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Granite United Way Greater Seacoast Region
Being prepared for school is much more than knowing letters and numbers – children who enter kindergarten ready to learn tend to have more success in school, lower dropout rates, and improved health and career outcomes as adults.

Granite United Way helps prepare children and their families for kindergarten by providing kindergarten readiness backpacks which are filled with age-appropriate books, materials to help build fine motor skills, and parent resources and activities. The backpacks were delivered to Family Resource Centers, child care centers, elementary schools, and other early childhood organizations across Strafford and East Rockingham County who then distributed to their soon-to-be kindergarteners.

A Rochester elementary school social worker said the kids were so excited about the backpacks, “even a couple of them brought them back and forth to Kindergarten Academy”. Kindergarten Academy is a chance for incoming kindergartners to meet their teachers, get a head start on literacy and math, and become familiarized with their new school.

This event wouldn’t have been possible without our amazing volunteers from Lonza who packed nearly all of the backpacks! We are so thankful for the support of our volunteers and the value they provide the community.

“I believe that volunteering with the United Way is an invaluable service to the community, especially when it comes to stabilizing the futures for these children. Every child should be able to put their best foot forward, regardless of the circumstances surrounding them. The United Way provides us with an opportunity to give back and strengthen the families and communities around us.”

- Hunter Nichols of Lonza

Granite United Way is dedicated to bringing people and resources together to create positive and lasting change in our communities. Thanks to the generous support of our community and sponsors, these backpacks are available free to all parents, grandparents, and caregivers of children going into kindergarten.