance of social distancing, we are limiting the number of hours that our staff come into the office to process gifts received via US Mail. We are asking donors to use our safe, secure [donation portal](#) whenever possible. However, we gratefully accept checks from anyone who prefers to donate in that manner and we will ensure that they are processed in a timely manner.

Dear Friends of MUW,

We have often talked about the resilience and strength our community has displayed during this pandemic. But there is another attribute that we would like to focus on this week: creativity.

In an excellent series in *The Sentinel* called “Pandemic Parenting”, this creativity is on full display. The article, which can be found [here](#), highlights, among others, the Keene Family YMCA's Academic Support and Enrichment program, a program that serves children up to fifth grade and was created in response to the Keene School District’s hybrid and now fully remote learning plan.

Ashley Engelbrecht, the Y’s School Age/Camp Director speaks to the shift that the Y felt they needed to make to support children and their parents:

“What is unique about this program is it's flexibility that follows the ever-changing COVID world and the academic model that the Keene School District is implementing. While Keene schools are fully remote, the ASE program is offered on a full-time basis, Monday through Friday. When Keene Schools transition back to the hybrid model, the ASE program will fall back to a part-time model, offering full day care on the 3-remote days based upon cohort assignment.”

The Keene Family Y’s School Age Programs are part of an MUW funded collaborative called the Monadnock Region After School Collective (MRAC), which includes high-quality after school programs in Keene, Hinsdale, Hillsboro-Deering, Winchester, Marlborough, Swanzey, Troy and Fitzwilliam. All of these programs, in one way or another, have been impacted by the pandemic and have altered the way they carry out their programs as a result: opening new locations to provide social distancing, tutoring students who are having trouble with remote learning, and purchasing PPEs to make sure staff and students are safe.

These changes have not lessened MRAC’s work or their impact. In 2020:

- 83 families were provided with food support
- 335 youth were provided with weekly summer activity packets
- 100 youth per week were provided with face to face summer programming
- 358 children participated in face to face afterschool support, an additional number supported remotely.

A big shout out to MRAC and all of MUW’s partner agencies for showing creativity and flexibility during such a turbulent time. We are proud to be a part of the incredible work you do!

Sincerely,

Laura Gingras, Ted McGreer, Alan Stroshine
General Campaign Chairs

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