

# STRONGER TOGETHER

## THIS IS MY UNITED WAY

by Eli Rivera  
Cheshire County Sheriff



The Monadnock Region became my adopted home when I first moved to Keene in 1989. During the first couple of years, I worked for several agencies before joining the City of Keene as a police officer in 1991.

**During my tenure with the City, I** was introduced to the Monadnock United Way campaign and have supported the agency regularly ever since.

**I've always had a passion for** volunteering: whether at a local school, the Community Kitchen, non-profit agency, Project Graduation, or with Keene Kiwanis, it gives me a sense of belonging with the community where I live and work and which I love.

**I am always looking at ways to** support my community, and the opportunity to join the Monadnock United Way Board of Directors came to me unexpectedly.

**Being contacted to be part of the** Board was very humbling and an opportunity that I could not pass up. I am especially familiar with MUW's ongoing work with their signature child advocacy initiative, Impact Monadnock, a project that I initially helped to launch.

**Volunteering is part of who I am** and, as a police officer, I was frequently asked to help with a school event or to help with a kids' baseball league. I would always jump on these opportunities, and to this day, I still have a hard time saying no, especially when it comes to giving back.

**Being on the Board has been a great** experience and has also allowed me to learn about the impact the Monadnock United Way has in our community. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The staff made adjustments and** went to work, without missing a beat launched the COVID-19 Relief Fund and raised over \$600,000 to support organizations impacted by the pandemic.

**It speaks volumes to the** Monadnock United Way's staff commitment to the Monadnock area and the organizations they have supported.

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