FY13 Annual Report

change your world.

united way youth venture OF NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
“Today’s young people are our future.” This phrase has been uttered as an observation for each generation of youth by the generations before them. It implies that in the future, these young people will be our problem solvers, the developers of solutions to the world’s most dire needs. They will be our inventors, Fortune 500 CEOs, politicians, law enforcement officials, and teachers.

In today’s schools, students are educated in the areas of math, science, history and languages as a way to prepare them for the world they will inherit, complete with the problems that we created or were unable to repair. Much of the learning that takes place in schools is not active learning; rather, it is passive, whereby students are expected to learn by others imparting wisdom upon them instead of learning by doing.

We teach them by book, forgetting to inspire them to take action, and then label them as unengaged or lazy. As a society, we often overlook these students as potential innovators and current problem solvers. Youth are a valuable resource of inspiration, talent, knowledge and energy; they truly hold the future in their hands. Shouldn’t we then be investing more in them and engaging them in active learning strategies which teach them to be changemakers?

Bill Drayton, founder of Ashoka’s Youth Venture, was not afraid to answer—“yes.” He recognized that young people are a vibrant—yet largely overlooked and under-utilized—source of power for creating and leading positive community change now.

Young people involved in Youth Venture develop leadership skills, build confidence, provide hours of service to their communities, and most importantly, are given the chance to make lasting positive change for others, as well as for themselves. At the same time, they learn how to confront problems, and develop creative solutions.

In 2002, the leaders of the United Way of North Central Massachusetts (UWNCM) shared this vision when they identified that the north central Massachusetts community was not meaningfully acting to help cultivate the next generation of leaders, volunteers, and philanthropists. The United Way was unknown and irrelevant to many young people and too much of the investment in youth was in the form of remedial and intervention services. UWNCM wanted to also invest in youth proactively and offer the opportunity to contribute to the betterment of their communities. Believing in the capacity of young people to create change, the United Way partnered with Ashoka’s Youth Venture, and later with Mount Wachusett Community College in 2005.

In just eleven years, the north central Massachusetts region has reaped the benefits of Drayton’s vision. It is our hope that through the United Way Youth Venture (UWYYV) experience, young people will carry the skills that they’ve learned, as well as the charge to take action, into the later aspects of life; and that elder generations will begin to see youth as capable, responsible, valuable members of society.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Introduction
In FY13, UWYV experienced a complete turn over in UWYV staff (with the exception of the program administrator). In spite of this, the current staff was able rise to the challenge and through their perseverance was able to deliver a program that not only met the programs objectives, but was able to exceed them. Significant changes, contributions and impacts were made that will be recognized for years to come.

Highlights of Our Special Events
The second annual UWYV “Fall Kick-Off” event was held on October 19th, 2012 at Mount Wachusett Community College, with over 450 Ventures attending.

The keynote speakers, Dr. Calvin Hill, Director of Diversity at Worcester State University and Syreeta Gates, founder of The SWT Life, Curator for History MEETS Hip-Hop, and author of “Just Be Cause” were well received by students and adults alike.

Fall Kick-Off provided the opportunity for those new to UWYV to learn about and explore the Youth Venture program, as well as gain valuable information about how to get started with their change-making ideas and create a new Venture Team. For seasoned Venturers, Fall Kick-Off presented the opportunity to attend breakout sessions that addressed areas that would help them enhance and sustain their Ventures. For Champions and Allies, it provided an opportunity to learn more about how to support the individual Venturers and Teams.

The vast majority of students and adults who attended Fall Kick-Off gave the overall program high marks, with a rating of 5 on a scale of 1-5. 73% of attendees stated that the Key Note Speakers were what they liked best. Youth responses to the 9 breakout sessions offered were also highly rated.
Breakout Sessions For Venturers & Ratings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakout Session Name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level Up: Keep that Venture Growing</td>
<td>92% rated top category of 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s the Buzz? Making the Most of Social Media</td>
<td>82% rated top category of 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Practice: Making the Most of Marketing</td>
<td>60% rated top category of 4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becoming a Dream Team, Step 1</td>
<td>86% rated top category of 4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Becoming a Dream Team, Step 2</td>
<td>96% rated top category of 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitching and Public Speaking</td>
<td>94% rated top category of 4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>How to Change the World</td>
<td>67% rated top category of 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond the Bake Sale: Creative Fundraising</td>
<td>65% rated top category of 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venture Panel Q &amp; A</td>
<td>80% rated top category of 4-5</td>
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*Ratings were on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being “terrible” and 5 being “awesome”.

Breakout Sessions For Allies & Champions (not rated)

Teacher • Mentor • Friend
Ally Training
Champion Training Make-Up Session

Fall Kick-Off ignited excitement within the youth and led to more Venture involvement. As the year progressed, it was evident that those young people who attended breakout sessions at Fall Kick-Off were better prepared to begin or sustain their Ventures through creative avenues. These approaches included outside-the-box fundraisers, such as hosting a Mustache Day*, implementing strategic social media marketing plans, and giving captivating presentations at community panels.

*Venturers gained approval from their principal to sell $1 tickets that would allow fellow students to sport a mustache of their choice to school for a day.
Champion Round Table Discussion

New to UWYV, on January 8th, 2013, UWYV staff hosted a Champion round table discussion that was facilitated by fellow Champion and mentor, Gina Wironen. Champions are stipended, non-controlling adult mentors that are responsible for running UWYV programming at their respective schools. Nine Champions throughout the district attended, as well as the UWYV staff. The purpose of this Champion event was to exchange ideas and best practices, as well as have the opportunity to meet and establish a network with other Champions. The meeting gave the Champions the opportunity to gain answers to their common questions and walk away with a supportive network of fellow Champions.

Community Panel at the Mount

A large Community Panel event was hosted on March 14, 2013 at Mount Wachusett Community College. This event allowed Venture teams to participate in a large-scale Community Panel, as well as have the opportunity to network with other Venturers and Teams from across north central Massachusetts.

A community panel is the culmination of a Venture Team’s application process. It is a chance for students to showcase the time and effort they have put in to developing their plans moving forward, and allows community members the opportunity to participate in the process as adult supporters for these youth. Venture Teams deliver a formal presentation, asked questions by panelists, and finally receive a decision as to whether or not they have been approved for their seed funding of up to $1000. In order to provide this opportunity to the Venture teams, UWYV relied on volunteers from a multitude of community partners and stakeholders. At this event, 54 panelists and 12 facilitators volunteered their time. The 26 Venture Teams launched at this event significantly impacted the amount of teams launched in FY13, making up 63% of teams launched during the year.

SimplexGrinnell Competition Training

On June 12 and 13, 2013, UWYV staff facilitated a national program training at the Sheraton Four Points in Leominster, MA. Sponsored by SimplexGrinnell, the training was a collaborative effort between United Way of North Central Massachusetts, Mount Wachusett Community College, Ashoka’s Youth Venture and SimplexGrinnell to promote UWYV to other United Ways throughout the country.

This year, a two-day how-to style presentation, inclusive of multiple hours of hands-on learning, was presented to seven United Ways: Pioneer Valley, Springfield, MA; United Way of the Greater Triangle, Morrisville, NC; Aloha United Way, Hawaii; United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, Youngstown, OH; United Way of Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA; Community Youth Concepts and United Way of Columbia-Willamette, Portland OR.

The recipient of this year’s $30,000 SimplexGrinnell grant was Aloha United Way of Hawaii, and a $10,000 grant sponsored by Positive Promotions, Long Island, NY was granted to Greater Triangle United Way, of Morrisville, North Carolina.
Significant Program Highlights

Workshop Development. UWYV staff developed new and alternative iterations of workshops in FY13 to captivate the program’s varied audiences. These included a Spanish version of the “Dream It. Do it.” presentation, which introduces UWYV and acts as a catalyst for students to develop their project ideas. A Social Entrepreneur workshop for first-year Mount Wachusett Community College students was also created to help define social entrepreneurship, as well as correlate UWYV to the MWCC service learning classroom objectives. Additional workshops were designed to target high school students requiring a senior project, job seekers, and students embarking on the college admissions process.

Streamlined Financial Processes. At the start of FY13, the new staff began to address the lack of continuity in the management of UWYV financial procedures and processes within partnering schools, in relation to Champion stipend payments, workshop stipends and Venture seed funding. Through numerous conversations with each business office at each partnering site, a more streamlined and visible process was created to ensure that moving forward, all parties knew and understood the mechanisms and processes for payment and dispersal of funds within their individual site. This included building awareness with Champions of processes established within each partner site, as well as processes within the UWYV Office and MWCC. Every transaction was clearly communicated to all parties involved to ensure visibility.

Strategic Social Media. In order to connect with north central Massachusetts young people and beyond, UWYV staff strategically utilized their Facebook page. By doing so, its fanbase expanded by 58% and reached well beyond those who typically visited to the page. Thanks to fans sharing UWYV media, status updates reached up to 5,000 Facebook users in a single post. Another mechanism was the incorporation of Instagram, a photo application that is popular with the middle school demographic. The immediacy of Instagram allowed staff to share and sync photos with Facebook whenever staff traveled throughout the program’s footprint.

Photography. Photo documentation increased significantly over FY13. With the addition of staff member, Samm Smith, also a photographer, UWYV was able to better document nearly every panel, field trip, workshop, event or work with Venturers.

