2015
COMMUNITY
REPORT
**EDUCATION**

- Kindergarten Readiness
- Academic Achievement
- Graduation Rates

**PROGRESS: UNITED WAY IN ACTION**

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

- Children mentored through United Way-funded programs
- Androscoggin County Class of 2014 graduation rate

**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’s socio-economic gap in reading skills has widened significantly in the past decade.
- 2/3 of Maine 4th graders do not read at grade level
- Improvement in letter recognition after 5-week Kindergarten Jump Start
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Academic Achievement
- Graduation Rates

**HEALTH**

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

**PROGRESS: UNITED WAY IN ACTION**

Federal and state income tax refunds returned to the community with L/A CA$H Coalition.

- Emergency meals served to those in need through United Way-funded programs.
- Referrals to housing services made in Androscoggin County through 2-1-1 Maine.
- $3,728,000

**WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT**

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**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

- Basic Needs
- Job Training & Employment
- Transportation

**PROGRESS: UNITED WAY IN ACTION**

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

- People received help for mental illness and substance abuse issues through United Way-funded programs
- Children participated in educational programs, learning healthier habits through gardening and cooking classes
- 2/3 of Maine 4th graders do not read at grade level
- 23.8% of children in Androscoggin County live below the U.S. poverty level
- 68% of single-parent households in Androscoggin County with children under the age of 5 live below the poverty level

**WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT**

- Child poverty costs the United States $500 billion per year in lost productivity, and extra health and criminal justice costs.
- 23.8% of children in Androscoggin County live below the U.S. poverty level
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**SUCCESS STORY**

- “With the help of United Way services, I was able to remain in my home.”
  - Teresa B, Auburn, ME
- “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
- “There is always someone at L/A Cash that is knowledgeable, caring and helpful.”
  - Jody F, Turner, ME
In 2014 United Way successfully advocated in Augusta for voluntary public preschool 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.

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

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.