

## **United Way Funds Teenagers to help Bowdoin Area Residents this Winter: Teen Assets Partnership**

The newly-formed Teen Assets Partnership (TAP) has received a competitive grant from United Way of Mid Coast Maine to develop and implement a plan to serve residents of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, and surrounding communities this winter in the event of power interruption. Middle and high school age teens with community coaches have begun work to create an emergency shelter. The shelter will be equipped to provide shelter, food, general sustenance, and comfort for the duration of the power outage.

### **Teen Asset Partnership members: Morgan Kinney, Colin Swan and Dani Smith.**



A “teens helping neighbors” component, including well-being checks, transportation to the shelter, hot meal delivery, and similar neighbor-to-neighbor assistance as developed through adult/teen/community collaboration, will assist residents who cannot leave their homes to stay in the shelter. "TAP is an organization formed with the purpose of creating bonds through generations while engaging local youth in community service,” wrote the teens.

United Way’s Youth & Lifelong Learning Council is funding three projects which demonstrate the integration of Youth Asset Development principles with community efforts to address energy efficiency and/or winter preparedness. The other youth projects selected in this competitive grants process are in Waldoboro and Boothbay.

“The aim of this initiative is to promote opportunities for youth to engage and serve others while implementing winter preparedness strategies in their home communities,” said United Way Board member Dennis Unger of the University College at Bath/Brunswick. “United Way encourages communities to help build positive Developmental Assets among youth.”

The Developmental Assets are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities, such as serving others, perceiving that adults in the community value youth, or spending three or more hours per week in sports or organizations, that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible. Studies of more than 2.2 million young people in the United States consistently show that the more assets young

people have, the less likely they are to engage in a wide range of high-risk behaviors and the more likely they are to succeed in school, help others, maintain good health, resist danger, and overcome adversity. The average young person experiences fewer than half of the 40 assets. More information on the 40 Assets identified by the Search Institute can be found at <http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets>. More information on United Way's work improving lives in Mid Coast Maine can be found at [www.uwmcm.org](http://www.uwmcm.org).

###