New Logo. UWYV staff member, Samm Smith, redesigned the UWYV logo to allow for easier adaptability among other UWYV partnerships nationwide.
Academic Scholarships. Scholarships were awarded to five students at the United Way’s Annual Thank You Event on April 24, 2013, held at the Four Points Sheraton in Leominster Massachusetts. The criteria to be nominated and awarded a scholarship included: nominee must be a current or past Venturer, having a minimum GPA of 2.5; exhibit leadership skills within their school or community; show perseverance in having a long-term involvement with and dedication to their community; and have the ability to look at the larger picture, specifically in terms of creating opportunities for young people and improving what they define as their community.

This year’s recipients of the awards were as follows:

- Danny Barabara: Leominster High School
- Gina DeMartino: Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School
- Greicy Mendoza: Mount Wachusett Community College
- Elizabeth Ryden: North Middlesex Regional High School
- Kathryn Wheeler: Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School

Youth Involvement Highlights

United Way Youth Venture partnered with 18 middle and high schools in 11 area school districts, one community college and two community-based organizations/after school programs during the 2012-2013 school year. They included:

21st Century After School Program, Fitchburg, including:
- Longsjo Middle School
- Memorial Middle School
- McKay Arts Academy

Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School
Ayer Shirley Regional High School
The Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster
Fitchburg High School
Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, Devens

Leominster High School / Center For Technical Education Innovation
Samoset Middle School, Leominster
Sky View Middle School, Leominster
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School, Fitchburg
Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner
Murdock Middle School, Winchendon
Murdock High School, Winchendon
North Central Charter Essential School, Fitchburg
North Middlesex Regional High School, Townsend

Of all of the Youth Venture partnerships nationally, United Way Youth Venture of North Central Massachusetts holds the largest contingent of engaged students and teams.

Since United Way Youth Venture of North Central Massachusetts launched the program in 2002, 209 Venture Teams have launched, with 135 remaining active.

In FY13, UWWV was able to provide this experience to Venturers at a cost of $2,387.78 per team (a 1% increase from FY12) and at a cost of $142.38 per student directly engaged in United Way Youth Venture, a 33% reduction over FY12.
In the 2012-2013 School Year:

Venture Teams Launched 2002-2013

209 Venture Teams Launched to date, 135 active

In FY13, 41 Ventures were launched across all partnering schools/districts and organizations, a 2.5% increase from FY12.

While other 5th graders packed their bags and rushed out the school doors for an afternoon snack on Friday, Kylee was concerned about those of her peers who would be going hungry that weekend.

After researching the number of students at her school who received free breakfast and lunch every day, Kylee thought it would be even better if these kids could look forward to a free meal when they weren’t at school, too.

With the help of her friends and family, Kylee decided what would be the best combination of foods and drinks to pack into “kare kitz” that she could then distribute to children at her school.

Soon, the school was on board with Kylee’s vision and her Venture was on its way to becoming the first-ever Team led by a 5th grade student.

What started off as a few dozen kitz, Kylee’s Venture has exploded into a community-wide phenomenon. After receiving her seed funding from her panel, Kylee won the United Way’s Community Builders $1,000 grand prize in the Star Projects Competition in June.

Moving forward, Kylee will host events across north central Massachusetts. At the United Way Day of Caring this fall, Kylee and her team will be in Leominster schools and Mount Wachusett Community College and plan to pack 36,000 kare kitz for children throughout the district.

Kylee’s Venture has shown the impact one young person can have on an entire region. The success of the Venture has jump-started the creation of a UWVY program catered to those in a younger age bracket so that other youth in the 4th and 5th grade may make a difference.

KYLEE MCCUMBER OF KYLEE’S KARE KITZ FOR KIDZ

PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLEESKAREKITZFORKIDZ.ORG

KYLEE MCCUMBER OF KYLEE’S KARE KITZ FOR KIDZ
Demographics of UWYV of North Central Massachusetts student participants

According to evaluations and assessments administered from 2012-2013, the students participating in this program indicated that:

**Gender**

- 55% females
- 45% males

**Ethnic Background**

- 22% describe themselves as Caucasian
- 4% describe themselves as Latino/Hispanic
- 2% describe themselves as African American
- 1% describe themselves as Asian/Pacific Islander
- 1% describe themselves as Native American
- 70% chose not to disclose their ethnicity

**Age**

- 3% are between the ages 10-12
- 95% are between the ages 13-17
- 2% are over the age of 18

**Socioeconomic**

- 26% of participating youth qualify for free or reduced lunch, an increase of 12% over FY12, reflective of the economic impacts in the region.

Actively engaged students who responded to the Spring Survey reported:

- 94% say that it is important for them to get a college degree; 91% plan on attending college
- 66% have organized other students to take action on an issue or problem in their community
- 51% report that since joining UWYV, they have done better in school
- 63% report that UWYV has helped them feel more confident
- 80% say that UWYV has helped them learn the importance of teamwork
- 63% are better prepared to speak and present in front of an audience
- 63% have a better understanding of how to develop a budget since being involved in UWYV
- 81% report a better understanding of how to problem solve since being involved in the program
- 77% understand how to research
- 75% understand how to lead change in their community since being involved with UWYV
- 82% believe that people their age can influence decisions and policies
- 88% believe that it is important to encourage others to participate in their community
- 91% believe that it is important to listen to other peoples’ ideas and suggestions when making a decision
- 75% understand how decisions are made in their community
Indicators of Engagement

- Over **89%** of participating youth reported they were involved in sports, clubs and other activities.
- More than **84%** of Venturers self-report that they earn primarily **As and Bs in school**.
- Venturers’ graduation rates from Leominster High School are **12% higher than the district averages**, and at Murdock High School, their Venturers’ graduation rates are **9% higher than their district averages**.
- Students who actively participated in UWYV had a lower rate of detentions, **1% vs 13%**, and lower suspension rate, **1% vs 14%**.
- Out of the partner sites that reported, Venturers raised more than **$11,400 in matching funding** to support their Ventures.
- **UWYV students engaged more than 252 adult volunteers**, a **60%** increase over FY12, and provided countless hours of community support to the north central region.

MCAS Scores

At many partner sites, Venturer MCAS scores were higher than the school’s average. MCAS scores are reported for each preceding year.

Students and schools are scored on a numerical scale of 200-280.

- 200-219: Failing warning
- 220-239: Needs Improvement
- 240-259: Proficient
- 260-280: Advanced

**North Middlesex Regional High School**

- The average Venturer math score in grade 9 was “proficient”, over the school’s average of “needs improvement”.
- Venturers in 11th and 12th grade scored “advanced” in all three testing areas, math, science and English language arts, as compared to the school’s average of “proficient” in each area.

**Murdock High School**

- Venturers in grades 9 scored “proficient” in math and science, as compared to the school’s average of “needs improvement”.
- Venturers in grades 10 scored higher than the school’s average in all three testing areas, with “proficient” scores in math and English language arts, as compared to the school’s average of “needs improvement,” and “advanced” science scores compared to the school’s average of “needs improvement.”

**Fitchburg High School**

- The average Venturer science score in grade 9 was “proficient”, over the school’s average of “needs improvement”.

**Leominster High School**

- Venturers in grade 10 scored “advanced” in all three testing areas, whereas the school’s average was “proficient” in each area.
After the launch of Goals For Nets, Zayna discovered her Venture plan to host a soccer camp and donate its proceeds to help prevent malaria would not come easily.

Zayna had a list of non-negotiable bullet points to address before her idea could be realized: State laws mandated Goals for Nets to cover each camper with liability insurance, a cost Zayna had not included in her budget. On top of this came the tasks of recruiting campers and volunteers, reserving fields and publicizing her camp.

As the planning continued, Zayna realized the importance of covering even the smallest of details, down to what snacks she could serve at the camp that wouldn’t aggravate allergies.

Through a combination of trials and errors and a few eraser marks on paperwork, Zayna successfully created a solid first year of soccer camp for seven elementary school children and raised over $800 to donate.

“We’ve had an awesome camp. It’s been very successful for us,” she said. “We’re grateful for all the help our camp has had, and I think our Youth Venture is going really great.”

Reflecting on the past year, Zayna feels grateful for the experiences gained by planning such an immense project from its infant stages to completion.

“My favorite part of being involved with UWYV this year was being able to choose anything [I] wanted to do, and be able to make it happen,” she said. “A year or two ago, I wouldn’t think I would be able to do this, and now I’m able to. I can go into my senior year [of high school] knowing I accomplished that.”
21st Century Afterschool Program  
**PARTNER SINCE 2008**  
*Includes Fitchburg High School, Longsjo Middle School, McKay Arts Academy and Memorial Middle School*

21st Century Afterschool Programming is comprised of four partner sites within the Fitchburg Public School District, each with their own distinct cultures. While each site participated in UWYV independently from one another, schools also collaborated this year to host city-wide UWYV events, such as collecting spare change in all of the Fitchburg Public Schools to donate towards the maintenance of the city’s historic Crocker Field. In addition to the middle schools already incorporated into the program, Fitchburg High School was brought under the 21st Century umbrella in FY13, adding its institutionalized and innovative Venture Teams to the program’s roster. Teams launched within the 21st Century Program this past year focused on helping not just localized communities within Fitchburg, but also communities across the state as well as national hospitals and charities.

