



United Way of York County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Week of the Young Child™ Supports Childhood Education Programs

MARCH 23, 2017 - KENNEBUNK, ME. A dozen communities throughout York County are taking part in this year's Week of the Young Child™ with a small twist, they are extending it for the entire month of April. The annual celebration honors young children and those who make a difference in children's lives.

In York County, Week of the Young Child™ activities are sponsored by the York County Early Childhood Coalition, which is hosted by United Way of York County. The Coalition consists of early childhood professionals and community advocates working together to improve professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education, and to build public support for high-quality early childhood education programs. The Week of the Young Child™ is an annual celebration hosted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Communities participating in this year's Week of the Young Child™ include Biddeford, Buxton, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Kittery, Lebanon, Ogunquit, Old Orchard Beach, Saco, Sanford, Wells and York. Artwork produced by local children in early care and education programs will be displayed at various sites including banks and libraries throughout these communities for the month of April.

"All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and York County has a great opportunity to do our part to help young children," said Lora Kline, Community Impact Director for Children & Families at United Way of York County. "This is a time for York County to recognize that early years are critical learning years for all young children."

About York County Early Childhood Coalition

The York County Early Childhood Coalition is hosted by United Way of York County and promotes the importance of successful birth to five experiences. The Coalition's goal is that as a community we ensure a healthy foundation that prepares every child for a brighter future. Its mission states: "The future prosperity of our county is based on the positive early development of our children. The first five years are crucial for all children in developing the skills they need as the workforce of tomorrow."

About United Way of York County

United Way of York County strengthens community conditions by bringing people and resources together to effect long-lasting changes that improve lives. Together we focus on important issues that impact the well-being of children, youth, seniors and families in our community.

To learn more about United Way of York County and be a part of the change you want to see in the world, visit www.buildcommunity.org or call 207-985-3359 to learn how you can Give, Advocate or Volunteer.

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