



COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2017

United
Way



Monadnock United Way



Chris and Gino McCarthy

Home Visiting: Early Intervention That Works

Jessica McCarthy does not know what she would do without her home visitor.

McCarthy's son was diagnosed with autism. In December 2017, he began working with a speech therapist from Rise for baby and family.

"Our personal speech therapist is awesome," McCarthy said. "She really took the time to build a relationship with my son Chris."

McCarthy said it does not come easily to Chris to play with others, but the home visitor from Rise took her time earning his trust and following his lead. She now sees improvement in Chris' speech thanks in part to the once-a-week home visits from his speech therapist.

Rise is one of four agencies that make up the Monadnock Home Visiting Alliance, a pilot collective impact initiative launched by Monadnock United Way last year. The other agencies are Home Healthcare Hospice & Community Services, The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center and The River Center Family and Community Resource Center. The alliance recently received a \$51,000 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, which will allow for increased community outreach to expand service.

Home visiting has been considered an effective form of early intervention, and services include anything from speech therapy to breastfeeding assistance to parenting tips.

McCarthy said having the speech therapist come to their home has made an "uncomfortable situation comfortable" for Chris. "To have someone come see them in their environment, it's huge."

The home visitor also helped McCarthy's family navigate through the confusing process of getting the autism diagnosis.

"They've helped in so many ways," she said. "They're almost like your counselor too, even though they are there for your kid."

To read about other families impacted by home visiting, visit muw.org/homevisitingstories.

IMPACT MONADNOCK

Impact Monadnock (IM) merged with MUW in 2017. It is now our signature early childhood initiative, focused on preparing children from birth to age five for future academic, career and life success. IM's vision is that all children in the Monadnock region and their families are healthy, learning and thriving, now and in the future.

Key accomplishments:

- Supporting Impact Monadnock Business Ambassadors in efforts to expand child- and family-friendly policies and practices in workplaces.
- Increasing use of a developmental screening tool in medical and educational settings.
- Creating a learning community that provides networking and professional development for early childhood professionals around supporting social and emotional development for young children.
- Forming the Monadnock Home Visiting Alliance, a collective impact initiative consisting of four agencies working together to expand the reach of effective home visiting services.

Visit www.impactmonadnock.org for more information.

CHILDREN

Healthy children who live in a nurturing home, school, and community environment are more likely to achieve success in school and seek career opportunities after high school that contribute to economic growth.

Our Impact

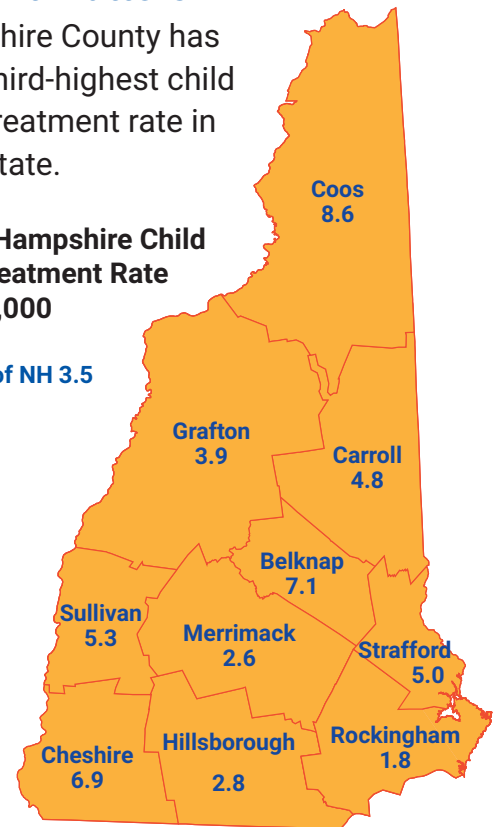
- In 2017, more than 1,200 families were connected to support services to improve their parenting skills.
- In 2017, Monadnock United Way launched a pilot collective impact initiative that brought together four home visiting programs. The alliance received a \$51,000 grant in 2018 from the NH Charitable Foundation to increase the number of families receiving home visiting services by 20 percent.
- More than 200 babies and young children received developmental, social and emotional screenings in 2017.
- More than 330 families received scholarships in 2017 to help them access child care.

Why it Matters

Cheshire County has the third-highest child maltreatment rate in the state.

New Hampshire Child Maltreatment Rate Per 1,000

State of NH 3.5



Sources: 2016 U.S. Census Population Estimates, NH Department of Health and Human Services



A Path Out of Homelessness

In the fall of 2017, one out-of-state family found several helping hands in Keene, including from MUW partner agencies. David Thorhaug, a millwright welder, was living with his brother in Keene while doing contract projects. He was sending money to his pregnant partner, Elizabeth Edwards, and their two children, who were living in Florida with Elizabeth's mother.