- 21st Century Program launched 2 teams in the 2012-2013 school year
- 1,036 students were introduced to UWYV in the 2012-2013 school year
- 15 teams launched through 21st Century with all 12 remaining active (80%)
- This year, 237 student were engaged. Of these students, 103 were active Venture Team members.

**Fitchburg High School  
PARTNER SINCE 2005**

*In FY13, moved under the umbrella of 21st Century. Future statistics will reflect this change.*

Since its partnering with UWYV in 2005, Fitchburg High School has continued its efforts to engage its student population in social entrepreneurship despite administrative and programmatic obstacles along the way. This past academic year proved more challenging than others as the school’s long-time Champion ended his term at the start of the academic year and the school’s UWYV program moved under the umbrella of the 21st Century Afterschool Program in early 2013. In light of these changes, FHS did not launch any Venture Teams. In progress, however, are Teams working through the process that uphold the intellectually-stimulating and deeply impactful standards of the groups listed in the school’s UWYV canon. Ideas ranging from an aquatic robot to a health-oriented field day for younger students are set to grow to fruition the upcoming academic year.

- Fitchburg launched 0 teams in the 2012-2013 school year
- 825 students have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- 18 teams have launched in Fitchburg to date, with 2 remaining active (11%)
- This year, 280 students were engaged. Of these students, 58 were active Venture Team members.

**History of Teams Launched**

**2007**
- Riverfront Revival of the Arts
- From Crocker to Crocker

**2008**
- STAGES
- LifeLink

**2009**
- Intergenerational Project
- FHS Red Raider Rock Band
- Prom Dress Express

**2010**
- FHS Rachel’s Challenge
- Raider Works
- We’ve Got You Covered

**2011**
- Fitchburg Finches Quidditch
- KimChiLove
- Stand UP

**2012**
- Double-Dutch Initiative
- FHS Helping Hands
- Free Rice FHS
McKay Arts Academy

History of Teams Launched

2009
• FAA School Store

2011
• C-VA.S.T. (Charlie, Vaseem, Andy Sports Tutors)
• CCZDFE Water Bottle Company
• Exploring Fitchburg’s Riches
• F.A.A.B (Fitchburg Arts Academy Bookworms)

2012
• Guided Learning Café
• Herbaceous Bunch

2013
• Rocking Creations

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Rocking Creations

If you ask any of the 25+ members of Rocking Creations, there is nothing better than seeing a smile on the face of a child – especially if that child is decked out in a fabulous duct tape accessory! These young people have formed a coalition of 6th graders determined to make and sell duct tape accessories, with proceeds going toward St. Jude’s Hospital. Additionally, the group plans to create a series of web videos explaining how to make wallets, pens and hair accessories with duct tape, and make the videos available to children who may be stuck in bed, in need of a new craft.

Memorial Middle School

History of Teams Launched

2009
• ESP: Eco-School Project
• PATH: Peer Academic Tutoring Help

2011
• M.A.A.C. (Memorial Arts and Ceramics) Misfits

2012
• All About Animals
• Crocker Field United

2013
• C4C

“You’re not too young to do something big for your community.”

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

C4C

Care 4 Children is a venture team at Memorial Middle School. Members of this Venture remember being in daycare and not having supplies to do activities. The ladies of this Venture took it upon themselves to raise funds to buy supplies for a local Fitchburg daycare center.

Longsjo Middle School

History of Teams Launched

2011
• New Generation
Ayer Shirley Regional School District  
*PARTNER SINCE 2003*

Includes Ayer Shirley High School & Ayer Shirley Middle School

Young people within Ayer and Shirley have helped set the precedent for changemakers across north central Massachusetts and beyond. Integrated within the middle school’s curriculum, UWYV and social entrepreneurship are not just electives, but cultural standards for those in sixth, seventh and eighth grade. This mentality has proved infectious and continues to spread to those at the high school level, where UWYV completed its second academic year. A combination of supportive principals and committed Champions and Allies, with the intrinsic belief that all individuals are capable of creating positive change, has poised young people in this district to take charge of their futures and their communities. From providing comfort to children in hospitals to creating three-dimensional video games, Ventures from Ayer and Shirley this year provided community-benefiting avenues for a wide spectrum of populations to enjoy.

- Ayer Shirley launched 18 teams in the 2012-2013 school year
- Ayer Shirley Regional School District has implemented a UWYV class at the Middle School, resulting in 100% participation in the UWYV opportunity at the school
- 65 teams have launched in Shirley to date, with 59 remaining active (91%)
- This year, 436 students were engaged. Of these students, 207 were active Venture Team members.

**Ayer Shirley High School**

History of Teams Launched

2012
- ASHS School Store

2013
- Archery Club
- H.T.K.S.I.S

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Archery Club

With the growing popularity of The Hunger Games and other media promoting arrow-wielding heroines, it’s no surprise that these bow-slingers are excited to start a club that goes beyond the standard sports and after school activities typically offered to high school students. Aside from looking fierce, these students aim to better their knowledge of geometry and physics as well as improve their manual dexterity as they master the sport.

H.T.K.S.I.S

Tired of their school never having the supplies they need, these students are determined to purchase school supplies for their classes and peers. Are school supplies getting too expensive? Stop by their tables set up during lunch and purchase items such as pens, pencils, lined paper, and binders for cheaper rates!
Ayer Shirley Middle School

History of Teams Launched

2003
- Shirley Bakes
- Shirley School Store
- Energy Through Creativity

2004
- Good Sport
- Kids at Play
- S.A.F.E.

2005
- Charity Garden
- Fix it Up Wrap it Up
- S.A.F.A.
- SMS Literary Magazine

2007
- Project Swim
- Skaters of Shirley
- The Rolled-Up Newspaper

2008
- TRUN2
- Food Dudes
- Sports Dudes
- Supplies For Good

2009
- Group 5
- Intramural Volleyball Team
- Shirley School Mascot
- T&J Basketball Plan

2010
- Arthritis Fighters
- Handy Helpers (Helping Hands)
- Krafty Kidz
- Lego Club
- Undercover

2011
- ASMS Football
- Basketball Hoopsters
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Computer Kidz
- Fun & Fit Friends
- Hugs for Homeless
- Monthly Movie Group
- Paws & Claws
- Pops for Pups
- The Painters

2012
- Blue Crew
- Dia-Helpers
- French Café
- One Mic, Many Voices
- LIS
- Roots and Shoots
- Save Shirley Sports
- The Foresters
- Throw Away Breast Cancer

2013
- Animal Blankets
- Animal People
- Brown Bag Friday
- Cancer Helping Hands
- Green Recycling Team
- Heart Strong
- Live to Help
- Pretee’s Plants
- Quacker Arts
- RC Cars
- Save the Sea
- Shelter Helpers
- Stuffed Pals
- The Castaways
- Three-D Game Design
- Yard Sale for Leukemia Research

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Animal Blankets

Kylie and Nadia noticed that their local animal shelters were constantly posting ads that stressed a need for bedding. Youth participating in Animal Blankets plan to leave large bins all over their school and community and make posters that ask for blanket donations. The blankets will be brought to a number of animal shelters throughout Ayer and Shirley, giving the animals-in-need a comfortable environment until they are adopted into their forever homes.

Animal People

Animal People noticed that the Fitchburg Animal Shelter was severely lacking in cleaning supplies, proper bedding, food and housing for the high number of dogs that are surrendered to the facility each year. To help the shelter, these students aim to raise money through school supplies sales (pencils, pens, erasers, and more) and will donate their proceeds to provide all of these necessities to a canine in need.
Brown Bag Friday

Brown Bag Friday was inspired by another Venture team in Leominster that served elementary school students bagged lunches on the weekend, so the team decided to create a bagged lunch project of their own. The team plans to keep the identity of their recipients anonymous if possible while still being able to provide meals to students whose families are struggling with providing adequate food for the weekend. They plan to sell bracelets to fundraise and seek sponsorship from local food banks and grocers. Eventually, the team would like to expand their efforts to not just bagged lunches, but also backpacks, school supplies and clothing.

Cancer Helping Hands

Noelle and Collin both know family and friends that have been affected in some way by cancer. In light of these experiences, they created Cancer Helping Hands so they may make a difference to fellow community members whose families and friends have either become a victim or a survivor of the disease. The team would like to raise awareness of all types of cancer, and raise money toward a number of cancer research organizations.

Green Recycling Team

Members of Green Recycling recognize that being green isn’t always easy. To make cleaner living more accessible to fellow students, the team would first like to further their school’s recycling initiatives by purchasing large recycling bins. Furthermore, they would also like to extend their green services toward cleaning up local parks and roads, and eventually initiate a large highway cleanup initiative.

Heart Strong

After a student’s mother witnessed a patient die in a hospital from a chest injury due to having no access to defibrillators at the time of the injury, Heart Strong decided their community needs better access to these life-saving devices. Through bake sales, car washes, and other school-related fundraising activities, the team would like to raise money to purchase defibrillators for all the local schools and sporting areas. In addition to this, they hope to hold classes that teach people how to use the defibrillators so they may save lives in the future.

Live To Help

Brianna and Noelle were particularly touched after watching a film in social studies class about African citizens being held in refugee war camps. Putting their crafting skills to good use, Live To Help will be making upcycled bags out of old denim and other materials and sell them, with proceeds going toward these African refugee camps.

