

## Fostering the next generation of engaged, productive citizens

Statistics prove that high school graduation is crucial to both individual success and our region's economic prosperity. Early on, successful grade-to-grade promotion is an indicator of whether a student is likely to graduate.

**10,400** young people dropped out of school in our region last year.<sup>1</sup>

To promote youth success, United Way is leading the way with programs that ensure that kids will stay engaged in school, progress from grade to grade and graduate ready to excel in the 21st century. It's the mid-point on a strategic continuum of helping people and changing communities.



## Annual progress report: Youth Opportunities

Youth served by quality programs

**GOAL: 150,491 youth**

**ACHIEVED:**  
**153,434**

Out-of-school-time program sites using research-based tools to measure youth outcomes

**GOAL: 135 program sites**

**ACHIEVED:**  
**134**

Out-of-school-time program sites with effective connections with schools

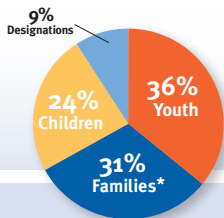
**GOAL: 96 program sites**

**ACTUAL:**  
**102**

Youth engaged in one-to-one or group mentoring relationships

**GOAL: 7,056 youth**

**ACTUAL:**  
**7,101**



## Investing in youth is an investment in our economic future

Each year, if only 1,000 young people graduated instead of dropping out, they would collectively earn \$15 million more each year and add \$1.8 million to state and local revenue.<sup>1</sup>

## No other single organization can do what United Way does

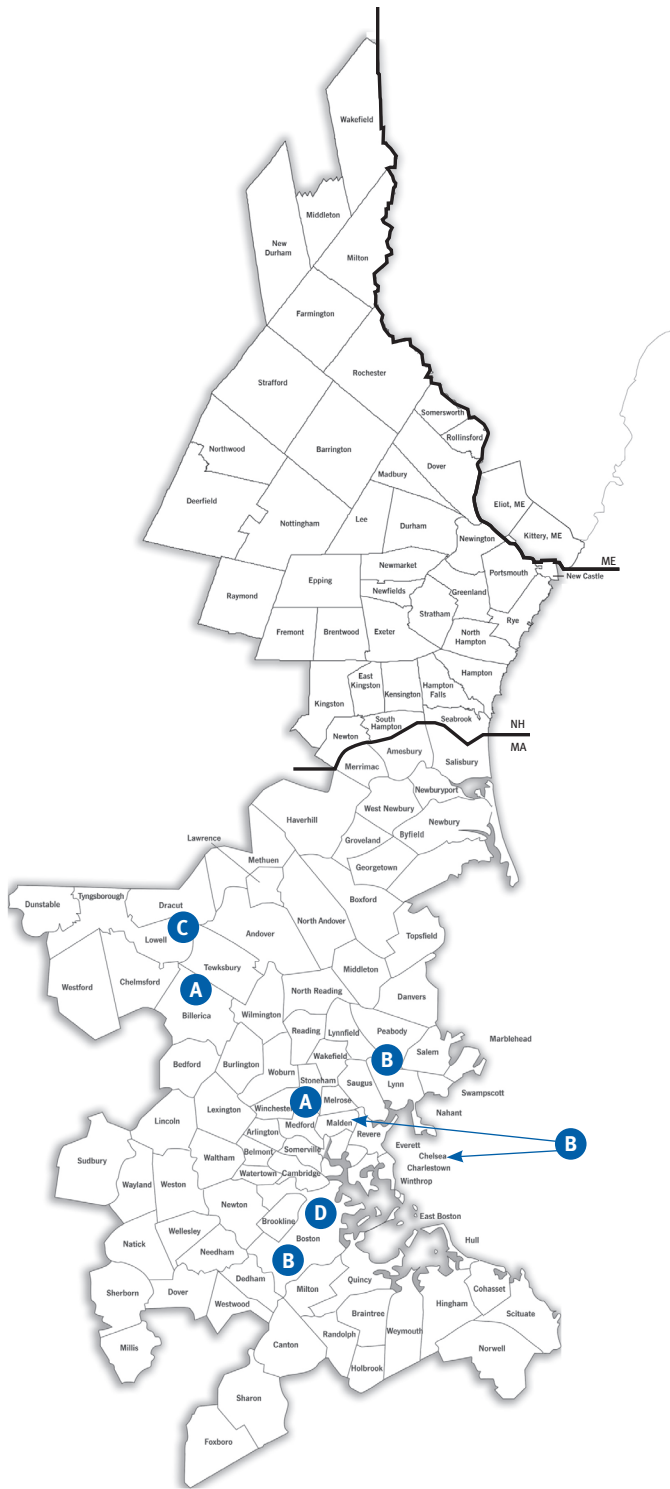
Throughout Massachusetts, United Way is leading the way with innovative approaches to serving our youth:

