



LIVE UNITED



Katahdin Trust and United Way of Aroostook Continue Literacy Partnership

Presque Isle, ME (04/19/2019) - United Way of Aroostook is excited to announce it will once again partner with Katahdin Trust Company to offer all first graders throughout Aroostook County a backpack with free books to read over the summer. Known as “The Summer Slide,” the program encourages early readers to continue reading throughout the summer to keep their reading skills sharp and to strengthen their reading fluency. This is the fourth year United Way of Aroostook has coordinated the program and the third year working with Katahdin Trust.

Summer Slide works with schools to provide first graders with some tools to prevent the loss of reading skills over the summer months. School administrators throughout Aroostook have already received and responded positively to a letter of invitation to participate in the program. Katahdin Trust volunteers will help United Way to deliver the books to each participating school in late May/early June. Backpacks will be provided to the children at no cost to them or their family. Each pack will contain three books, some activities, and other materials. Activities enclosed in the backpack will help children to engage with the books they were given.

This year a book about saving money will be included in all backpacks to encourage young people to begin the good habit of saving money for the things they want and need. A money related activity will also be given to each child in hopes that math skills will be practiced along with reading.

“We are proud to partner with United Way of Aroostook again on the Summer Slide program,” said Krista Putnam, Katahdin Trust Senior Vice President, Marketing. “Literacy, and in particular financial literacy, is a priority for the Bank. We are pleased that this year each backpack will include a book and an activity about saving money. Our employees truly enjoy volunteering for this program and based on the feedback from teachers, parents and children we know that Summer Slide is making a difference in our communities.”

In July and August, United Way of Aroostook and Katahdin Trust will hold Summer Reading Celebration events in all three regions of the County so children can come celebrate the end of summer and the start of a new school year. The goals of the Summer Slide Program and Reading Celebrations are for the children to learn the love of reading, enjoy some fun activities geared around the books they have received, and to maintain skills learned throughout the school year.



Katahdin Trust volunteers begin the task of labeling all the books to be given to first graders throughout Aroostook County. Pictured are (L-R) Mary Cook, Brian Martin, Lakeisha St. John, and Amy Turner.

If you'd like more information about Summer Slide or the United Way, please contact their office at 764-5197.

About United Way of Aroostook

United Way of Aroostook is a 510 (3) (c) organization established in the county in 1957. United Way works in every Aroostook County community to offer solutions to today's problems. We actively seek donations to be distributed to health and human service agencies and their programs so that they may provide the services needed in our community.

About Katahdin Trust

Katahdin Trust, founded in 1918 and named one of the 2018 Best Places to Work in Maine, is a community bank with more than \$800 million in assets and 180 employees. The Bank offers financial services to individuals and businesses from 16 full-service branches in Northern Maine and the greater Bangor and Portland Regions with a suite of digital banking solutions. Katahdin Bankshares Corp., parent company of Katahdin Trust Company, stock is quoted on the OTC Markets quote board OTCQX under the symbol KTHN. Current stock information can be found at otcm Markets.com/stock/KTHN/quote. Learn more about Katahdin Trust on its website at www.katahdintrust.com and get the latest news and information by following Katahdin Trust on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.