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UNITED WAY

**OUR MONADNOCK, OUR
IMPACT**

LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Expanding Access to Childcare in the Monadnock Region

Dear MUW Supporters,

Many families in the Monadnock Region face challenges finding affordable, quality childcare due to long waitlists and a shortage of qualified staff. This impacts children's access to the early learning necessary for their futures' (and our community's future) and parent's and caregiver's ability to work in order to support their families.



Read about how the [Winchester Learning Center](#) was able to open up 18 additional childcare slots through the CDA program. Click [here](#) for their amazing success story!

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Increased development options for early childhood educators and high school students

MUW and Keene State College were awarded a \$1 million grant to increase quality childcare offerings in our region. The Child Care Expansion (CCE)* grant offers several options to increase early childhood educator credentialing and training, including:

- The [Childhood Development Associate \(CDA\)](#) credential, a nationally recognized certification awarded to certified teachers who, as a result, can work independently in their own classrooms
- The [Early Childhood Education Certificate](#), a fast-track option which provides essential skills for working in roles such as childcare teacher and support staff
- Support for family-based childcare centers, including guidance for educators to become credentialed under the NH Early Childhood Professional Development System
- Specialized training in the [Pyramid Model](#), which helps educators support children's social and emotional development and challenging behaviors
- Internships at local childcare centers, which offer hands on experience to selected high school students
- Pathway to higher education or career, by which students are supported in creating a pathway that could lead to higher education at institutions like [River Valley Community College](#) or [Keene State College](#), or to a direct career entry

"When teachers have opportunities for professional development, they are more invested in their work with children and families."

--Deirdre McPartlin, Director, KSC Child Development Center and Co-Director, CCE Taskforce

The CCE grant is one of my favorite initiatives because it touches on all three of MUW's areas of focus: [Children](#), [Education](#), and [Financial Stability](#). Children benefit from having qualified, motivated teachers; childcare centers are able to offer development and career paths to their employees; high school students can create a pathway to an early education career; and families have increased access to high-quality childcare, which helps them achieve financial stability because they can work knowing their children are in the care of competent, educated providers.

Sincerely,

Liz LaRose, President



[Check out our newsletter archive.](#)

*The Child Care Expansion grant is funded under the US Department of Education Congressionally-Funded Community Projects Program

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