



Monadnock
UNITED WAY

Rooted and Rising: Sarah's Path from Survival to Significance



When Sarah joined the Monadnock Region Afterschool Partnership Project (MRAPP) internship at Project KEEP, she wasn't just seeking employment; she was searching for purpose.

As a devoted mother to a three-year-old daughter, Sarah had spent years cycling through warehouse and service jobs that didn't align with her passions. She longed to work with children, but many childcare opportunities were out of reach without reliable transportation.

Then she discovered MRAPP, and everything began to change.

Placed at the Franklin Elementary School site—just five minutes from her apartment—Sarah finally had the opportunity to do work that felt meaningful. From the beginning, her ability to connect with children, especially those with emotional or behavioral needs, stood out.

One student, known for frequent outbursts, found calm in Sarah's presence. She didn't use strict discipline or loud commands—just quiet patience, compassion, and understanding.

"It was the first job I ever wanted," she said. "I felt like I belonged."

Sarah thrived in the afterschool setting. She grew more confident giving directions, leading activities, and setting firm boundaries with kindness.

"I used to feel like a side person," she reflected. "Now I feel like a leader."

Her growth didn't go unnoticed. Before her internship ended, the school hired her directly—offering more hours and a long-term role. She's now working with the NH Department of Health and Human Services' NAPP program to access free certification courses and plans to resume driving soon, opening new doors.

Sarah now dreams of designing a summer program blending art, music, and emotional wellness.

"MRAPP didn't just give me a job. It gave me direction—and for the first time, I'm building something real for myself and my daughter."