

# LIVE UNITED

## What it means in the Lakes Region



United Way recruits the people and organizations from all across the community who bring the passion, expertise and resources needed to get things done.

Living in the Lakes Region, swim lessons are not an extravagance, but a survival skill. However, families that are struggling to meet make ends meet, still can only dream about providing this important lesson for their children. The Laconia Athletic & Swim Club offered a program so that children at Lakes Region Childcare could access swim lessons. The problem was finding money to send 60 children.



Three LRCCS Board members, alumna of Wheelock College, recognized that the Wheelock Endowment Fund's mission was to "improve the lives of children and families". Swim lessons met the grant criteria and through the Board members efforts, swim lessons became a reality for all the children.

One of the children that particularly benefited was A.J., a student with pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). A.J. was never interested in going near water. He would not even remove his shoes and socks to feel the water; he stayed on the beach.

With some hesitation and a lot of reassurance from the childcare staff, A.J. participated in swim lessons. He was cautiously introduced to the water and by the end of the lessons, the family could enjoy lake outings. Wearing a life jacket, he would jump into the lake and even enjoyed being "over his head" with his grandparents close by.



For a building to be stable for the long term, it needs a solid foundation. The same is true in life, and the building blocks for a solid life are a strong education, financial stability and good health.

*“Reach out a hand to one, and influence the condition of all.”  
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