Pretee’s Plants

Pretee noticed that at her school there were a number of plants in the library and classrooms that were not getting watered as frequently as they should. Taking it upon herself to beautify her space, she decided to start a plant-watering project with proper watering cans to ensure each plant is healthy and thriving. In addition to watering, Pretee hopes to raise money to add more plants, shrubs and flowers to the school as a long-term beautifying project.
Quacker Arts

Tired of the “conventional” duct tape creations? Quacker Arts has taken duct tape to a whole new level! Zebra print, hounds-tooth, camouflage and glow-in-the-dark – there are no limits to the colors and designs this team comes up with on a daily basis. Quacker Arts makes wallets, bracelets, and other neon knick-knacks and sells them at school functions and during lunch, with proceeds going towards purchasing cows for families in Africa.

RC Cars

As a radio control car enthusiast, Austin wanted to use his passion to help his fellow students in a new and innovative way. Austin came up with the idea to create an RC car club, initially aimed specifically for students with autism. By using RC cars, Austin knew from his own personal experience that it helped him improve his fine motor skills and also gain a better appreciation for the intricate workings of the vehicle. With this newly-found knowledge, Austin presented his idea to his class and cannot wait to use RC vehicles to promote turn-taking, sharing and fine motor skills. Austin’s club has piqued the interest of a local hobby shop, whose owners gladly plan to let the group use their RC vehicle race tracks, as well as provide free car rentals, discounts on parts, and more.

Save the Sea

After researching animals native to the Massachusetts Maritimes, members of Save the Sea felt it their duty to protect these special oceanic creatures. Through various types of school fundraisers, Save the Sea would like to raise money and give their proceeds to marine life conservation areas, specifically the National Marine Life Center, located in Bourne, MA. In addition to fundraising, Save the Sea plans to raise awareness of the effects of littering and pollution on marine life, and how every resident of Massachusetts can do their part to keep endangered marine wildlife from becoming extinct.

Shelter Helpers

Sterling Animal Shelter has been an invaluable resource for central Massachusetts residents; whether surrendering or adopting, visitors of the shelter know they can depend on the facility to take care of an animal in need. Shelter helpers learned that the Sterling Shelter was in need of any help they could get – from food donations to building extra kennels, they could use it all! In light of this information, Shelter Helpers is on its way toward raising money through a number of fundraisers so that they may assist this animal lover’s hub with getting all of their necessities.

Stuffed Pals

William noted that the last time he visited a hospital, he felt uneasy and homesick. With this mindset, he decided he wanted to create a team that could help other children feel more at home and comfortable in a hospital setting. To do this, Stuffed Pals will donate teddy bears to children’s wards at local hospitals for patients who may need that extra touch of tenderness. In addition to donating bears, William plans to sell other stuffed animals, with the proceeds going towards local hospitals.
The Castaways

The Castaways identified bullying as a problem across every clique and social circle in their school. Rather than remain silent, these three students have chosen to stand up to bullying and would like to adopt the anti-bullying techniques of Rachel’s Challenge, a Venture team launched at Leominster High School. In order to do this, they plan to provide workshops and presentations to educate their school not just about what bullying is, but how it directly affects their friends and what every member of their school can do to put an end to it.

Three-D Game Design

Andrew and Michael wanted to join an after-school club, but realized that there were not a lot of options beyond the usual sports. As two technology junkies, they choose to create their own club that would allow fellow computer and video game fans to have a place to go after school. In 3D Game Design, members have the ability to not just play video games, but create their own! With the help of Andrew and Michael, those involved will learn the step-by-step process of making a video game from scratch and, at the end of their second session, will be able to take their game and play it at home. Jesse Johnson, video game developer for the widely-acclaimed BioShock, served on 3D Game Design’s panel and was so inspired by their idea, he insisted on donating a second computer to their club to help further their success.

Yard Sale for Leukemia Research

The team members of Yard Sale for Leukemia Research have taken the concept of “One person’s trash is another person’s treasure” to a whole new level! After one of the member’s nephew passed away from leukemia, she decided to host a yard sale, with all proceeds going toward leukemia research. By donating unwanted items to the sale and purchasing newfound treasures, community members will help the team with making a difference in patients’ lives in the future.

Lura A. White Elementary School

History of Teams Launched

2011

- Guitar Project

“Having an opportunity to work with other people who enjoy the same things as we do is a great experience.”

AYER SHIRLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
The Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster  PARTNER SINCE 2011

The mission statement of The Boys and Girls Club states that the organization hopes to “inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.” With a goal so well-aligned with the mission of UWYV, the Boys and Girls Club has been considered a natural fit within the program. Due to parameters within the programmatic structure of the Club, however, UWYV has been limited in its opportunities to engage young people outside of the high school age bracket. This, in addition to young people joining and leaving the Club within the same year, has presented a challenge in sustaining groups for longer than one academic year. When engaged with UWYV, young people typically choose the Club as the community they seek to assist and have done so passionately, bettering a number of different facets of the Club’s recreational and culinary facilities.

- Located in Leominster, MA
- 144 young people have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- Five teams have launched to date with 1 new team this year and they are the only active team (20%)
- This year, 120 students were engaged. Of these students, 5 were active Venture Team members.

History of Teams Launched

2011
- Hoop Dreams
- Leominster Park Savers

2012
- Teen Center Track
- BGC Bakerz

2013
- Café Cash

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Café Cash

Café Cash is a bistro at the Boys & Girls Club, with the goal to provide healthy snacks to members of the Boys & Girls Club. All proceeds directly benefit the Club, and they plan on sponsoring the Robotics Team as well as taking on a variety of community service activities.

Chester Mossman Teen Center  PARTNER 2011

No longer an active partner site.

History of Teams Launched

2011
- Team Rainbow Sprinkles

Cleghorn Neighborhood Center  PARTNER 2010

No longer an active partner site.

History of Teams Launched

2010
- Kids Gone Green
Francis W. Parker Essential School

Students at Parker follow the principles of all essential schools, including the idea that a teacher’s role is to coach students on how to learn, and therefore, learn how to ultimately teach themselves. This method of guidance lends itself to the implementation of UWYV at Parker, where young people are encouraged to take the reins of their ideas and bring them to fruition with minimal adult interference. Parker Venture Teams understand the concepts of project-based and sustainable endeavors, as they are incorporated into their learning models as early as 7th grade. This past year, Ventures both localized and globalized their changemaking efforts, from assisting elementary schools in the Dominican Republic and small communities in Africa, to sustaining nearby community gardens and creating publications devoted to Parker-related news.

- Parker launched 4 new teams in the 2012-2013 school year
- 384 students have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- The Champion held a UWYV period during students “free” period in order to provide assistance and guidance to new and potential teams
- 15 teams have launched at Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School and 6 remain active (40%)
- This year, 16 student were engaged. Of these students, 12 were active Venture Team members.

History of Teams Launched

2006
- Team Ultimate
- Project Smile
- Lowell Girls Group
- Prospect Hill Project

2007
- Academic Support for Students
- Club PAGE

2008
- Parker STAND

2009
- Puppy Love

2010
- Support the Music

2011
- Health Awareness

2012
- Art4All
- Murals with a Purpose
- Parker Greenhouse
- Simple Treasures

2013
- Goals for Nets
- Parker Press
- Rooted in Stone
- Y.A.P.P. Fence

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Goals for Nets

Zayna, Ranya and Adam Basma grew up in a home passionate about soccer – it was no surprise that the siblings chose the sport as their focus for their Venture, Goals for Nets. How the team uses soccer as mechanism to help both their local and worldwide communities is a refreshingly new concept that has never been done before in the district. Goals for Nets plans to host a highly affordable, one-week soccer clinic in the summer for children ages 7-11. Proceeds from the clinic will go to Nothing But Nets, a global, grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria, a leading cause of death among children in Africa. Thanks to the Basma siblings, not only are local families able to send their children to an inexpensive and fun activity in the summer, but communities across the globe will be that much more protected against a highly fatal disease.
Parker Press

The members of Parker Press noticed their school was missing the voice of the student body in its written publications and decided to act on it by creating a newspaper, The Essential Word. Their paper includes articles, artwork and advice columns all written by those who attend the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School. To sustain their publication, Parker Press has reserved pages of advertising slots in their paper that local businesses, organizations and community members have eagerly paid to fill. Through The Essential Word, Parker Press encourages its staff to utilize valuable marketing, management and communication skills beyond what they learn in a classroom setting.

Rooted in Stone

GianCarlo had a humbling experience when visiting a school in the Dominican Republic – he realized that not every child had the means to afford school necessities, including clothing, pens, pencils, food and notebooks. Based on this visit, he decided to use his silk-screening abilities to make beautiful t-shirts to sell, with proceeds going straight to families in the Dominican Republic that want to send their children to school but cannot afford the materials. The shirts, decorated with various tree designs, show that even with rocky foundations, life can flourish and anything is possible with the right support.

Y.A.P.P. Fence

As part of his Eagle Scout Service Project, Isaac had to demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of his community. In order to do so, this young person saw no better opportunity than to form a Venture Team whose mission was to create a deer-and-rabbit-proof fence to surround a community garden in his hometown. With the help of town volunteers and fellow students, Isaac successfully led a crew to complete his project and has prevented a number of hungry critters from ransacking the community’s homegrown harvest.

Gardner High School PARTNER 2007

No longer an active partner site.

