

# WESTBROOK CHILDREN'S PROJECT



United Way  
of Greater Portland

A community-wide collaboration led by Westbrook School Department, City of Westbrook, and United Way of Greater Portland



## OUR VISION:

We envision a community that is prepared for a prosperous future by supporting all young people in Westbrook, from cradle to career.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Westbrook Children's Project is a partnership of schools, parents, businesses, community organizations, and residents. We are united around supporting our kids as they enter and go through school—making sure they stay on track and have the support they need to graduate from high school and reach their full potential. Through strong academic foundations, mentoring, after-school and summer programming, we are preparing our kids for success beyond high school, to compete in the workforce, and to lead our community into the future.

## THE IMPORTANCE AND IMPACT OF EDUCATION

- ▶ Successful education begins at birth, nurtured by simple yet powerful activities as reading aloud, teaching letters and numbers, lively conversation and stimulating activities.
- ▶ Reading at grade level by the end of third grade is an important marker in a child's educational development. Students in fourth grade who do not read at grade level are at risk of falling behind in subsequent years, potentially impacting academic success in middle and high school.
- ▶ Successful completion of high school and post secondary programs provide strong foundations for individual success and strengthen local, state and national economies.

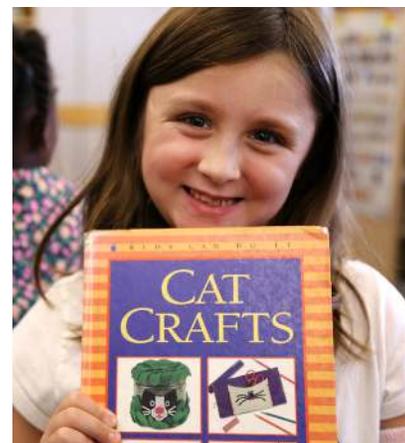


# COMPLEX ISSUES REQUIRE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

Increasing academic achievement for all children requires long-term commitment from the entire community. By coming together collectively, we will create positive change. The Westbrook Children's Project "cradle to career" goal is to increase graduation rates for Westbrook students.

WCP works to ensure:

- ▶ Every child is prepared for school
- ▶ Every child succeeds academically
- ▶ Every child feels safe and supported in the community
- ▶ Every child is healthy
- ▶ Every child is prepared for a career



## PARTNERS IN ACTION

WCP continues to build on strong partnerships across our schools and community to align and maximize our resources; we review and analyze data to track our progress which allows for continuous improvement process. WCP 2014-2015 efforts include:

- ▶ Early childhood care and education partners working together to raise awareness of the importance of kindergarten readiness skills and provide early intervention as needed. Literacy kits, books, and school supplies were distributed to parents and 250 incoming kindergarteners to help with a smooth start into school.
- ▶ Through United Way of Greater Portland's Workplace Volunteer Council and as individual organizations, 213 volunteers provided 479 hours to help children succeed in the three Westbrook elementary schools. These dedicated volunteers assisted in supporting student academic achievement across the district by reading to students, collecting and distributing books, creating snack bags, and literacy kits.
- ▶ Westbrook READS is a community outreach endeavor to raise awareness of the importance of reading throughout the year, in school and over school breaks. Westbrook READS sponsors student reading challenges throughout the year and students are recognized for their efforts.
- Westbrook School Department has been awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant for 9th grade out-of-school programming. Studies show that 9th grade is a key academic transition time. WCP partners will engage with Westbrook's Middle and High Schools to focus this 21st CCLC award by creating summer bridge and after school opportunities providing targeted academic, social and emotional interventions for 9th grade students.

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

21st Century Community Learning Center  
Acadia Insurance Company  
Avesta Housing  
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Southern Maine  
Child Development Services—Reach  
City of Westbrook  
Community Partnership for Protecting

Children Disability RMS  
Feels Like Home Childcare Center  
Husson University Southern Maine  
Intercultural Community Center  
Maine College Circle  
My Place Teen Center  
Northeast Hearing and Speech  
The Opportunity Alliance  
P&C Insurance

Sappi  
United Way of Greater Portland  
University of Southern Maine  
Unum  
Walker Memorial Library  
Westbrook Community Center  
Westbrook Housing Authority  
Westbrook School Department  
Woodfords Family Services

## TO GET INVOLVED

Visit [www.westbrookchildrensproject.org](http://www.westbrookchildrensproject.org) or contact Florence Young at [fyoung@unitedwaygp.org](mailto:fyoung@unitedwaygp.org) or 207.874.1000 ext. 2331.