



# HELPING TEENAGERS MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

## In North Central Massachusetts

United Way of North Central Massachusetts is committed to advancing the common good by focusing on EDUCATION, INCOME and HEALTH—the building blocks for a good quality of life. This strategy is helping our entire community by creating opportunities for a better life for all.

In the 22 communities we serve, our experiences tell us the best way to help the most people is to focus on the most serious problems and their underlying causes. Once an issue has been identified and prioritized, we recruit people and organizations, who bring the passion, expertise and resources needed to get things done.

### HELPING TEENAGERS

In North Central Massachusetts, there are too many young people who are struggling because they lack direction and the skills needed for a successful life.

United Way’s Community Impact Fund is tackling this issue, thanks to our donors, volunteers and partner agencies.

For Devin, it was a United Way funded program that helped open his eyes to the choices that he was making.

Because of the program, Devin learned that he should be a leader not a follower. “I honestly believe if I had not come to Bridging the Gap, I would be making the same old mistakes I’ve made before.” He also learned so many new things, which includes self-respect and respect for other individuals, which has really made a big impact on his life. “They taught us how to appeal to other’s emotions and even if we disagree with them that we should handle it in a respectful manner. Because of this, I’m able to communicate much better with my teachers and fellow students at my school, as well as my family at home

We invite you to join us in this effort. You can give, you can advocate and you can volunteer to make good change happen. That’s what it means to LIVE UNITED.



We invite you to give, to advocate, or to volunteer at [www.uwncm.org](http://www.uwncm.org)

## UNITED WAY’S FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Education is a cornerstone for success in school, work and life. And it benefits the whole community: high school graduates earn more and contribute more to their local economies, are more engaged in their communities, and are more likely to raise kids who also graduate. United Way is about more than short-term charity for a few; we’re about lasting solutions that build opportunity for all. We look at the big picture: what resources are lacking or need strengthening, and how we can address those gaps to keep kids on track to graduation.

We invite you to give, to advocate, or to volunteer—only by working together can we help every child unlock their full potential and empower the workforce of tomorrow. To improve education, United Way is helping children and youth to:

- Start school ready to succeed
- Read at grade level early on
- Succeed in the middle grades
- Complete secondary education
- Pursue college or a post-secondary credential

Learn more about United Way’s roadmap for improving people’s lives and strengthening our community.

<http://www.uwncm.org>

### GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

United Way of North Central Massachusetts

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