History of Teams Launched

2007
- Environmental Crew
- Senior Citizen’s Senior Prom

House of Peace and Education PARTNER 2010-2011

No longer an active partner site.

History of Teams Launched

2010
- Project Helping Educate Little People (Project H.E.L.P.)

2011
- Double Pawz
One of UWYV’s most veteran districts, Leominster Public Schools have grown from having one Champion coordinating all partner sites within the district to having top notch support in every school where UWYV is offered. As a result, UWYV has become embedded into the culture of Leominster schools, cultivating changemakers now as early as fifth grade. This year, Leominster incorporated Southeast Elementary School as a partner site, thanks to the enthusiasm and ambition of a student just outside the typical UWYV age bracket. Venture Teams in Leominster listened carefully to issues on the news this year and chose to assist victims of bullying, shootings and bombings rather than remain complacent.

- Leominster launched 8 teams in the 2012-2013 school year
- 2,953 students have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- The UWYV program continues to be offered as part of the curriculum via service learning
- 59 teams have launched in Leominster to date, with 36 remaining active (61%)
- This year, 462 students were engaged. Of these students, 277 were active Venture Team members.

Leominster High School

**History of Teams Launched**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Teams Launched</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Leadership Venture</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Launch Pad Venture</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Tech Awareness Venture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Operation Photojournalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>C.O.M.P. (CTE)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>S.T.A.M.P.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nature’s Den</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Giving Back to the Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>L.A.N.D.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Traveling Through the World</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Teen Reach</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Devil Pups</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arts for Random Kindness (ARK) (CTE)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Our Family to Yours (Upward Bound)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Nature Yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SADD Members Involved In Lifestyle Education (S.M.I.L.E.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>United We Stand for All</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Life Skillz 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Mama Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friends of Rachel’s Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>LEAD-26 Angels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leominster Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teen Helping Teens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

LEAD (Let’s Empower, Advocate and Do!)

It’s nearly impossible to find someone not affected by the tragedy that shook Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Members of LEAD were no exception, and wanted to do everything in their power to educate the public about the mass shooting that occurred in December of 2012. The team’s solution was to host 26 Angels, a fundraising event that aimed to raise awareness of more than just the horrific event in CT, but also delve deeper into other issues, including mental illness, gun control, school security and thoughts on how to prevent future gun-related tragedies. The team’s event featured 26 guest speakers from the local community, including U.S. Rep. James P McGovern, Leominster Mayor, Dean Mazzarella and Fitchburg Mayor, Lisa Wong, Leominster native Miss Massachusetts Sarah Kidd, Leominster Police Chief Robert Healey, Kandace Coe, president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness North Central Massachusetts Inc., and Angus McQuilken, one of the principal organizers of the newly-formed Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and a board member of States United to Prevent Gun Violence.

LHS Football

Players of the Leominster High School football team brought up a valid point when they asked their coach, “How are we supposed to learn from past mistakes if we can’t see what we did wrong?” It was this problem that inspired the LHS team to start a Venture to purchase video equipment as a way to record practice and actual games and get a visual representation of their playing techniques. In addition to taking notes and criticism on their form players, family and friends will be able to purchase DVDs of past games, with proceeds going toward new video and football equipment for the team.

Teens Helping Teens

Jeans too big, too small? Teens helping teens would love for you to donate to their cause. This team is determined to collect gently worn or new jeans for those students and children who are unable to buy their own. Collection boxes will be located in the guidance office of the high school and sporadically placed throughout the community. With the help of their peers, a pair of jeans can be donated to those who need them most.
Samoset Middle School

History of Teams Launched

2002
- Mums and Muffins

2003
- C.L.A.S.S.
- L.E.A.F.S.

2005
- Wildcat’s Wares Wagon

2006
- Willing to Help - Queriendo Ayudar

2008
- Positive Pre-School Pals

2009
- Samoset Gazette
- Teen Generational Service Venture
- Walking Around the World

2011
- Book Critique Clan

2012
- PAWS
- LEAF.S
- Samoset Spirit Squad

2013
- Beat Out Bullying

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Beat Out Bullying (B.O.B.)

If you ask members of B.O.B what the biggest problem affecting their school on a daily basis, it’s bullying going unnoticed in the hallway, after class or at lunch. Determined to not stand idly by, these middle school students chose to stand up, speak up, and beat out bullying at Samoset Middle School. By doing research to define bullying, educating peers on its effects and raising awareness on prevention, B.O.B hopes to be the voice of victims who deserve a safe, fun environment to learn and grow.

Sky View Middle School

History of Teams Launched

2004
- Sky View School Store

2005
- Little People’s Literature

2006
- The Buzz Venture

2008
- Hawk’s Nest
- Backyard Group

2009
- Freedom Venture
- Seeds for Success
- Hawk’s Safety Crew
- Nature’s Perch

2010
- 4 Paws

2011
- Get F.I.T. (Fitness is Timeless)
- Expressions of a New Generation
- Make it Clean. Keep it Green

2012
- Art for Animals
- Don’t Waste, Donate
- Kitz for Kids
- Turtles in Trouble
- United Skaters Foundation

2013
- Birds For Boston
- Colors for Cause
- KAMP-Kids Against Mean People
About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Leominster Public Schools (continued)

Birds for Boston

After the horrific bombing at the Boston Marathon, 8th graders at Sky View Middle School knew they couldn’t sit idly by and not help those affected. The team felt inspired after reading stories of children making paper cranes, a symbol of peace in the wake of tragedies, and decided to do the same at their school. The Venture has made mountains of paper cranes to sell to fellow students, parents, and community members. All proceeds from the sales go to the One Fund, a victim relief fund that provides financial assistance directly to the individuals who were most seriously injured and to the families of those who were killed at the marathon.

Colors for a Cause

Thinking about putting highlights in your hair? Want them for a cheaper price? Come stop by a Colors for a Cause fundraiser and receive salon highlights for a cheap price! If you’re not interested in hair products, they have headbands and hair bows for sale! All proceeds from this Venture will benefit The Cancer Foundation. Help them color the world pink!

Kids Against Mean People (K.A.M.P)

K.A.M.P, a Youth Venture based out of Sky View Middle School, is eager to stop bullying. To bring their town together against bullying, these students will be hosting movie nights and walk-a-thons. With the snow-cone and popcorn machine rentals, their events will be successful in helping to raise money for Rachel’s Challenge.

Southeast Elementary School

History of Teams Launched

2013
• Kylee’s Kare Kitz for Kidz - Our first elementary school team to launch our of Leominster!

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Kylee’s Kare Kitz for Kidz

After learning that many of her peers went home each weekend to a foodless house, Kylee could not rest until she started a plan to provide meals to those families. The group has gained momentum and now currently provides food every weekend for children in the Leominster public school system. Each Friday, the children receive a “kare kit” that includes cereal, juice, fruit cups, applesauce, pudding, macaroni & cheese, chicken noodle soup, granola bars, fruit snacks, or peanut butter crackers, varying week to week depending upon what is donated. With the support of family, friends and community, Kylee is now providing food to 40 children on a weekly basis.
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical High School  

Venture Teams at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School (“Monty Tech”) have much to be proud of after the school’s completion of its second year with UWYV. All of Monty Tech’s Venture Teams took advantage of the school’s plentiful resources to assist homeless shelters in the area. While each Venture supports similar organizations, the students channeled their talents into a variety of professional fields and disciplines within the school. Thanks to the tireless efforts of their Champion, Monty Tech Teams had the opportunity to pitch their Venture ideas to Massachusetts Senator Jen Flanagan, who voted to launch both teams unconditionally.

- Located in Fitchburg, MA
- 1,400 young people have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- Three teams have launched to date, 2 new teams this year, and 2 remain active (67%)
- This year, 18 students were engaged. Of these students, 18 were active Venture Team members.

History of Teams Launched

2012
- Appreciate the Arts

2013
- Helping the Homeless
- Horizons for the Homeless

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Helping the Homeless

While visiting a local homeless shelter, members of Helping the Homeless noticed the lack of available space for children to do their homework. In order to fix this, the Venture has teamed up with the woodworking shop at their school and has made plans to create a functional homework help kiosk for the shelter. In addition to the space itself, the team plans to make monthly visits and provide tutoring assistance to any children who may be at the shelter. By creating this safe learning zone, the team hopes to give homeless children confidence and an environment to academically thrive.

Horizons for the Homeless

Students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School saw the perfect opportunity to combine their passion with helping a community they knew needed assistance. The Venture Team, Horizons for the Homeless, joined forces with the cosmetology department at their school and with Horizons for Homeless Children, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of young homeless children and their families by ensuring that they are prepared for school success. The Venture offers low-cost haircuts, coloring and mani/pedicures to the public, with proceeds of each appointment going towards Horizons for Homeless Children. The Venture’s continued efforts not only assist the shelter, but also give community members surrounding the school the opportunity to boost their confidence without hurting their wallets.
Mount Wachusett Community College

This year, delivering the UWYV message to students at Mount Wachusett Community College (“MWCC”) involved putting a slightly different spin on the “everyone is a change maker” mantra. Through workshops catered specifically to the college-aged audience and beyond, MWCC students learned in-depth definitions of social entrepreneurship and service learning, and how those concepts could directly complement their coursework at the college. Young people ranging from first-year students to high-schoolers in dual-enrollment courses participated in the workshops; each population provided valuable insight on what would constitute a truly successful UWYV experience for a nontraditional student. The one team to launch out of MWCC this year focused on a broader community, the city of Fitchburg, with hopes of addressing the ever-present bullying pandemic on school grounds.

