

Developing the Childcare Workforce of the Future

Dear MUW Supporters,

Is it us, or did this summer just fly by? We know it's not over yet—but a month from now, many kids in our region will have been back in the classroom for almost two weeks! This feels like a perfect time for us to reflect on the first year of the [Monadnock Region Afterschool Partnership Program \(MRAPP\)](#) and its impact on aspiring childcare workers in the area. In May, we sent you an overview of two MUW-backed afterschool programs ([click here](#) to read that newsletter). Today, we're digging a little deeper and sharing an MRAPP success story and some exciting plans for this year.

Developing the Childcare Workforce of the Future

MRAPP, which is funded by a federal [Northern Borders Regional Commission](#) grant, connects high school, college, and adult interns with afterschool programs across our region. Since its launch, MRAPP has placed 20+ interns across 13 sites in collaboration with five local partner programs (all of these partners are in the [Monadnock Region Afterschool Collective](#)).

These interns—ranging in age from 16 to adult—are making a difference for over 1,000 children in our region, clocking in over 4,000 hours of childcare in a year. They are exploring careers in education, social work, counseling, and human services. MRAPP offers them a chance to gain hands-on experience and clarity about their future career direction.

This fall, MRAPP will place 20 new interns in afterschool programs throughout the region. The program will also launch the MRAPP Credentialing Pilot in partnership with the [NH Afterschool Network](#). Interns who earn this state-approved certification can jump-start their childcare careers before earning a bachelor's or associate's degree.



SAVE THE DATE!

**Our Monadnock,
Our Impact
Campaign Kickoff!**

WHEN: September 16
8:30-10:00 am

WHERE: Heberton Hall,
Keene Public Library

*Join us as we kickoff
our campaign with
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Ariana Wilbur, Keene High School Student and MRAPP Intern

MRAPP Internships: A Success Story

Ariana Wilbur is a shining example of the impact an MRAPP internship can have on an individual. She is a Keene High School student who joined through the school's [Extended Learning Opportunity \(ELO\)](#) program. Ariana interned at the [Keene YMCA](#), where she developed and led an environmental club using the [Early Sprouts](#) model, promoting gardening, cooking, and healthy eating. In addition to exploring a career, Ariana also developed communication skills which will help her in any future endeavor.

“Talking with kids helped build my confidence to talk to adults. Kids can talk about anything—they taught me.”

Ariana Wilbur, MRAPP Intern

Thanks to her experience at the Y, Ariana secured a summer job with Keene Recreation's Summer Camps program. As a result of the experience and clarity she gained over the past year, Ariana plans to study psychology at White Mountains Community College with a goal of working with children. This is a clear win-win-win situation for Ariana, our community, and our children.

Sincerely,

Ashley Elliott, Board Chair, Rise for baby and family
Tom Julius, Board Chair, Monadnock Interfaith Project

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