Overview of our Community Investments FY2020

Our mission is to create positive, lasting change for people in need. We focus on two foundations of better lives: **Financial Opportunity** and **Educational Success**.

We serve 47 communities in Rockingham and Strafford Counties in New Hampshire and Kittery and Eliot, Maine. In addition to funding, UWGS provides leadership, strategic partnership, and coordination of volunteers to over 80 local organizations in the Seacoast community.

**FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY:** Our goal is to ensure that individuals and families have safe housing and quality childcare. That they have jobs that allow them to support themselves and their families. And that they have access to financial tools and coaching to help them build a better future.

We work to prevent homelessness, help homeless families obtain safe, affordable housing, and empower them with education and support to become more financially stable.

Our funded partners include:

- Community Action Partnership of Strafford County
- Cross Roads House, Inc.
- Fair Tide, Inc.
- Families First Health and Support Center
- Gather (Food Pantry Network)
- HAVEN
- Homeless Center for Strafford County
- Housing Action New Hampshire
- My Friend’s Place
- New Generation, Inc.
- New Hampshire Legal Assistance
- Seacoast Family Promise
- SHARE Fund
- Southern NH Services (dba Rockingham Community Action)

**United Way Initiatives and Special Grants**

- **Home For All:** A multi-sector coalition of homeless service providers, government, business, education, healthcare, community leaders and other stakeholders. The coalition mobilizes resources (human, financial, community), assists with the ongoing assessment of needs and opportunities, and develops collaborative, coordinated and proven strategies for reducing, and ultimately eliminating, the issue of homelessness in the region.

- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA):** Provides free tax preparation services to qualified working families and access to asset-building and financial education services.

- **Family Fund grants:** To provide emergency relief to individuals and families through food pantries in local communities.

- **Food Providers Network (FPN):** A group of nearly 50 local food programs that come together to improve capacity within the food distribution network and collaboratively address the root causes of hunger in our communities.

(OVER)
EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS
Our goal is to ensure that children enter school ready to learn, develop critical social and academic skills, and get the support they need to stay in school and graduate.

**Ages 0-5**: The first five years of a child's life set the stage for future success, making access to high quality early education and family support programs critical.

**Youth**: We help teens build leadership and advocacy skills that empower them to stand up against substance abuse.

Our funded partners include:

- Waypoint (formerly Child and Family Services)
- Community Action Partnership of Strafford County
- Dover Day Care Learning Center
- Early Learning New Hampshire (SELA)
- Families First Health and Support Center
- Farmington Child Care Center
- Goodwin Community Health (Coordinated School Health Program)
- Kingston Child Care Center
- Rochester Child Care Center
- Seacoast Community School
- Somersworth Early Learning Center
- The Upper Room, A Family Resource Center

**United Way Initiatives:**

- **State Early Learning Alliance (SELA)**: This collaboration of child care centers shares best practices among centers, strengthens the financial foundation of the child care system, and improves the quality of early childhood education provided on the Seacoast and throughout NH.

- **Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP)** is a United Way funded initiative led by the Strafford County Public Health Network and Goodwin Community Health. This K-12 school-based initiative seeks to address threats to positive health outcomes for school-aged youth in the communities of Farmington and Somersworth. This comprehensive school-based approach aligns activities and services that promote student academic, physical, emotional, and social development.

- **Granite Youth Alliance**: GYA develops youth advocates in middle and high school with a capacity to create change by increasing their knowledge around substance misuse topics and developing advocacy skills to take action. The students create change in their communities through education, media development, community awareness and policy change.

- **Somersworth Ready Together**: A partnership between United Way and the Somersworth Ready Together Early Childhood Coalition to improve the Kindergarten readiness of all children in Somersworth.

**NH 211 Information and Referral**: A 24/7 hotline that connects New Hampshire residents to critical health and human services resources. They answered more than 10,000 calls for assistance from Strafford and Rockingham county residents in 2018. Funded by United Ways in NH.