

The Acton-Boxborough United Way (ABUW) convenes representatives from local social service agencies, law enforcement, government, clergy, school, and faith institutions in our bi-annual community forums. This fact sheet incorporates feedback from these forums as well as mid-year reports from grantee agencies.

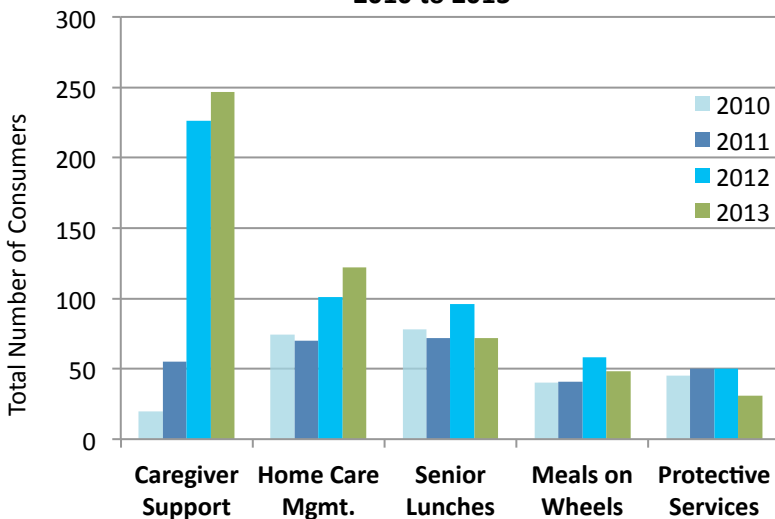
**Your Community at Work**

- The 2-year-old **Mt. Calvary Community Supper** served over 5000 meals last year with 1800 volunteer hours.
- ABUW funded one Acton and one Boxborough police officer to attend advocate training at **Domestic Violence Services Network**.
- Stow Food Pantry** started a delivery program for homebound clients.
- Of the 211 Acton children served over 5 years by **Minute Man Arc's Early Intervention program**, 52% were discharged, needing no more SPED services.
- A brand new ABUW grantee, **The Boys and Girls Club of Assabet Valley**, saw a 48% increase in AB children attending their summer program this year.
- Demand for **ABUW SAGE grants** increased. Local families who can't meet fuel, rent, and utility payments receive one-time emergency aid.

**Community Needs**

- **Eliot Community Human Services** reports each client seeking mental health services is requiring more services. Many school-aged children are struggling with anxiety, depression and academic and social problems.
- **Acton Housing Authority** helped 12 new households get housing this year, 7 of whom already lived or worked in Acton/Boxborough. More people who are not proficient in English are requesting housing. Other challenges include hoarding and federal housing finance cuts.
- **First Connections** lists major issues for young families as transportation, financial needs, and mental health concerns.
- **A/B Community Ed Summer Day Program** saw the number of low income children receiving free/reduced lunch nearly double since 2008 and the English learning population grew 18% from 2013 to 2014.
- **MetroWest Legal Services** handled 12 Acton cases last year, serving 28 household members. Of those cases, the largest number (44%) were family law-related, including domestic violence cases.

**Senior Needs in Acton/Boxborough  
2010 to 2013**



Note: Bar represents total AB cases/year Source: Minuteman Senior Services

**Senior Needs Have Increased**

- Minuteman Senior Services** investigated 40% fewer cases of elder abuse and neglect in our towns since 2012, but caregiver support requests were up 350% from 2011. (see graph)
- Clients for **Cooperative Elder Services'** adult day program are more frail, with more cognitive deficits, and unique/varied medical and behavioral challenges.
- Senior English learners are isolated culturally and linguistically but receive help from **English at Large, Acton Housing Authority, and others.**
- Friends of the Council on Aging** report increased hoarding issues among the elderly population.

