



Monadnock
UNITED WAY

**TEAMING UP FOR
TOMORROW**

NEWSLETTER

\$1 Million Child Care Expansion Grant Develops Local Teachers

Dear MUW Supporters,

We are pleased to share that MUW has raised \$609,260 of our \$1,484,000 *Teaming Up for Tomorrow* campaign goal. As a result of your generosity and caring, we're 41% of the way there! Your support helps ensure that MUW can continue to mobilize our community to action so that all can thrive!

Early Child Care Crisis Impacts our Region

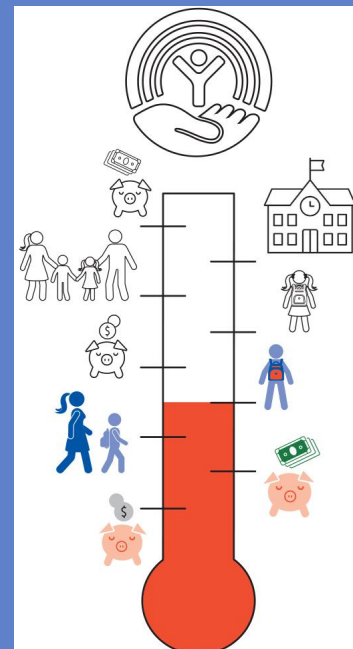
At last month's annual campaign kickoff, a panel of community leaders identified the lack of quality early child care as one of the two crises in the Monadnock Region. (Housing instability and homelessness is our other crisis.) Click on the video below to view the entire panel discussion.

In a region where the median family income for renters is \$43,200, many cannot afford the average \$14,000 cost *per child* for quality child care. When you add the cost of food, transportation, health care etc., it doesn't take long to appreciate the challenges many working parents and caregivers face.



**THANKS TO YOU, WE
HAVE RAISED \$609,260
(41%) OF OUR
\$1,484,000 GOAL!**

*Thank you for your
generous support!*



DONATE TODAY!

Pictured: Alicia Deaver, [Rise for baby and family](#) and Becky Beaton, [Hundred Nights](#). Other panelists included: Tom Julius, Chair, [Monadnock Interfaith Project](#) and Chris Coates, [Cheshire County Administrator](#).

Teaming Up to Develop Early Child Care Teachers

In October of 2022, Keene State College and the Monadnock United Way were awarded a \$1 million Child Care Expansion Grant* in order to provide more accessible, high-quality early child care for families in the Monadnock Region. Nationally and regionally, there is a critical shortage of high-quality child care for children from birth to five years old.

This grant encourages early child care assistant teachers to become lead qualified teachers by earning the state-recognized Child Development Associate ([CDA](#)) credential. Roberta Royce, Executive Director of the Winchester Learning Center, recently shared her experience with the program.

"The Child Care Expansion project enabled me to coach and mentor assistant teachers to become lead-qualified teachers eligible for higher pay, bonuses, or promotions. I worked with eight candidates who earned their CDA credential. The CDA program takes about six months of self-paced education and coaching, and is provided free of cost to qualified candidates."

--Roberta Royce, Executive Director, Winchester Learning Center

Impact on Local Families and Economy

The Child Care Expansion project fast-tracks education and certification of early childhood teachers, enabling child care providers to increase their capacity, open up new spaces for children, and retain their teachers through satisfying professional development. The availability of well-staffed, qualified child care providers in the Monadnock Region assists community members who require child care in order to work and provide for their families. An additional benefit of this project is that it will make the area more attractive to those seeking jobs from surrounding areas, helping to drive our local economy.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kossayda, Director of Marketing, Keene State College

Ben Wheeler, Community Volunteer
General Campaign Co-Chairs

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