



Impact Monadnock



Monadnock United Way



**“Start Small.
Think Big.”**
is the early education
development
initiative of Impact
Monadnock...
because the future
of the entire
Monadnock Region
depends on the
success of our
youngest citizens.

Community Grantee

Impact Monadnock, the signature early childhood initiative of Monadnock United Way, guides ongoing efforts to improve outcomes for young children and their families in New Hampshire's Monadnock Region. With a vision that all children in the Monadnock Region and their families are healthy, learning and thriving now and in the future, Impact Monadnock was created in response to research indicating that early childhood development is one of the most critical factors determining a person's future. Impact Monadnock prepares children from birth to age eight for future academic, career, and life success by focusing on early childhood program quality, family support and parent education, and early childhood system coordination.

Funded Project

With Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funding, Impact Monadnock revitalized and strengthened its Cross-Sector Collaborative Team of agencies serving children and families. Using the Collective Impact Model, Impact Monadnock engaged organizations with a shared goal of improving the quality of life for young children and their families. PDG funds were used to create a team structure that aimed to develop relationships and communication structures, streamline, avoid duplication of efforts, and align funding and people power.

Cross-Sector Collaborative Team members included representatives from:

- Cheshire Medical Center
- Connected Families NH
- Jonathan Daniels Preschool
- Keene Family YMCA
- Keene Housing Kids Collaborative
- Monadnock Afterschool Coalition
- Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center
- Monadnock Food Pantries Collective
- Mount Caesar School
- SCS Head Start
- The River Center
- Winchester Learning Center

The Team welcomed community presentations about innovative early childhood programs, including Amoskeag Health's Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT) and Community Cafés, which are conversations hosted by parents with the support of community partners.



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Impact Monadnock also launched a series of Community Cafés to provide opportunities for families in the Monadnock Region to seek support from each other, with guidance from trained facilitators. Community Cafés utilize the collective wisdom of participants to help caregivers gain new ideas and strategies, rather than relying on a professional to be the sole deliverer of information. In partnership with the Monadnock Alliance for Families, Impact Monadnock provided training for families and professionals to become Community Café facilitators, and provided participants with materials to plan and facilitate café sessions. Trained facilitators implemented one virtual Community Café series for families with infants and young children in the winter, and an in-person session, held outdoors in spring, focused on families with school-age and adolescent children. Both series were designed to provide support to parenting during this time of pandemic stress and received strong positive feedback.



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