



Monadnock United Way

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUW announces community investments of \$2 million over 3 years

Keene, NH – This month Monadnock United Way (MUW) announced \$2 million of strategic investments for the 2023-2025 funding cycle.

This 3-year investment will continue MUW's focus on supporting a collective impact approach to solving our community's most complex problems and will support four collectives and seven individual programs.

The Monadnock Food Pantries Collective's nine area food pantries are focused on improving public health by reducing food insecurity across the region. The Collective will receive \$90,000 in 2023, \$95,000 in 2024 and \$100,000 in 2025. The full list of member pantries includes:

- The Community Kitchen (Keene)
- Gert's Pantry (Swanzey)
- Joan's Pantry (Chesterfield)
- The Federated Church Food Pantry (Marlborough)
- Helping Hands of Troy (Troy)
- Jaffrey Food Pantry (Jaffrey)
- Kidz Cupboard (Marlborough)
- St Vincent de Paul Society (Keene)
- Rindge Food Pantry (Rindge)

The Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative is focused on helping individuals and families experiencing housing instability in the region. The Collaborative will receive \$76,309 each year and the members include:

- Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention (Cheshire County and 14 towns in western Hillsborough County)
- Southwestern Community Services (Keene, Cheshire County)
- Hundred Nights (Keene)

The five agencies that make up the Monadnock Alliance for Families (MAF) provide home visiting, enrichment opportunities for young children and parent education. MAF will receive \$223,650 in each of the next three years. The members include:

- The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center (Antrim)
- The River Center (Peterborough)
- Healthy Starts (Keene)
- Monadnock Family Services (Keene)
- Rise for baby and family (Keene)

The Monadnock Region Afterschool Collective offers quality afterschool programming with a focus on helping youth achieve positive social, health, and education outcomes. The Collective will receive \$104,050 in 2023, \$106,700 in 2024 and \$107,700 in 2025. The 13-member collective includes:

- ACCESS Winchester Afterschool Program (Winchester)
- Hinsdale Afterschool Program (Hinsdale)
- Keene Family YMCA School's Out Program (Keene and Chesterfield)
- Project Keep (at Symonds, Fuller, and Franklin Schools in Keene)
- Project Edventure Marlborough Afterschool (Marlborough)
- Hillsboro-Deering Before and Afterschool Program (Hillsborough)
- Beyond the Bell (at Mt. Caesar and Cutler Schools in Swanzey, Troy Elementary, and Emerson Elementary in Fitzwilliam)

Five early learning centers will each receive funding to provide childcare tuition assistance to families in need.

- Keene Day Care Center (Keene) will receive \$30,000 per year
- Hillsboro Child Development Center (Hillsborough) will receive \$14,250 per year
- Walpole Village School (Walpole) will receive \$4,988 per year
- The Winchester Early Learning Center (Winchester) will receive \$29,925 per year
- Monadnock Community Early Learning Center (Peterborough) will receive \$29,400 in 2023, \$30,870 in 2024 and \$32,400 in 2025

Southwestern Community Services in Keene will receive \$14,250 per year and will continue to offer children enrolled in the Head Start Program early dental health screenings and education. This program is designed to support the health and wellness of children to ensure that they can achieve social and emotional milestones successfully.

Rise for baby and family in Keene will receive funding to implement and scale the Pyramid Model in childcare centers across the region. This funding, \$128,000, will be allocated in 2025 when the current funding comes to a close. Pyramid Model has already been implemented in eight centers in the region and is focused on ensuring that children learn the social and emotional skills they need to be successful. The program is expected to expand by up to nine additional centers over the next three years. Pyramid Model sites include:

- Keene Day Care Center (Keene)
- The Children's Learning Center at Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock (Keene)
- Jonathan Daniels Preschool (Keene)
- The Child Development Center at Keene State College (Keene)
- Keene Family YMCA (Keene)
- Walpole Village School (Walpole)
- Rise for baby and family (Keene)

A community-based, volunteer investment review team spent many hours reviewing applications, conducting site visits and funding initiatives that will help strengthen the fabric of our community. “We are grateful for the time, expertise and energy they brought to this important role,” said Liz LaRose, MUW President. “We look forward to continuing our work with each of these initiatives and programs as they help improve the quality of life for everyone in our region.”

Jay Smeltz of Keene, a long-time MUW supporter, and volunteer serving on the investment team saw firsthand how important it is to invest in programs designed to help our most vulnerable citizens. He said, “As part of this process, I learned so much about my community. Now when I hear about the childcare crisis, I know exactly what it means.”

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About Monadnock United Way

Monadnock United Way is dedicated to improving lives by mobilizing diverse partners and investing in programs and people to create long-lasting, measurable change. MUW was founded in 1952, and currently has more than 2,500 donors, advocates and volunteers. At Monadnock United Way, we fight for children, education and financial stability in every community throughout our region.