When Hurricane Irma hit and they lost everything, they relocated to Keene. However, David found himself out of work, and his brother's lease did not allow for the family to continue living in the home. David and his family found themselves homeless, a prospect they had never imagined.



EDUCATION

High school graduates have higher earning potential, contribute more to their local economies, are more engaged in their communities and are more likely to raise kids who also graduate on time.

Our Impact

- In 2017, 152 youth facing adversity were matched with a mentor.
- Volunteers gave more than 2,500 hours of their time in 2017 to help build literacy skills in children.
- In 2017, the First Day Project provided more than 600 backpacks of school supplies to two elementary schools to support the needs of students.

Why it Matters

- 5 out of 7 schools in our region scored lower than the state average in the percentage of 11th grade students scoring proficient or above on the SAT **math** assessment.



- 5 out of 7 schools in our region scored lower than the state average in the percentage of 11th grade students scoring proficient or above on the SAT **reading** assessment.
- Across the state, 44 percent of 11th grade students scored proficient or above on the SAT math assessment, and 66 percent of 11th grade students scored proficient or above on the SAT reading assessment.

Source: New Hampshire Department of Education

Note: The NH Department of Education administers the SAT math and reading assessments to all 11th grade students.

Southwestern Community Services, Hundred Nights, Inc. and The Community Kitchen then stepped in, providing food, shelter and connections to other services. Eventually, Hundred Nights found a home for the family. David, Elizabeth and their children are now happily settled in Keene. David has found work again, and the couple are able to give

back to the community that showed them kindness in their time of need.

From left: David, Aubrey and Kolton Thorhaug in their family's new home.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

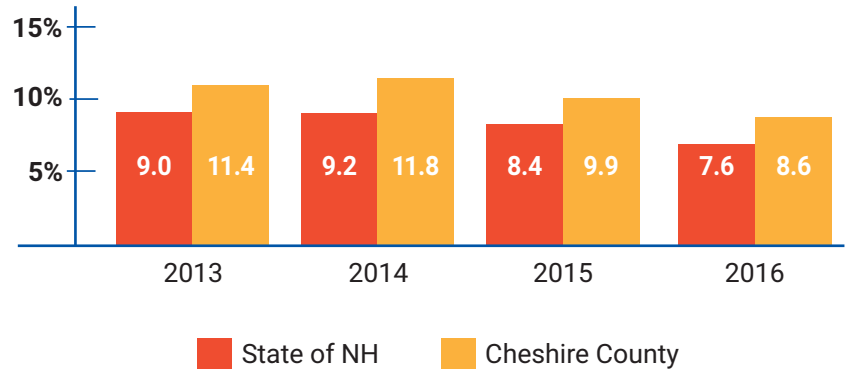
Our wages are among the lowest in the state. They have not kept pace with the rising costs of housing, healthcare and education.

Our Impact

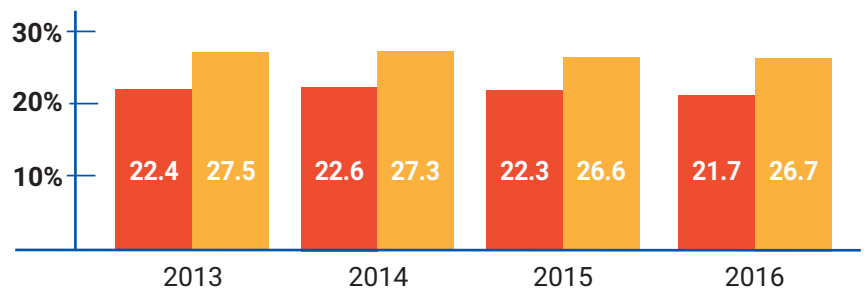
- 193 low-income families were provided with free legal representation to preserve or obtain basic life necessities, including shelter, income, employment and safety.
- In 2017, nearly 90 uninsured or underinsured families received scholarships to help them access mental health services.
- The number of people who used the MyFreeTaxes program, which was widely promoted by MUW, increased by 37 percent from 2017 to 2018. This means more low-income individuals and families were able to access tax-return dollars they may not have otherwise accessed.

Why it Matters

Percentage of population living in poverty in NH and Cheshire County



Percentage of population considered low-income in NH and Cheshire County



Source: University of New Hampshire, Carsey School of Public Policy, Northern New England Indicators.



BASIC NEEDS

Food

Provided meals to more than 3,300 Monadnock region residents in need.

Shelter

2,200* people received shelter and support services to reduce homelessness.

*Note: We cannot be sure that clients aren't duplicated.

Heat

Nearly 4,000 income-eligible families were enrolled for fuel assistance benefits in 2017.

Transportation

More than 18,200 critical rides were provided to seniors and people with disabilities.

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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