

“UNITED WAY BACKS THE YOUTH COUNCIL”

Photo caption: Mike Apfelberg from United Way presenting \$50,900 in annual program funding to Betsy Houde of The Youth Council.

For over 42 years, The Youth Council has been counting on donors like United Way of Greater Nashua to ensure that greater Nashua families are able to continue to build the right skills they need to be strong, effective parents, raising children and teens that make good decisions and stay on track. With the help from the United Way, The Youth Council is able to continue to be the safety net and the “go to” resources to these families.



According to Betsy Houde, Executive Director of The Youth Council “Many of our friends and neighbors are losing loved ones to overdoses and addiction more than ever before. Luckily, with United Way’s help, The Youth Council plays a key role helping turn young lives around before it’s too late. Given that most of the families we serve are not yet connected to the court or child protective services we don’t qualify for large federal grants. It is because of United Way and the local grants, contracts and donations we are able to secure, that we continue to serve families! How we help:

- 13- to 17-year-olds arrested for a first-time offense are assessed for drug and alcohol use while being held accountable for their behavior – with a 98% success rate.
- Overwhelmed parents attend classes to build their strengths and parenting skills, with 97% reporting increased confidence raising their children.
- 83% of children in counseling improve their daily functioning and 92% identify healthy ways to cope with their issues without using alcohol or drugs.”

According to Apfelberg, President of United Way of Greater Nashua, “We have partnered with The Youth Council for many years. The programs which United Way of Greater Nashua funds at The Youth Council are all aimed at ensuring that at risk teens end up back in school becoming productive young adults. We take seriously the notion that addressing problems early in is much more effective than later in life and this is exactly the domain of The Youth Council. In the non-profit world, the work which The Youth Council does is difficult to get funding for, because it is not glamorous or high profile... but it is effective, and we consider it to be unbelievably important. That is why we are proud and staunch supporters of The Youth Council.”

United Way of Greater Nashua currently provides program funding for 29 different programs in 17 different agencies throughout the greater Nashua area. This area encompasses 11 communities, including Nashua, Hudson, Merrimack, Milford, and the surrounding towns. United Way partners with individuals, companies, and thousands of company employees to raise these funds, primarily through payroll giving. In addition to supporting critical needs in our community, United Way also plays a leading role in youth substance abuse prevention through the “Nashua Prevention Coalition” and is deeply involved in immigrant-integration issues through the One Greater Nashua initiative.

If you are interested in learning more about United Way of Greater Nashua and becoming a partner company or agency, please visit them up on-line at www.unitedwaynashua.org or call (603)882-4011.