- Located in Gardner, MA
- 1,325 young people have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- Two teams have launched to date, 1 new team this year, and 1 remains active (50%)
- This year, 110 students were engaged. Of these students, 8 were active Venture Team members.

History of Teams Launched

2011
- Water to the People

2013
- C.O.D.E.S (Carry On Don’t Ever Stop)

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Carry On Don’t Ever Stop (C.O.D.E.S.)

Members of C.O.D.E.S understand the pain and suffering that bullied children face every day. As past bullying victims themselves, they felt compelled to create a program in their school district that would help put an end to the senseless violence and emotional trauma that goes unnoticed in many social circles and in school.

In order to do this, the Venturers have created a series of workshops and team building exercises that they deliver to groups of students who have been bullied. The workshops aim to help each young person cope with their experiences and to also build their confidence as individuals moving forward. The group plans to create an anonymous email hotline for bullied students, as well as raise funds for a scholarship that they hope to award to a graduating senior who has fought through adversity and will be going to college.

“I can change the world one idea at a time. It only takes one person to motivate a community.”

MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT
North Central Charter Essential School  
**PARTNER SINCE 2011**

The vision of North Central Charter Essential School (NCCES) asks students to “think for themselves, care about others, and act creatively and responsibly.” Following this mission statement, NCCES pairs well with UWYV and its goal to create cultivators of community-benefiting change in north central Massachusetts. As with many essential schools, NCCES gives students in grades 7 through 12 the opportunity to learn through project-based assignments with the ultimate goal to have each young person acquire the skills to be self-led learners. The past academic year was ultimately a turbulent one for NCCES, as the school had a complete move from its original location to an interim building while a brand-new facility is being built, on top of having a new Champion. As a result, no Venture Teams launched at this partner site in FY13, but the future holds promising pipeline teams that aim to address the mentality behind domestic and child abuse.

- Located in Fitchburg, MA
- 323 young people have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- Three teams have launched to date with no new teams launching this year, 1 remains active (33%).
- This year, 270 students were engaged. Of these students, 13 were active Venture Team members.

**History of Teams Launched**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| NCCES Helps B.O.P.S. | Team Green  
Wii Kinnect |

North Middlesex Regional High School  
**PARTNER SINCE 2006**

One of the more evident reasons why UWYV works within North Middlesex Regional High School so well is their deeply-rooted service learning culture. Students who choose to get involved with UWYV typically already have a vast understanding of what it means to be an active member of society, specifically utilizing community projects as means of education. This existing pool of service learners has come in handy for numerous Venture Teams, as there is never a shortage of volunteers or an extra set of hands for a particular project. Teams at NMRHS this year focused on delving deeper into already-existing projects at their school, as well as embarking on new endeavors focused on service projects for all ages and feeding the homeless community in their area.

- Located in Townsend, MA
- 500 young people have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
- Seven teams have launched to date with 3 new teams this year, 5 remain active (71%).
- This year, 85 students were engaged. Of these students, 20 were active Venture Team members.

**History of Teams Launched**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Patriot Gardens  | Literary ‘Zine  
The Outdoor Classroom | MLK Day of Service  
Satellite Garden  
Second Helpings |
| Fighting Back |
About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

MLK Day of Service

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” Each year, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the MLK holiday to serve their neighbors and communities. Young people at North Middlesex Regional High School decided to answer this call to action by hosting the first MLK Day of Service in their district. Venture members recruited over 120 volunteers to help with services ranging from making soap to writing letters to those serving in Afghanistan. Because its first year was so successful, the MLK Day of Service Venture plans to continue hosting a series of volunteer opportunities during each forthcoming Martin Luther King holiday.

Satellite Garden

On a trip to New Orleans, members of Satellite Garden witnessed a local community’s effective and cost-efficient composting system and decided to create one of their own for their school’s already-existing community garden. In addition to the food available through the Community Garden, the Satellite Garden Team plans to grow organic flowers and micro greens to sell at local farmer’s markets as means to sustain their project.

Second Helpings

Students at North Middlesex Regional High School noticed that one of the most under-utilized facilities in most communities is the school kitchen and cafeteria. With this in mind, they decided to start Second Helpings, a soup kitchen available to any community member in need of a hot meal. Once a month, the team plans to host a soup kitchen with food gathered from their schools community garden and plan to partner with local businesses in the future.

“[United Way] Youth Venture is about empowering youth and giving them a voice, and allowing them that opportunity to not just be the future, but be the now. It creates the change we need to see. That is ultimately what [United Way] Youth Venture is all about.”

RAY KANE, NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION
Winchendon Public Schools PARTNER SINCE 2006
Includes Murdock Middle School and Murdock High School

Despite a delay with entering Murdock Middle and High School, Venture Teams at the middle school level picked up significant steam toward the end of the academic year after a Dream It Do It Workshop was presented to the 6th and 7th grade. One high school and one middle school team launched by June, but in the pipeline there exists a number of teams eager to pick up where they left off at the start of the next school year. Venturers at Murdock care passionately about their student body and their town, devoting their Action Plans to solving municipal problems, aiding local shelters, and creating recreational facilities for everyone to enjoy. Murdock teams also present their ideas with a sense of humor – don’t be surprised to see a few community-benefiting comedy troupes emerge in the near future.

• Winchendon launched 2 teams in the 2011-2012 school year
• 415 students have been introduced to United Way Youth Venture this year
• 10 teams have launched to date in Winchendon, and 10 remain active (100%)
• This year, 230 students were engaged. Of these students, 50 were active Venture Team members.

History of Teams Launched

Murdock Middle School

2012
• Art Masters

2013
• Kidz Krew

Murdock High School

2007
• Extreme Makeover: Field Edition

2008
• Operation Murdock Cares
• The Sound of Murdock

2009
• Wii Care

2010
• Sound of Blue

2011
• Devil Bots
• Operation Murdock: Special Olympics

2013
• Lady Blue Devils Softball Field Improvement Team

About the Teams Launched 2012-2013

Kidz Krew

6th graders Caleb and Adam were sad to see the cramped space and lack of available food at the Better Tomorrow Cat Shelter in Winchendon. After speaking with the shelter’s director, they knew they would be able to help. The group formed Kidz Krew and asked the shelter director to provide a list of specific donations she would like to receive most. List in hand, the Venture plans to host a series of movie nights, where admission may be a can of cat food or a warm blanket instead of money.

Lady Blue Devils Softball Field Improvement

The fields used by the Lady Blue Devils softball team were in rough shape – old, rotting bleachers and worn down gravel made it hard for the team to excel. These less-than-ideal conditions inspired the entire team to create a Venture to make the field not just usable, but an enjoyable piece of community land on which future Blue Devils may be successful. Thanks to many helpful community members and donations, the girls are well underway with their project and they are confident the field will be leagues better than how they found it by the time they graduate.
PERFORMANCE MEASURES

All performance measures are continuously scrutinized and revised each year in order to enable more accurate assessment of program impacts.

Quarterly Partner Reports

This reporting mechanism provides a means for Champions at partnering organizations to effectively communicate significant program data, collect and convey information regarding each of their active and potential teams, and serve as a means for tracking existing and potential team activity. The reporting mechanism also collects contact information for Venture Team members and Allies.

Semi-Annual Partner Reports

The semi-annual reporting mechanism collects a summary of all activities that have occurred at each partner site for each half of the school year. This report differs significantly from the quarterly report, because it is outcomes-oriented. The submission of a complete bi-annual report is tied to release of Champion stipends, and ensures timely and complete reporting on program progress and outcomes. In addition, the semi-annual report submitted upon completion of the school year requires submission of information about the attitudinal and academic impact and progress made by students participating in the UWYV program.

The data collected and measured includes, but is not limited to:

- MCAS scores of participating youth as compared to the school they attend as a whole (youth are not identified individually);
- Attendance of participating youth as compared to the school they attend as a whole (youth are not identified individually);
- Suspension rates of participating youth as compared to the school they attend as a whole (youth are not identified individually);
- Detention rates of participating youth as compared to the school they attend as a whole (youth are not identified individually);
- Percentage of participating youth in free and reduced lunch as compared to the school they attend as a whole (youth are not identified individually);
- Graduation rates of participating seniors as compared to the school they attend as a whole (youth are not identified individually);
- Percentage of graduating UWYV students who are continuing on to higher education (youth are not identified individually);
- Accurate tracking of adult volunteers and exposed, engaged and directly involved youth; and
- Accurate tracking of engaged students, active Venture Team members, activities and Venture Team outcomes.
Pre and Post-Engagement Surveys

Administered to youth when they are introduced to the UWYV program, the surveys are designed to assess program impacts on each young person involved. The use of the pre-engagement survey provides a baseline from which growth can clearly be demonstrated as well as a way to track that growth.

Non-credit Baseline Assessment

Non-credit forms, completed by students upon initial engagement with the program, continue to serve as a means to collect identifying Venturer information in order to accurately track participation. This information aids us in creating an accurate baseline assessment of students prior to formal acceptance as a Venturer. This pre-engagement survey asks students to identify their thoughts surrounding their ability to influence community/political decisions, their ability to create positive change, and the importance of education.