**Kevin Breele – Confessions of a Depressed Comic**

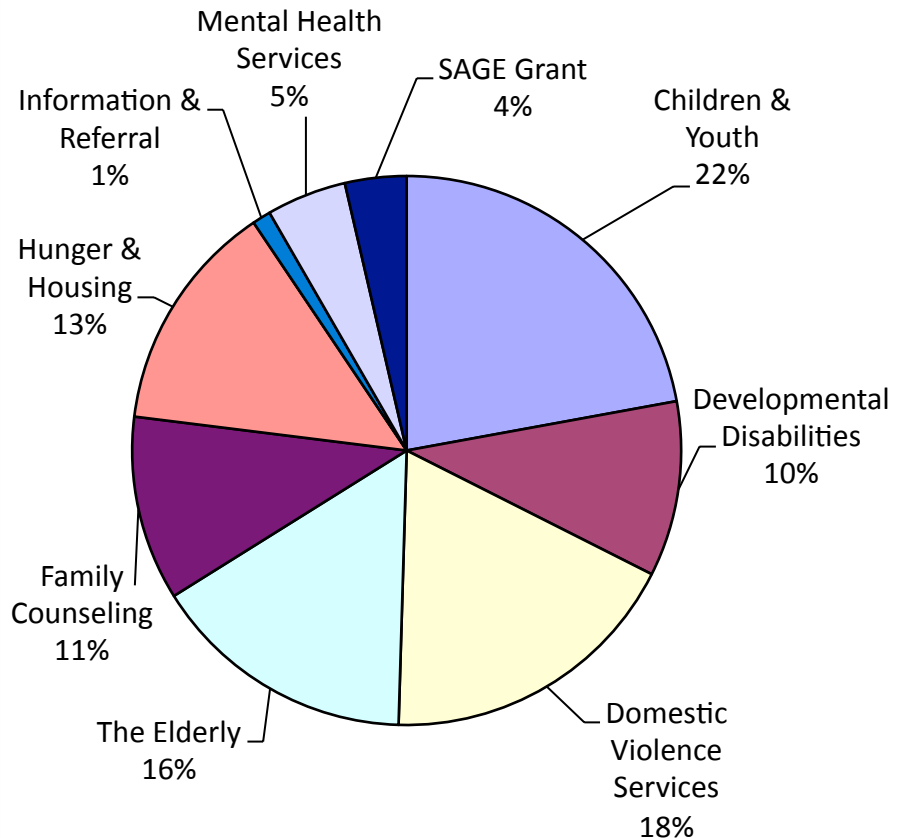
In March 2014, ABUW invited 20-year-old comedian and mental health activist Kevin Breele to speak to the community about depression. Kevin brought a strong and hopeful message about his struggle with depression and suicidal thoughts to over 900 students, parents, faculty, and community leaders. Thanks to our successful partnership with the ABRPTSO, we were able to respond to concerns in the school administration about rising mental health issues among our students. Kevin brought a unique and accessible story which helped students realize that they are not alone and that they must reach out for help. Kevin's story first appeared as a TED Talk, and he now has over 1 million views.

**Acton-Boxborough United Way  
2014-2015 Grantees**

Acton-Boxborough Community Education  
 A/B/H/L Early Childhood Council\*  
 Acton Housing Authority  
 Boys and Girls Club of Assabet Valley  
 Communities for Restorative Justice  
 Cooperative Elder Services  
 The Discovery Museums/Indian Hill Music\*  
 Doli Atamian Campership Fund\*  
 Domestic Violence Services Network  
 Eliot Community Human Services  
 English At Large\*  
 First Connections  
 Friday Night Fun Club  
 A Friend in Need  
 Friends of the Acton Council on Aging  
 Friends of the Boxborough Council on Aging  
 Mass 211  
 MetroWest Legal Services  
 Minute Man Arc for Human Services  
 Minuteman Senior Services  
 Mt. Calvary Community Supper  
 Open Door Theater of Acton  
 Restoration Project  
 Stow Food Pantry

\* Received ABUW Youth in Philanthropy grant

**ABUW Community of Care  
2014-2015 Grants\***



\*Chart includes Youth in Philanthropy grants

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