

2015 COMMUNITY REPORT



EDUCATION

- Kindergarten Readiness
- Academic Achievement
- Graduation Rates

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Children who start kindergarten behind typically stay behind. Those not reading at grade level by the end of third grade are **4X** more likely to not finish high school, the most powerful predictor of breaking the cycle of generational poverty.



2/3 of Maine 4th graders do not read at grade level

- Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book

Maine's **socio-economic gap** in reading skills has **widened** significantly in the **past decade**.

- Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book

Low grades and **absenteeism** rates by 3rd grade are strong predictors of not finishing **high school**.

- United Way Worldwide

PROGRESS: UNITED WAY IN ACTION

8,216

Androscoggin County children participated in United Way-funded programs to help keep them on track

90%

Improvement in letter recognition after 5-week Kindergarten Jump Start

125

Children mentored through United Way-funded programs

78%

Androscoggin County Class of 2014 graduation rate



"Reading to kids early in life helps them develop the skills and strategies they need to be successful."

Marc Paquette
Success By Six Chair, Auburn, ME

FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Basic Needs
- Job Training & Employment
- Transportation

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Child poverty costs the United States **\$500 billion** per year in lost productivity, and extra health and criminal justice costs.

- Poverty and Education, Finding the Way Forward

23.8% of children in Androscoggin County live below the U.S. poverty level

Poverty is defined as a person earning less than \$11,700 or a family of four earning less than \$24,000.

- American Fact Finder



68% of single-parent households in Androscoggin County with children under the age of 5 live below the poverty level

PROGRESS: UNITED WAY IN ACTION

38,383

Emergency meals served to those in need through United Way-funded programs.

401

Referrals to housing services made in Androscoggin County through 2-1-1 Maine

\$3,728,000

Federal and state income tax refunds returned to the community with L/A CASH Coalition



"There is always someone at L/A Cash that is knowledgeable, caring and helpful."

Jody F. Turner, ME

HEALTH

- Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse Services
- Healthy Children
- Senior Independence
- Violence & Abuse Services
- Basic Healthcare Access

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

One in five adults experience a mental illness. Serious mental illness costs America **\$193 billion** in lost earnings every year.

- The American Journal of Psychiatry



2/3 of Mainers with a mental illness do not receive treatment

- National Institute of Mental Health

64,000 adults and children in Maine live with serious mental health conditions

26% of homeless adults in shelters live with serious mental illness

PROGRESS: UNITED WAY IN ACTION

4,764

People received help for mental illness and substance abuse issues through United Way-funded programs

69,866

Trips provided to Seniors and Veterans for medical appointments through United Way-funded programs

800

Children participated in educational programs, learning healthier habits through gardening and cooking classes



"With the help of United Way services, I was able to remain in my home."

Teresa B.
Auburn, ME

GIVE. 6,219 people and 158 companies contributed \$1,315,000 in the 2014 campaign, helping to address community needs through United Way.

In 2014 United Way successfully advocated in Augusta for voluntary public preschool

ADVOCATE.

programs and quality kindergarten assessment by the 2018-2019 school year. United Way also advocated for Head Start and child care services that serve three-to-five-year old children from families with incomes below the federal poverty level and families receiving public assistance.

VOLUNTEER. 699 volunteers donated 3,236 hours with United Way in 2014. Activities ranged from reading to children and tutoring youth, to serving meals, and preparing taxes. On one day alone, 268 volunteers from local businesses worked on 24 projects at non-profits throughout Androscoggin County.

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**United Way
of Androscoggin County**