Spring Survey

In FY13, the post-engagement tool was modified from evaluations used in previous years in order to reflect the LEAP (Liberal Education and Americas Promise) Civic Engagement Value Rubric – a tool developed with the intention of creating a basic framework for higher educational institutions nationwide. This rubric is used to demonstrate progressive student learning in Civic Engagement. The spring survey helps to quantify the impact on UWYV participants’ experiences and attitudes about community. The Spring Survey is administered each spring to students who are members of Venture Teams, and mirrors questions from the pre-engagement survey.

Student Access Database

The Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement at Mount Wachusett Community College expanded its client tracking database to include UWYV in FY13. This tool was used across programs housed within the department and acted as a means to document direct interaction with all engaged students and non-controlling adult mentors within the UWYV program. The purpose of the database was to retain and track those interactions from year to year and provide access to accurate student data for grant-funded reporting. For each student, an account was created, which included the student’s name, address, demographic information, school attended, and Venture Team. Each UWYV staff member was responsible for documenting their contacts by writing a brief summary of each interaction. This tracked the amount of time spent working directly with each student and created a record of the content of those interactions.

Champion meetings

Program staff held regular in-person meetings for UWYV stipended non-controlling adult mentors, called “Champions.” These meetings were designed to assess current program progress within each individual school and to offer assistance, guidance and feedback with regard to recruitment of new students, sustainability of current teams, and offer an opportunity to share best practices. In addition, these meetings also served as a means to discuss current obstacles each Champion may have been experiencing and to offer insight, advice, and assistance into ways to broach difficulties. These meetings were the direct result of feedback from Champions in previous years.
## UNITED WAY YOUTH VENTURE OF NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS - FY13 LOGIC MODEL

**PROGRAM GOAL 1:** Mobilize and engage youth, including those who are traditionally underserved and disengaged, in north central Massachusetts to initiate positive change around issues that impact their lives.

**Objective 1.1:** Grow and expand current UWYV programming to engage a regionally, culturally and economically diverse population of youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administer UWYV programming to existing partner schools and organizations</td>
<td>Increase of partner and youth engagement by 10% (Measurement Tool: Signed MOUs from new (up to 2) and continuing partners (at least 18))</td>
<td>UWYV staff actively engaged 2,264 students in FY13 (a decrease of 10% from FY12) with over 771 students participating on a Venture Team (an increase of 22% from FY12) <em>(For further details see section - Youth Involvement Information)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restructure Champion stipend payment and staff time/responsibilities</td>
<td>New MOUs written inclusive of new Champion payment structure; New UWYV staff structure (Measurement Tool: Signed MOUs from at least 18 continuing partners)</td>
<td>Due to the 100% turnover of UWYV staff, new MOU’s were not created for FY13; previous MOU’s signed in FY12 remain in effect until a new MOU is signed. An additional level of management/oversight was included in the structure, beginning in January 2013 to support the conversion of the staff and continued growth of the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify AmeriCorps Job Ready and VISTA* Members</td>
<td>1 AmeriCorps<em>VISTA; 1 AmeriCorps Job Ready Member (Measurement Tool: Signed AmeriCorps</em>VISTA Assignment Description – VAD and AmeriCorps Job Ready Member Contracts,)</td>
<td>Initially 1 AmeriCorps<em>VISTA and 1 AmeriCorps Job Ready Member were identified and hired. Due to the departure of the AmeriCorps</em>Vista in March of 2013, an additional AmeriCorps Job Ready Member was identified and brought on to the team. The role of the AmeriCorps Members was to provide direct support to youth working through the process, facilitate workshops and support community partners. Each Member assisted in the launch of 41 new Venture Teams as well as the engagement of 389 new students as Venture Team members.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify &amp; target potential partner schools; Provide outreach sessions to determine fit &amp; capacity to run program; Identify Champion within each new partner school; Provide training</td>
<td>2 new programmatic partners; At least 1 Champion at each new site (Measurement Tool: Signed MOU’s with new partners)</td>
<td>Program staff identified and targeted potential schools including Oakmont Regional School District and the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District. However, due to the staff turnover and onboarding, a decision was made to not actively pursue new partners during FY13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitate trainings for program Allies and Champions to leverage the expertise and experience of current partners and advance the support for youth engaging in UWYV across the region</td>
<td>At least 2 Champion and Ally trainings with new and existing partners (Measurement Tool: Attendance at Champion Training)</td>
<td>Eighteen Champions attended Champion training sessions that were held on 9/12/12, 9/13/12, and 10/19/2012. Ten Allies attended the Ally Training at the FKO on 10/19/2012 and further training occurred on an as needed with individual Allies. Additional one-on-one training was conducted on an as-needed basis. These trainings were used to increase Champion understanding of the UWYV program to allow for expansion within their individual schools and organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to implement and refine subawardee monitoring &amp; oversight plan in accordance with current UWYV protocol</td>
<td>A minimum of 75% success rate of UWYV program implementation (Measurement Tool: Signed MOU’s from program partners)</td>
<td>Program staff implemented a prescribed subawardee monitoring and oversight plan in FY13. This included but was not limited to an initial site visit, on-going partner meetings and trainings, quarterly reports, technical assistance, weekly correspondence, and formal year-end site visits, to discuss and assess the previous year’s activities and the interest of Champions to continue working with the program. 100% if program partners successfully implemented the program, as evidence by trained Champions, workshops conducted, teams and student actively engaged in UWYV.</td>
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**Objective 1.2: Recruit at least 250 new youth in the North Central region of Massachusetts to be Venture Team members.**

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<td>Facilitate at least 1 “Dream It. Do It.” workshop within each partnering organization annually to engage youth in the UWYV opportunity and introduce the concept of youth led community change</td>
<td>At least 7,500 youth will have the opportunity to participate in program with at least 1,500 students actively engaged. Workshops to total a minimum of 23 (Measurement Tool: Champion Reports, Fall Kickoff Registration, Spring Surveys, Non-credit Forms)</td>
<td>Program staff facilitated one or more Dream It. Do It. workshop within each partnering organization totaling 30 outreach workshops conducted during the reporting period. Over 10,047 youth had the opportunity and were made aware of the program, 2,264 youth were actively engaged, and <strong>389 new youth</strong> actively participated on a Venture Team.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Build and utilize social media presence for UWYV to engage youth</td>
<td>An increase in UWYV engagement through social media networking as observed through Facebook Analytics (Measurement Tool: Facebook Analytics Data)</td>
<td>Between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 Facebook users increased 58%. (For further details see section - Significant Program Highlights)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide UWYV participants with access to an official Mount Wachusett Community College transcript denoting community service activities and trainings taken as noncredit courses through United Way Youth Venture, to be used to support a college or employment application</td>
<td>100% of youth who complete non-credit forms will have access to a non-credit transcript through Mount Wachusett Community College (Measurement Tool: Non-credit forms)</td>
<td>UWYV staff disseminated non-credit forms to youth who were engaged in a variety of workshops and events held during FY13. These non-credit forms are submitted to Lifelong Learning at Mount Wachusett Community College, and students are entered into a system that builds an MWCC transcript denoting community service activities as noncredit courses. Of youth who completed these forms in entirety, 100% of them have access to a non-credit transcript through MWCC. This was especially important in engaging new students interested in building their resume and learning job readiness skills, as well as students interesting building their college transcript.</td>
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Objective 1.3: Harness youth’s interests and passions to address needs in their community through the successful launch of at least 30 new Venture Teams and sustainment of 80% of existing UWYV Teams.

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<td>Work with participating youth on development of a UWYV “Action Plan” to strategically link the youth’s interests, identified community need, and plan of action with the elements of a business plan. Coordinate youth presentations to members of the community, to allow youth the opportunity to incorporate constructive feedback into their Venture</td>
<td>Successful launch of 30 new Venture Teams; Inception of 60 ideas for potential Ventures by participating youth (Measurement Tool: Panel approved Ventures; Panel feedback forms)</td>
<td>In FY13, there were 41 launched teams with over 39 in the pipeline, and the inception of over 110 ideas for potential Ventures generated. The planning and development of a Venture Team is the byproduct of students identifying an interest and/or passion and pairing it with a problem they would like to solve in their community. Once a Team is launched, youth engage their peers, friends, and family essentially expanding the UWYV program within their school or organization. <em>(For further details please see section - Youth Involvement Information)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitate a regional “UWYV Kickoff” event, providing interactive workshops and training</td>
<td>At least 350 youth and 10 community partners to attend event (Measurement Tool: Event evaluation and registration)</td>
<td>UWYV staff facilitated a regional “UWYV Kickoff” (FKO) event on October 19, 2012. There were over 469 youth in attendance, as well as 86 adults who volunteered to help with the event. Attendees came from across the North Central Massachusetts region, and represented over 22 community partners. The FKO served as a vehicle to harness the excitement generated by students when presented with the UWYV opportunity, and spurred on many project ideas that eventually resulted in Venture Teams. <em>(For further details please see section - Highlights of Special Events)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide intensive technical assistance to youth planning a Venture or currently working on a Venture through established community partners</td>
<td>At least 75 hours of technical assistance will be provided to the youth of collaborating community partners (Measurement Tool: Time and effort reporting)</td>
<td>UWYV staff, with the assistance of AmeriCorps*VISTA and Job Ready Members, provided over 3,254 hours of technical assistance to UWYV students at 18 partnering schools and organizations. <em>(For further details see section - Youth Involvement Information)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide interactive &amp; engaging skill-building workshops in collaboration with partners focusing on skills such as fundraising, budgeting and engaging community partners or sponsors</td>
<td>75% of participating youth who complete evaluations will report increased knowledge that can help them build/sustain a Venture (Measurement Tool: pre and post-engagement surveys)</td>
<td>79.5% of participating youth who completed our evaluation reported an increase of learning indicators specifically around having knowledge that can help build/sustain a Venture. <em>(For further details see section - Youth Involvement Information)</em></td>
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Outcomes for Program Goal 1

