

## Valley United Way

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# United Way



Celebrating *A Dozen Years of Service to Our Community* 1995 – 2007

Valley United Way

August 2007

### Mission Statement

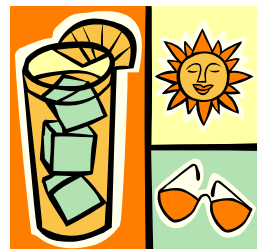
*The Corporate Volunteer Council strives to enhance the quality of life in the Valley by promoting and fostering corporate volunteerism through the sharing of ideas and information on corporate volunteer management and actions that can be driven to address issues of community concern.*

*All efforts performed by the CVC will be conducted to collectively embrace change and leverage diversity.*

### Welcome to the Dog Days of August...

While many of us are thinking about kickin' back and enjoying some well-deserved vacation time this month, the Corporate Valley Council is busier than ever! That's because the CVC's two biggest events of the year – **Back to School Clothes For Kids Program** and **The 2007 Week of Caring** -- are just around the corner.

Here is a Mid-Year Update of the various efforts managed by the CVC:



**Back to School Clothes For Kids** -- The CVC will strive to adopt nearly 250 qualified children from Lafayette and Sunnyside Elementary Schools in Shelton to receive new school outfits, shoes, winter coats, backpacks and school supplies to help them start the school year right. So far, 148 children have been matched with donors. If you would like to adopt a child, contact Carol Anzidei (926-9478 carol.anzidei@valleyunitedway.org).

Plans for the **Back-to-School Distribution Party** on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lafayette School are in the works. This year's theme is "Red, White & Blue" and companies are signing up for the event. Fletcher Thompson has donated pencil boxes and W.B. Mason will provide pencils and toy trucks for each child. David M. Grant Caterers will provide refreshments and Pitney Bowes will bring the Ice Cream truck!

**Week of Caring** – The CVC will sponsor Harvest House II on the grounds of Scinto Corporate Towers. A 400 sq.ft. house of food will be constructed during the week of **September 24 – 29** with donated food to benefit local agencies that serve the hungry. The CVC is soliciting donations of non-perishable food items and volunteers to help build Harvest House. To participate, contact Pat Tarasovic (926-9478 Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org.)

**Corporate Food Pantry Drives** – So far in 2007, CVC companies have held 14 food drives on their premises to benefit for Area Congregations Together, a food pantry which manages Spooner House in Derby. For more information, contact Bonnie Sinclair (926-5407 Bsinclair@necinfrontia.com) or Jasmine McIntyre (944-1762 Jasmine.mcintyre@bdk.com).

**Clothing Drives** --- To date, CVC companies have held 24 clothing drives. Used clothes in good condition are donated to My Sister's Place thrift shop in Ansonia to benefit The Umbrella Domestic Violence Program. Starting in August, the CVC will also donate clothes to Helping Hands, a thrift shop run by Father McKenna St. Vincent De Paul Society. For more information call Sue Millican (925-7255 Sue.Millican@iroquois.com) or Mandi Marcino (944-0777 ext. 241 mam@themcintyregroup.com).

**Notions Collections** – Many CVC companies with business travelers collect notions – shampoos, soaps, toothpaste – from the hotels where they stay to donate to the Ansonia YMCA and local homeless shelters. To date, the CVC has donated more than 1,500 items. For information on running a notions collection in your company, contact MaryAnn Ferrara (225-3166 mferrara@ocichemical.com).

**Refurbished Computers Donation Program** – Companies continuously upgrade their technology. The CVC collects used, functioning personal computers to donate to area charitable organizations. So far, more than 20 units have been refurbished and donated. If you are interested in donating used PCs and other equipment, contact Alan Tolmich (944-7300 ext. 149 Alan.tolmich@computershare.com).

**Caring Circle** – The CVC Caring Circle provides hand-knitted blankets and scarves to victims of domestic violence. Since program inception, the Caring Circle has donated more than 600 blankets and provided numerous skeins of yarn to volunteer knitters. For more information, contact Antonietta Hallet (402-1405 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com) or Michelle Fabozzi (Michelle Fabozzi 944-3385 michelle.fabozzi@corporate.ge.com)

**Cell Phone Donations** – To date, CVC members have donated more than 60 old cell phones to residents at The Umbrella domestic violence shelter. Even without a calling plan, donated cell phones can be used to dial 911 in a time of crisis. Contact Walter Binck (922-1199 ext. 250 wbinck@hamworthy-peabody.com) to learn more about the program.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### August Corporate Food Pantry Drives

The CVC has established a year-round collection schedule to ensure a steady supply of food to local food banks. Each month, businesses conduct food drives to benefit **Area Congregations Together** who distribute the food to the needy. Holding food drives in August:

- Altair Global Relocation
- Iroquois Gas Transmission

#### Clothing Drives in the Month of August

CVC companies conduct clothing drives throughout the year. Clothes are donated to **My Sister's Place** thrift shop to benefit **The Umbrella** Domestic Violence Program and **Helping Hands** thrift shop run by **Father McKenna St. Vincent De Paul Society**. Conducting drives in August:

- NEC Infrontia, Inc.
- Wachovia Bank
- Prudential Financial

#### NEXT CVC MEETING

Thursday Aug. 16, 2007 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. At The Valley United Way, 3 Corporate Drive, 5th Flr, Shelton. All CVC Representatives are invited to participate.

### BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHES FOR KIDS

**Aug 22:** Clothing Drop-off to Lafayette School at noon.

**Aug 23:** Distribution Party from 2 – 3 p.m.

Student Profiles listing items, sizes and color preferences are available to anyone interested in "adopting" a child for the Back to School Clothes for Kids Program. For information, contact Carol Anzidei 926-9478 or carol.anzidei@valleyunitedway.org.

