

Valley United Way

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Celebrating A Dozen Years of Service to Our Community 1995 – 2007 **Valley United Way** November 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.

Small Companies with Big Hearts

You don't have to be BIG to have a big impact. That's certainly the case with a number of small business owners whose participation with the Corporate Volunteer Council make a huge contribution to the committee and community despite their small size.



Take Charlotte Madar, who has been a very active member of the CVC since its inception. Charlotte, owner of **Professional Travel Planners**, a company she started 26 years ago, regularly attends monthly CVC meetings and takes a very active role in all CVC events, including the most recent Harvest House II where she arranged for the donation of the harvest decorations and spent hours sorting food and building walls. She realizes that joining forces with other CVC companies enables her to have a much bigger impact in the community than she could on her own. "Without a staff [Charlotte manages her business on her own with a counselor in training] I am able to participate, contribute and achieve accomplishments for those in need that I could not do as a single person." Professional Travel Planners, located at 182 Beardsley Road, Shelton is a full service travel agency for corporate, leisure and group travel clients and can be reached at 203-929-9661.

Then there's Fred Ortolini, of **Fred Ortolini Photography**. As a professional photographer and owner of his own business for the past 17 years, Fred has long contributed to the Valley United Way and the CVC by providing professional photography services free of charge. "I photograph as many United Way and CVC events as possible," says Fred. "I also help on special projects." Fred's work can be found on www.valleyunitedway.org, the CVC newsletter, and in many other Valley United Way publications. In addition to his photography work, Fred helped with the building of both Harvest Houses. He has served on various Valley boards and is currently a member of Valley United Way's marketing committee. He has been honored as a Volunteer of the Year, a Gold Seal Recipient, and is a past president of the Ansonia Rotary Club. Fred Ortolini Photography is located at 64 Great Hill Road in Oxford. For information on corporate and social photography services, please call 203-888-1219.

Another small business owner who has become invaluable to the Corporate Volunteer Council is Rich Sinclair, owner of **Arson Productions**. For the past three years, Rich has donated his video services and editing skills to the CVC's Week of Caring projects, producing promotional videos that help the CVC "get the word out" about the good things that the CVC does in the community. When asked why he gives so generously of his time, Rich said, "We at Arson believe that the CVC is an incredible force in the Valley...we are proud to be members of such a terrific group of companies that work so hard... and stand for so many good things in our community." Arson Productions is located in Derby and employs two full-time staff and two freelance cameramen. For more information on corporate and social video production services, please contact them at 203-482-4459.



Thanksgiving "Adopt-A-Family" Program

For most of us, Thanksgiving is a happy time to gather with family and friends around a holiday table laden with food. But some people in our community are without the means to provide holiday meals to their loved ones. Each year the CVC strives to help individuals and families in need by participating in the **Valley United Way's Thanksgiving "Adopt-A-Family" Program**. CVC member companies provide turkeys and food baskets for Thanksgiving and other holiday meals that are distributed by United Way agencies to the underprivileged. Last year, employees at various CVC companies provided complete thanksgiving meals and other food to more than 60 needy families in the Valley. They also collected cash donations and provided food to residents at the Valley YMCA in Ansonia, Spooner House in Derby and the Umbrella's domestic violence shelter in Ansonia.

Pat Tarasovic, Director of the Volunteer Action Center of the United Way is already working with charitable agencies to identify needy families and individuals for this holiday season. A listing of potential recipients is being developed and will be available to CVC representatives by November 9. If your company is interested in participating in the CVC's Thanksgiving "Adopt-A-Family" program or would like to help in some other way, please contact Pat Tarasovic at 203-926-9478 or email her at patricia.tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 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, local businesses conduct food drives on their premises to benefit **Area Congregations Together** who distribute the food to the needy through their food bank. ACT also runs Spooner House, a homeless shelter in Derby. Companies holding drives this month:

- *The Hartford Insurance*
- *Prudential Financial*
- *CDW-G*
- *F.W. Serra, Inc.*

Clothing Drives in November

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

- *Iroquois Gas Transmission*
- *NEC Infrontia, Inc.*
- *Wachovia Bank*
- *Prudential Financial*
- *Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce*

Next CVC Meeting

The next Corporate Volunteer Council committee meeting will be held **Thursday, November 15, 2007 8:30 – 9:30 AM**, hosted by **Iroquois Gas Transmission** located at 1 Corporate Drive, Suite 600 in Shelton. All CVC reps are invited to attend.