The mobilization and engagement of youth was successful through the expansion of UWYV programming within existing partner sites. No additional partners were actively pursued, however the UWYV program staff saw a 22% increase of students on Venture Teams despite a 10% decrease in students engaged. While the FKO served as a vehicle to harness the excitement generated by students, the event also allowed for community members and stakeholders to actively participate directly with youth as volunteers and workshop facilitators. 76.3% of students who completed the post-engagement survey feel empowered, have built social competence and positively impacted their community. 389 new students became active members of Venture Teams.
PROGRAM GOAL 2: Build relationships and establish collaborative partnerships with each community UWYV is present in, creating a shared interest in investing in the potential of participating youth as future leaders and expanding program capacity to reach additional youth.

Objective 2.1: Include parents, residents, and community leaders in the youth-led process, by involving more than 50 adults on panels and as Allies (non-controlling adult mentors) to teams.

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<td>Identify parents, residents and community leaders as potential selection panelists, technical allies and allies to support participating youth in the process of launching and implementing their identified community projects</td>
<td>No target set for proposed activity (Measurement Tool: Number of Permission forms signed, number of community members volunteers, signed MOU’s and Champion Reports)</td>
<td>By mid-year FY13, staff was able to more fully engage community members, administrators, and parents through the opportunity to sit on community panels, act as non-controlling adult mentors, and provide intense technical assistance directly to students on Venture Teams. In FY13 more than 843 parents, residents, and community leaders engaged with the UWYV program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify and recruit community leaders knowledgeable in a particular subject area such as marketing, fundraising, or finance to conduct skill-building workshops with youth at community partner sites</td>
<td>No target set for proposed activity (Measurement Tool: Number of community leaders offering skill building workshops)</td>
<td>During the first half of FY13, UWYV was able to utilize community members to deliver skill building workshops at the Fall Kick Off event, where twelve different break-out sessions were offered. Skill building workshops were also offered at the end of FY13 and were facilitated by full-time staff. One workshop specifically meant for High School students was facilitated to help students learn how they could utilize the UWYV program to help enhance their transcripts and resumes. This workshop was created as an individual service project through the AmeriCorps Job Ready program and was translated into Spanish and delivered at Fitchburg High School. Staff also began exploring other means to implement skill-building workshops through discussions with Champions with the potential for execution in FY14. <em>(For further details see section - Highlights of Special Events)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide intensive technical assistance to program Champions, Allies, and youth to support UWYV program implementation and delivery</td>
<td>At least 75 hours of technical assistance will be provided to each community partner (Measurement Tool: Student Access Database)</td>
<td>UWYV staff, with the assistance of AmeriCorps*VISTA and Job Ready Members, provided over 3,254 hours of technical assistance to UWYV students. <em>(For further details see section - Youth Involvement Information)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare Champions with each collaborating partner to present on program impacts and results to a board or body of oversight, inclusive of district analysis and profile of performance</td>
<td>100% of Champions will present on UWYV to their board or school committee (Measurement Tool: Number of presentations conducted and Champion reports)</td>
<td>School administration participated in site visits and presentations including school wide “Dream it. Do it.” workshops where students were encouraged to identify their community, a problem they wish to solve in their community, and pair it with a passion or interest. Champions were also required to present UWYV activities to their school committee or board of directors as a way to generate understanding and support for the program success. District profiles are currently in the development and will be available in FY14.</td>
</tr>
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Outcomes for Program Goal 2

Through the support of the school administrators, a result of the tireless efforts of program Champions, UWYV staff were able to successfully engage parents, residents, and community leaders to support UWYV Venture Teams. The investment of these adult supporters was shown as they served as panelists, allies, technical allies, sponsors, workshop presenters, and volunteers totaling more than 843 adults engaged with the program. This support continued to spur on the excitement that was generated by a “Fall Kickoff” event in mid-October, and resulted in the launch of 41 Venture Teams and a 22% increase of student engagement on Venture Teams over FY12.
**PROGRAM GOAL 3: Empower participating youth, build social competence and, subsequently, their impact in their community.**

**Objective 3.1:** Allow youth to identify and assess their own definition of community, what needs exist in their community, and to prioritize those needs and to propose solutions.

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<td>Assess changes in confidence in ability to initiate change at the local and community level, and in social competence</td>
<td>Administer pre- and post-engagement surveys to engaged youth (Measurement Tool: pre- and post-engagement surveys)</td>
<td>Pre-engagement surveys were administered to youth who attended idea generating workshops, worked through an action plan, or were otherwise engaged with the UWV program through skill-building workshops and becoming a member of a Venture Team. Post-engagement surveys were also administered to all active Venturers yielding a 33% return rate. Post-engagement surveys are only disseminated to active Venture Team members, as a tool to measure collective growth and programmatic impact of students. <em>(For further details see section - Youth Involvement Information)</em></td>
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**Objective 3.2:** Develop emerging and future community leaders through training, support and individual assistance.

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<td>Identify up to 100 emerging leaders each year, and provide them with additional support through technical assistance and training opportunities</td>
<td>Up to 100 participating youth will report an increase in leadership indicators (Measurement Tool: pre- and post-surveys, impact statements)</td>
<td>Over 202 participating youth who completed the post-engagement spring survey reported an increase in leadership indicators. According to this survey, because of their experience with UWV 77% of students feel more prepared to speak in front of an audience, 74% understand how to run a meeting, and 76% understand how to create positive change in their community. <em>(For further details see section - Youth Involvement Information)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide academic scholarships for Venturers who have made a concerted effort to create change in their communities in an effort to increase access to higher education for participating youth</td>
<td>At least five - $1,000 scholarships will be provided to graduating seniors or recent graduates who plan to further attend an institution of higher education (Measurement Tool: Number of scholarships administered)</td>
<td>Academic scholarships of $1000 each were awarded to five students at the United Way’s Annual Thank You Event on April 24, 2013 held at the Four Points Sheraton in Leominster Massachusetts. Students were selected for their engagement with the UWV program, their commitment to bettering their communities, and for showing exemplary leadership skills. <em>(For further details see section - Specific Program Highlights)</em></td>
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</table>
**Objective 3.3:** Encourage the growth of participating youths’ self-confidence and social competence through tangible achievements, both personally and in the community.

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<tr>
<td>Provide UWYV participants with access to an official Mount Wachusett Community College transcript denoting community service activities and trainings taken as noncredit courses through United Way Youth Venture, to be used to support a college or employment application</td>
<td>100% of participating youth will have access to an official college transcript to support a college or employment application (Measurement Tool: Non-credit registrations)</td>
<td>100% of all participants who completed a noncredit registration form have access to an official MWCC transcript denoting all community service participation as non-credit courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide youth the opportunity to achieve short and immediate successes via the development of project based Ventures, which are completed within one year of launch; participants will be able to lead up to two project-based Ventures and have unlimited opportunities to create sustainable Ventures at any time</td>
<td>No target was set for this measurement as this was provided to students as an option (Measurement Tool: Number of project based Ventures launched)</td>
<td>Due to the fact that launching a sustainable Venture Team can be overwhelming for many, participating youth had the opportunity to launch project-based Ventures. Through this tool students were given the opportunity to build confidence in their ability to create change, while experiencing the immediate success that comes from creating and implementing a one-time project. In FY13 UWYV launched 5 project-based Venture teams, up from 1 team launched in FY12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administer the UWYV program in North Central Massachusetts with collaborating partners in schools and community-based organizations, allowing youth ages 12-20 to lead personal and community change through participation</td>
<td>At least 7,500 youth will have the opportunity to participate in program with at least 1,500 students actively engaged (Measurement Tool: Champion Reports, Fall Kickoff Registration, Spring Surveys, Non-credit Forms)</td>
<td>In FY13 over 10,040 youth had the opportunity to participate in the UWYV program with 2,264 students actively engaged and 771 actively participating on Venture Teams. Moving into FY14, youth ages 10-22 will have the opportunity to participate. This is a direct result of active engagement from both younger and early college students. <strong>(For further details see section - Youth Involvement Information)</strong></td>
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</table>

**Outcomes for Program Goal 3**

In FY13, over **10,040 young people** were given the opportunity to participate in the UWYV program with **over 2,264 actively engaged**. Of these youth engaged, **771 (a 22% increase) felt empowered to actively involve themselves on an existing Venture Team** or to work through a proposal to launch one of their own. UWYV staff were then able to identify, through the post-engagement survey tool, that **91% of these empowered youth believed that what they have learned through UWYV is relevant to how they can make positive change in the community.**
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“UWYV is so nice and welcoming. I can make a difference in the world and they can help.”  MURDOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT