Building Secure Futures for Childcare Workers

Where do you see yourself in five years? This question can be overwhelming for someone living with limited resources. You don’t need to look too hard to find someone with limited resources in their life - and many times it is even the person caring for your child while you are at work.

Quality childcare is central to workplace stability. Business communities rely heavily on individuals who can provide care for young children, as a community we need to take steps to ensure their workplace stability. Our Work United initiative, with the generous support from the Couch Foundation, brought their service to childcare centers in the Upper Valley. This new program, Getting Ahead in the Workplace, is a training program that directly complements the Work United initiative. It is a 45-hour curriculum that helps individuals in instability build their resources for a more prosperous life for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Getting Ahead works in tandem with Work United to provide childcare providers with the support they need to assess their own resources and move towards self-sufficiency. Work United provides immediate resources while Getting Ahead builds lifelong resources. Together, the impacts of each program are deepened.

Six early childhood teachers from Upper Valley centers worked together with their Getting Ahead facilitator, Faith Dubois, over four months. But their work didn’t stop there. The group found their time together so valuable that they have opted to meet monthly to catch up and continue to refine their goals.

“Getting Ahead touched on so many areas of my life and what’s going on in our world,” said one of this year’s participants. “The Work United team did an amazing job making connections between the participants and the materials we discussed.”

LOCAL IMPACT STARTS HERE

Work United Grows
Work United added three new small businesses through their Main Street Model program, bringing the total to 15 companies. These new companies added 250 employees to the nearly 10,000 workers already being served. The team of Resource Coordinators had over 2,400 conversations with workers about stability.

2,416 Calls to 211 NH were made by Upper Valley residents seeking information and resources.

Free Tax Preparation
Our continued partnership with SEVCA resulted in 156 federal returns prepared free of charge, as well as 139 Vermont state returns. These filers claimed federal refunds of $170,442 including $65,978 in the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

Recovery Friendly Workplaces
There are 11 Recovery Friendly Workplaces in the Upper Valley that are businesses dedicated to fostering a supportive environment that encourages the success of their employees in recovery.

A GIFT TO GRANITE UNITED WAY HELPS OUR UPPER VALLEY NEIGHBORS

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