- Increasing academic support and work readiness of youth
- Improving the delivery of services statewide by connecting programs, state agency systems and families to work together to support and track youth success
- Increasing the quality and quantity of mentoring relationships
- Providing youth with civic engagement opportunities
- Helping youth avoid or reduce high-risk behaviors by making better decisions

<sup>1</sup>Alliance for Excellent Education January, 2010

# Innovative programs that help kids stay in school and succeed

United Way's focused, results-oriented approach is uniting nonprofit agencies, public schools, government, businesses and volunteers to take on the challenges facing our region's youth with break-through, research based programs.



## Leading a Statewide Plan for Action

**Success for Life** is an unprecedented public-private agenda for youth that brings together state agencies, all Massachusetts United Ways, and community-based organizations around a common vision, measurable outcomes and shared accountability.

Led by United Way, the action plan has the potential to fundamentally change, standardize and improve the ways we engage with youth at every level throughout Massachusetts. The plan includes a toolkit to take action at the local level and a set of more than 30 indicators that every community should track to ensure their youth succeed.



## Saluting Future Scientists from Billerica and Medford **A**

**United Way's Math, Science and Technology initiative (MSTi)** is an exciting, hands-on science, technology and math program for children in grades K-8. With the support of the local science, technology, healthcare and biotech community, MSTi runs after-school science club programs in 14 communities. Each year, one club is honored for its outstanding program as "Science Club of the Year." This year's award went to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Billerica, with Claudeigh Decoline, 11, of Medford honored as "Young Scientist of the Year".



## Creating Young Entrepreneurs in Lynn **B**

**Youth Venture**, a United Way initiative, teams Massachusetts teenagers with Emerging Leaders volunteers from Deloitte, Windspeed Ventures, marlo marketing/communications, Aigner Prensky and other leading companies. Participants design and implement social projects or business ventures that create positive, lasting change in their communities. In Lynn, Emerging Leaders are working with youth from Lynn's Gregg Neighborhood House to run workshops on money management for their peers. A dozen Youth Venture projects are currently underway in Boston, Malden, Chelsea, Lynn, Roxbury and Dorchester.



## Turning Summer Time into Learning Time in Lowell **C**

**United Way's Summer Experiences in Greater Lowell, or SEGL**, provides children with quality learning and recreational programs that develop leadership, social and academic skills when the school year ends. Last summer, the initiative provided more than \$100,000 to 13 Greater Lowell agencies, giving approximately 3,000 children the opportunity to enriching summer experiences that will empower them for life.



## Reducing School Violence in Boston **D**

With youth violence and gang activity on the rise in Boston, United Way brought experts and key leaders together to pioneer an innovative model to transform troubled schools: **Out of Harm's Way**. This four year collaboration with the Boston Public Schools has touched the lives of 2,504 students in five schools, enhancing the sense of spirit and community, dramatically reducing bullying rates (60% in one school) and lowering incidences of violence. The program has even been credited with increasing test scores.

Stay connected



[supportunitedway.org/youth](http://supportunitedway.org/youth)

**Boston**  
51 Sleeper Street  
Boston, MA 02210-1208  
617.624.8000  
Fax: 617.624.9114

**Lowell**  
59 Lowes Way  
Lowell, MA 01851-5150  
978.656.5000  
Fax: 978.656.5014



United Way  
of Massachusetts Bay  
and Merrimack Valley