

**IT'S AMAZING**  
**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU**  
**INVEST**  
**IN A YOUNG CHILD'S FUTURE.**



**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**  
**LIVE UNITED™**



United Way  
of Massachusetts Bay  
and Merrimack Valley

# IT'S EVEN MORE AMAZING WHAT DOESN'T.

Studies show that every \$1 invested in early childhood interventions produces a \$14-\$17 return. When children are given quality early education, they are:

**43% less likely to be assigned to special needs placement.**

**13% less likely to repeat a grade.**

**25% less likely to drop out of high school.**

Sources: Karoly, L.A., Kilburn, M.R., and Cannon, J.S. (2005). *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

Barnett, W. Steven & Belfield, Clive R. "Early Childhood Development and Social Mobility," *The Future of Children* 16 (2006).

We all win when children have the support they need to enter school ready to learn, grow and succeed.

Be part of our movement to enable the boundless potential of children. Whether you give, advocate or volunteer, LIVE UNITED means joining your hopes with those of others to create positive, lasting change.

And that creates a better tomorrow for everyone.

## YOUR INVESTMENT IN ACTION

More than **16,000** young children served.

Over **400** young children in need of support were able to stay in programs.

More than **1,700** parents report being better able to support their children.

**\$7.4 million** invested annually.

Note: United Way agencies are now reporting progress every 6 months. This data was reported for the period July 1, 2007- December 31, 2007.



## A STORY OF LOVE AND EARLY INTERVENTION

Taken from his parents and placed in foster care as a four-year-old, Michael suffered from significant language and developmental delays, as well as behavior and abandonment issues. After months of interventions such as intensive play therapy, counseling, social work and the love of the foster family that has since adopted him, he's now a talkative, social kindergartner who is no longer considered special needs.

Identities have been changed to protect confidentiality.

## MAKING THIS THE BEST REGION FOR CHILDREN

This is our vision. We're working toward it by building the basic things that we all need for a good life: support so that our children enter school ready to learn, adult guidance and positive options for youth, safe, permanent homes for families and the financial know-how to build better futures.

## CREATING LASTING CHANGE

United Way brings together school, community, government, and business leaders to enable progress that would not otherwise be possible. After careful study, we invest in proven community approaches and forge ground-breaking partnerships that address the underlying causes of the issues we are working to solve. Here are some of the ways we're creating a better life for all:

- We're partnering with Mayor Thomas Menino and the City of Boston to drive *Thrive in Five*, a major city-wide school readiness initiative aimed at preventing the achievement gap and improving the odds for all young children.
- We're on the leading edge of a movement to change the way homeless families are served in the Commonwealth. United Way is working with shelters, business leaders and government to place homeless families in housing as a first step, an approach that is more effective and costs less.
- We're collaborating with after-school programs and the region's healthcare, life sciences and technology industries to help our youth succeed in the sciences and prepare our next generation of workers for tomorrow's economy.

## GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

To learn more, call 617.624.8000 or go to [supportunitedway.org](http://supportunitedway.org).



# THANK YOU!

## FOR JOINING THE MOVEMENT

To learn how your contribution is creating results go to [supportunitedway.org](http://supportunitedway.org).

### Giving is Tax Deductible

You can choose to deduct your charitable contribution to United Way on your federal tax return if you itemize your deductions. Contributions through payroll, check, credit card, or securities qualify for a tax deduction, and deducting appreciated securities can eliminate or reduce your capital gains tax. Talk to your tax or financial advisor for more information.

### Save Your Receipt

You must obtain a receipt in order to claim a charitable tax deduction on your federal tax return. By March 1st, United Way will send you a receipt for gifts paid by check, credit card or securities. To expedite processing, please be sure to include your home or business address on the pledge form. For gifts made by payroll deduction, save a copy of this pledge form and either a pay stub, Form W-2, or other employer-furnished document that sets forth the amount withheld for payment to United Way. In accordance with IRS requirements, we acknowledge that United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Inc. d/b/a United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley has not provided any goods or services in consideration, in whole or in part, for this contribution, other than as they relate to Caring Club\* Members and Special Event Contributions. The amount deductible for federal income tax purposes is limited to the excess of the money contributed over the fair market value of the goods or services received in exchange for this contribution. Please refer to the promotional materials for the fair market value of goods or services received in exchange for your contribution. You may wish to consult your tax advisor with regard to your personal tax situation.

\*The fair market value of *Caring Club* membership is \$25.



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