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United Way of Eastern Maine

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

LIVE UNITED



November 2011

The Backpack Program expands into RSU 64



On October 21st UWEM, Safe Place food pantry, and RSU 64 (Bradford, Corinth, Hudson, Kenduskeag and Stetson) kicked off their Backpack Program with 16 students participating.

This Backpack Program focuses on two of our primary goals for creating lasting change in the community: Education and Health. At-risk children in RSU 64 grades K-2 receive a backpack filled with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food that they take home with them Friday afternoon so they may have food to eat over the weekend and will return on Monday ready to learn.

Learn more about our community involvement [here](#)

Need help? Call 2-1-1 today to be connected to over 8,000 health and human services available in Maine. The toll free hotline connects you with trained specialists who can help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dial 2-1-1 or [visit 211maine.org](http://www.211maine.org).

Agency of Distinction - The Game Loft



On October 20th, United Way of Eastern Maine held this year's Annual Meeting, where several awards and recognitions were given - one of which recognizes a particular agency partner that goes above and beyond to help our community here in Eastern Maine. This year's Agency of Distinction Award was given to **The Game Loft**.

Ray Estabrook and his wife Patricia started The Game Loft and have been helping the youth of Waldo county since 1998. Using a combination of graduated non-electronic games, community involvement, academic support, guidance, advocacy, and mentoring, youth between ages 6 and 18 find the support and activities they are looking for at The Game Loft.

Based in Belfast with a satellite



Smooch

A

Pooch!

It makes us smile when we hear about successful efforts in the community to help raise money to support our neighbors. When a company takes the extra step in their United Way campaign efforts to spur others into action, we try to recognize it - especially if it is a charming story!

CES, Inc. started their United Way campaign earlier this fall with a wonderful idea: A Smooch-A-Pooch campaign! Several canine candidates were chosen, and the winning pooch would be "smooched" by Denis St. Peter, the CEO. Denis was pretty averse to the idea initially, but decided to go through with it because it was for United Way.

Kay Allcroft, HR Manager at CES and their United Way campaign coordinator, started the fundraiser and carried through with inspiring dedication. On October 20th they held their United Way presentation - and unveiled the success of their Smooch-A-Pooch campaign: Nearly \$400 was raised just to have Denis "smooch the pooch".

There was just one catch...

There was a three-way tie for first place! Three of the dogs had the same amount raised on their behalf, and each was over \$70! Denis was a great sport and agreed to allow all three dogs to kiss him. What a success! Congratulations on a job well done **CES, Inc.**!

program in Unity, The Game Loft helps over 160 youth members in Waldo county develop into vibrant individuals. For more information, [visit their website](#)

Give.

Giving to United Way of Eastern Maine's Community Fund is the most efficient and effective way to improve lives in your community. United Way uses the Community Fund dollars to invest in programs that provide the best quality services to Eastern Maine. Donate today by [clicking here](#).

Advocate.

You can LIVE UNITED by helping us spread the word. Imagine how many people we could reach if everyone forwards this to five people.

 Forward to a Friend

Please consider remembering United Way in your will or estate. Your thoughtfulness today will ensure valuable services will be available to those who need help in the future.

Volunteer.

Do you want to get involved in your community? Do you want an easy way to match your skills and desires with an available opportunity? [VolunteerMaine.org](#) is the website for you! Visit today to get started.



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