

United Way Funds Youth Weatherization Project at Medomak Middle School

An after-school club at Medomak Middle School, Youthlinks' Community In Action (CIA) Program, has been selected to receive a competitive grant from United Way of Mid Coast Maine. With adult mentors, youth will learn about the needs of the community and engage in a variety of community service projects that assist elderly and low-income community residents, such as weatherizing drafty homes, providing simple repairs or household assistance for the infirm, or helping elderly or economically challenged community members prepare their homes for the winter.



Youthlinks participants Kate Maynard and Ross Alex, make window inserts during last year's weatherization project in Rockland.

“Weatherization projects present youth with a tangible problem - you can **see** cracks in windows, you can **feel** drafts. This funding from the United Way will provide youth the opportunity to be part of the solution in their own community and see results that are as tangible as the problem,” said Youthlinks Program Director Amie Hutchinson.

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 Boothbay Harbor and Bowdoin. “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 Sally Loughlin, Chair of United Way's Youth & Lifelong Learning Council. “United Way wants to encourage communities to help build positive Developmental Assets among youth.”

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- Youthlinks Program Director Amie Hutchinson.

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.