



Monadnock United Way

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AWARDED *Monadnock United Way Leads Early Childhood Region 1*

KEENE, N.H. (January 5, 2022) — Monadnock United Way's signature early childhood initiative, Impact Monadnock, was awarded \$725,000 in two Preschool Development Grants (PDG) to help improve educational, health, and social-emotional outcomes for children prenatal through age 8 and their families.

The first community grant of \$350,000 was awarded in September 2021, naming Impact Monadnock as the lead agency in the newly formed Early Childhood Region 1 (ECR1). ECR1 encompasses the western side of the State, including the Greater Monadnock, Greater Sullivan, and Upper Valley regions. ECR1 membership includes families, early childhood care and education centers, local schools, health and mental health organizations, family resource centers, and other community initiatives serving families.

The funding for this one-year community grant is being used to develop a collaborative team of professionals throughout the one hundred mile stretch of ECR1 and to provide families and other caregivers a genuine voice in the success of our region's children.

The vision of the ECR1 team resulted in another award of \$375,000 to implement a "Collaboration through Coaching" project. This project focuses on the use of Practice-Based Coaching, through the lens of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework, to benefit families while fostering collaboration among agencies, schools, and programs in this newly expanded region.

Tammy Vittum, PDG Project Co-Director says that "adopting the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework across the region and offering that training and support to programs, schools, and agencies will result in a common language that puts supporting families at the forefront of the region's focus."

"Early childhood development has a powerful impact on academic, career, and life outcomes as well as our community's future prosperity. We are honored to bring Impact Monadnock's highly successful Collective Impact Model to build new partnerships and deepen early childhood collaboration in this expanded region," said Liz LaRose, president of Monadnock United Way. "These grants create a coordinated system of services so that all families with young children can learn, thrive and be healthy. Without these funds, this important work would not be possible."

Taking the lead on the grant funded regional work is Ellen Taetzsch, MPH. Taetzsch joins the staff at Monadnock United Way (MUW) as the grant funded Systems Manager for Early Childhood Region 1. Prior to joining the team at MUW, she was a Regional Manager for Building Brighter Futures in Williston VT. Taetzsch earned her Master's in Public Health from Emory University in 2011 and spent time in the Peace Corps as a Community Health Advisor in Zambia.

Annie Dintino, PDG Project Co-Director said, "Ellen's experience in coalition building will greatly benefit our efforts in this region. Having someone who is well versed and passionate about bringing people together is invaluable to outcomes for children and families."

Taetzsch officially assumed her role at MUW on January 4 and says that she is "excited to join MUW to support and improve the lives of our youngest children and their families. There are a lot of amazing people working on this in the community and I feel honored that I get to join."

To learn more about Monadnock United Way's Impact Monadnock, visit www.muw.org/impactmonadnock.

ABOUT MONADNOCK UNITED WAY

Monadnock United Way is a nonprofit that backs local programs and initiatives working to support children, improve educational outcomes or help individuals facing financial challenges. Recent research has shown that some of the Monadnock region's most pressing problems are around child neglect, low academic performance, and low wages. MUW brings together the organizations already working to solve these problems to best serve people in our region.

ABOUT IMPACT MONADNOCK

Impact Monadnock, Monadnock United Way's signature early childhood initiative, brings teams of community members together to work on issues affecting young children and their families. The initiative seeks to prepare children from birth to age eight for academic, career and life success by supporting all aspects of their development.