

## Every Child Deserves a Safe and Happy Childhood

### Dear MUW Supporters,

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time for us to increase awareness, strengthen families, and work together to prevent child abuse and neglect. I think I speak for all of us when I say every child deserves to grow up in a safe and supportive environment. Today I want to share with you how your support furthers child abuse prevention in the Monadnock Region.

### The Situation

The troubling reality is that Cheshire County has been ranked the third highest maltreatment rate in the New Hampshire. Sadly, abuse happens in families across the demographic spectrum – rich and poor, traditional and nontraditional, urban and rural.



### Monadnock Alliance for Families

The Monadnock Alliance for Families (MAF) collaborative, funded by MUW, strives to lower child abuse rates, ensure access to high-quality services, and promote optimal child development. In 2023, nearly 2,000 children and families participated in parent education and other services from MFA. The Alliance



### IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KNOW

If you are concerned that a child may be the victim of abuse or neglect, call the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Central Intake Unit at 603-271-6562 or 800-894-5533 (NH only), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For immediate emergencies, please call 911. Proof of abuse or neglect is *not* required to make a report and you may report confidentially.

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members are.

- Rise for baby and family
- Monadnock Family Services
- The River Center
- The Grapevine
- Healthy Starts - HCS

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Monadnock Alliance for Families.

MAF employs the Strengthening Families™ Framework to help families thrive. It shifts the focus from fixing problems to building family strengths. The Framework encourages family-centered practices and fosters positive outcomes for children and families through five foundational Protective Factors:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parenting and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Strengthening Families Framework and the five Protective Factors.

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### **Our Responsibility to Help – It's the Law!**

Did you know:

- Only 1 in 10 incidents of child abuse are ever reported?
- NH is a universal mandated reporting state? (Only 2/3 of adults know they are mandated to report child abuse)
- Signs to look for that can help prevent abuse or neglect?

[Click here](#) to learn about the signs of child abuse.

At MUW we're committed to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. We encourage everyone to learn the signs of abuse and to support organizations that serve children and families that make a lasting impact. Together, we can build a world where every child is safe, loved, and empowered to thrive.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kossayda, Director of Marketing, Keene State College  
Ben Wheeler, Senior Vice President, Machias Savings Bank  
General Campaign Co-Chairs



[Check out our newsletter archive.](#)

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