### 2007 WEEK OF CARING

September 24 - 29, 2007

Help the CVC construct Harvest House II at 3 Corporate Drive in Shelton. Looking for non-perishable food donations and volunteers to build a house of food for the hungry. For more information contact Pat Tarasovic at 926-9478 Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org.

### Did you know?

CVC member **Barnum Financial Group** in Shelton will donate 125 bicycles to children identified through The Boys & Girls Club, the Valley YMCA, Team Head Start, The Parent Child Resource Center and local schools. The bikes will be presented to the children during the Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> Bluefish Game at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport.

## CVC Member Companies

A-Plus Staffing  
Ansonia Copper & Brass  
Arson Productions  
Altair Global Relocation  
Barnum Financial Group  
Bank of America  
Basement Systems  
BPA Worldwide  
Bright Horizons  
CAPS Business Recovery  
CDW-G  
Chase Bank  
Computershare  
Cushman & Wakefield  
David M. Grant Caterers  
DeDonato Building  
DiGiorgi Roofing & Siding  
Emhart Teknologies  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
Fletcher Thompson  
Fred Ortolli Photography  
GE International  
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Hamworthy Peabody  
Hasler, Inc.  
HSBC Bank, USA  
Health Net  
Homewood Suites  
Intuit Eclipse  
Iroquois Gas  
Kerite Company  
Latex Foam  
Life Touch Studios  
Market Data Retrieval  
Microsol, Inc.  
Naugatuck Savings Bank  
NEC  
Northeast Utilities  
OCI Chemical  
People's United Bank  
PerkinElmer  
Pitney Bowes  
Professional Travel  
Prudential Financial, Inc.  
SSC, Inc.  
Sikorsky Aircraft  
The Greenwich Workshop  
The Hartford  
The McIntyre Group  
United Illuminating  
Wachovia  
WalMart  
Warner Ins & Financial  
Webster Bank  
Yankee Gas Co.



*Celebrating A Dozen Years of Service to Our Community 1995– 2007*

## COMPANY OF INTEREST: Iroquois Gas Transmission

*A conversation with Adrienne Cabral, Public Relations Representative*



### What does Iroquois do and how many employees do you employ in the Valley?

Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. is a partnership of affiliates of five U.S. and Canadian energy companies, and owns a 414-mile interstate natural gas pipeline extending from the U.S.-Canadian border at Waddington, NY through western Connecticut to its terminus in Commack, NY, and from Huntington, NY to the Bronx. Its wholly owned subsidiary, the Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company, headquartered in Shelton, is the agent for and operator of the pipeline.

The Iroquois pipeline commenced full operations on January 25, 1992, creating an important pipeline link between North American markets and western Canadian natural gas supplies. Since 1992, we've expanded our system to meet the needs of our customers, while minimizing the impacts on local communities. That expansion has included the addition of five compressor stations located in New York State, and approval to add a sixth compressor station to be built in Connecticut. We continue to evaluate reasonable expansions to our system to increase services to energy markets in the Northeast.

Iroquois employs about 107 employees, 85 of which are located at the Shelton headquarters.

### Why is Iroquois a part of the CVC?

Iroquois takes its membership in communities to heart. Through our public outreach initiatives and charitable giving programs, we believe that it is important to play an active part in the communities along our pipeline route.

As one of the founding members of the Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC), Iroquois values the collaborative efforts the CVC provides in accomplishing larger projects with greater community benefit while working alongside other corporate volunteers. Making a difference in our community while making new friends is what we value most. Iroquois participates on a regular basis in the Back-to-School program, the Week of Caring projects, Food Pantry and Clothing collections. With each passing year our employees look forward to contributing to the mission of making the CVC successful in helping others.

Iroquois is also a strong supporter of the United Way. For over 10 years an Employee Charitable Giving Campaign is held to raise awareness and encourage employee participation. Eighty percent of Iroquois' employees participated in the 2006 campaign, resulting in employee pledges and funds raised of more than \$25,400. Together with Iroquois' corporate match, the United Way will receive a contribution of over \$50,000.



*Adrienne (right) and CVC rep Sue Millican drop off Iroquois' donation at last year's Back-to-School event. Adrienne has worked for Iroquois for 17 years and been involved with the CVC since 1998. She has served as CVC Co-Chair for the last 2 years.*

### Tell us about a CVC program that has been particularly successful at Iroquois

One of the hallmark projects that Iroquois employees are involved with every year is the Back-to-School Clothes-for-Kids program. Each year we set up a clothing line and sign up sheets for the sponsored children. To jazz up excitement, a theme is created for the program. In past years we have utilized "You Can Make a Difference" – incorporating a starfish story by Loren Eiseley and "Give a Kid a Break" with Kit Kat bars as a thank you gift. This year's theme will be "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" and Iroquois will be outfitting three 5th graders at Lafayette School.

Prior to dropping off the bins at the sponsored school, a "Viewing Party" is held so that employees can see the great things the children will receive. It's amazing to see that someone picked out a shirt while someone else purchased the pants – and everything matches and looks like it was bought together as a complete outfit. Employees are encouraged to come to the Distribution Party and meet the child that they helped sponsor. Over the past 11 years, Iroquois has had the privilege to share in the excitement of outfitting 31 children for educational success.

### As a CVC representative, how do you communicate the CVC efforts?

Most of the communication regarding CVC projects and opportunities is done through our intranet website, emails and hard copy distribution. Now that we have this great monthly newsletter, I enlarge it and post it around the office as well as distribute a copy to our Executive Team for their information.

#### Valley United Way

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