CVC member Bright Horizons Day Care students and teachers show the food they collected for last year's "Adopt-A-Family" Program.

CVC Member Companies

A-Plus Staffing
 Arson Productions
 Altair Global Relocation
 Barnum Financial Group
 Basement Systems
 Bright Horizons
 CAPS Business Recovery
 CDW-G
 Comcast
 Computershare
 David M. Grant Caterers
 DeDonato Building
 Emhart Teknologies
 Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 F.W. Serra, Inc.
 Fletcher Thompson
 Fred Ortolini Photography
 GE International
 Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
 HSBC Bank, USA
 Hamworthy Peabody
 Hasler, Inc.
 Health Net
 Holiday Inn Express
 Homewood Suites
 Iroquois Gas
 Kerite Company
 Latex Foam
 Life Touch Studios
 Market Data Retrieval
 Marks of Design
 Microsol, Inc.
 NEC
 Naugatuck Savings Bank
 Ned Miller Associates
 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 Insurance & Financial
 Webster Bank



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COMPANY OF INTEREST: **Homewood Suites by Hilton**



A conversation with Linda Hvizdo, Director of Sales

Tell us about Homewood Suites by Hilton.

Homewood Suites by Hilton is an all suite hotel featuring three types of suites, all with fully equipped kitchens designed to cater to the long-term stay guest. In order to be successful, we must provide a family oriented environment that makes our guests feel like Homewood Suites is their "second home-second family". Our team exemplifies a warm and caring family that values both our customers and their co-workers. Our staff of 35 lives our vision to "fill the world with the light and warmth of hospitality."



Linda Hvizdo helps to build Harvest House II.

How long has Homewood Suites been a part of the CVC and why is it important?

Homewood Suites has been a member of the CVC since we opened in 2002. A few of us have actually been involved with the CVC since 1998 when we worked together at the Residence Inn in Shelton. We became members because we want to help the homeless and hungry where we live and work.

Tell us about a CVC-related activity that has been successful at your company.

The Homewood Suites Team always looks forward to the Back-To-School program and the Weeks of Caring. Participating in these programs has really opened our eyes to just how lucky we are for what we have and gives us an opportunity to show how much we care for the less fortunate.

With Harvest House, our team was excited and supportive and held a major competition to raise food. We find that holding a competition is the best way to maximize contributions as everyone is motivated to do their best. We even included some of our hotel guests, who were very generous! In turn, we've helped some of our clients' companies with their fund raising efforts, so it's a win-win situation all around.

As a CVC representative, how do you communicate CVC efforts and promote volunteerism amongst your employees?

Our team is a close-knit group that is always eager to help. I don't have to work too hard to get volunteers -- all I have to do is ask and Homewood Suites employees are there. They realize the true spirit of giving, and even though many of them have little to give themselves, they give what they can. I am so very proud of our team. Each of our managers is involved in the charities that are close to their hearts and we all support one another.

As Director of Sales, I often take the opportunity "get the word out" about CVC efforts on my sales calls. I joined the committee because I believe the CVC members are the most genuine, caring people I've ever known and I am proud to call them friends.

Linda has been an active CVC representative for nine years. As a former CVC Co-Chair and past chair of the membership sub-committee, Linda is credited with bringing many new company members into the CVC..

CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES: The following CVC sub-committees manage ongoing collections throughout the year:

Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks

Team Leads:
 Bonnie Sinclair 926-5407
 Bsinclair@necinfrontia.com
 Jasmine McIntyre 944-1762
 Jasmine.mcintyre@bdk.com

Notions Collection – Toiletries for the men living at the Valley YMCA

Team Lead:
 Michelle Fabozzi 944-3385
 michelle.fabozzi@corporate.ge.com

Clothing Collection – Used clothes for the Umbrella Program & St. Vincent DePaul Helping Hands of the Valley

Team Leads:
 Sue Millican 925-7255
 Sue_Millican@iroquois.com
 Mandi Marcino 203-944-0777 ext. 241
 mam@themcintyregroup.com

Cell Phone Collection – Used phones for victims of domestic violence

Team Lead: TBD

Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella

Team Leads:
 Antonietta Hallet 402-1405
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com

Michelle Fabozzi 944-3385
 michelle.fabozzi@corporate.ge.com

Computer Collection – Refurbished equipment donated to charities

Team Lead:
 Alan Tolmich 944-7300 ext. 149
 Alan.tolmich@computershare.com

Valley United Way

Jack Walsh, President & Chief Operating Officer
Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org
 Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center
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CVC Co-Chairs

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Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:

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