

## Valley United Way

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# United Way



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

Valley United Way

February, 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.*

## CVC Celebrates a Dozen Years of Volunteerism

Next month marks 12 years that area corporations have been coming together in partnership with the Valley United Way to serve the community. Begun in 1995 as a coalition of 22 business corporations, the Corporate Volunteer Council now boasts an active membership of 55 companies in Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour and Shelton. Each month corporate community relations representatives meet to coordinate food and clothing drives, plan and provide resources for large scale community projects and share best practices for how to drive the spirit of volunteerism among their employees.

"The Corporate Volunteer Council is a testament to the tremendous community spirit of the Valley's corporate citizens," says Jack Walsh, President and COO of the Valley United Way. "We are very thankful for their dedication, community pride and leadership."

That dedication, pride and leadership can be seen in a variety of projects undertaken by the CVC in the last 12 years. Through its annual "Back-To-School Clothes For Kids" program, member companies have collectively provided school clothes and supplies to 1285 school children from eight Valley schools to make the start of school a positive experience. Each year, the council adopts a Valley school based on the number of federally funded lunches served, which indicates the number of students from families at or below poverty level at that school. CVC company employees purchase two complete outfits, a winter coat and backpack full of school supplies for each child identified by the school for the program. Last year the CVC adopted 180 children from Mead School in Ansonia. "The generosity of CVC volunteers is always outstanding," says Pat Tarasovic, VUW Director, Volunteer Action Center. "And watching the excitement as the children open their school packages is truly heartwarming."

The CVC has also completed 14 major renovation projects for area charitable agencies during its annual "Week of Caring" program. The first project completed in September of 1995 was the renovation of The Umbrella's battered women's shelter in Ansonia. Additional projects have included renovations to The Spooner House homeless shelter, the Parent Child Resource Center, The Recreation Camp in Derby, Ansonia Nature Center, Tinney Community Center, the Valley YMCA, The Derby Day Care Center and the Salvation Army soup kitchen in Ansonia.

In 2005, the CVC commemorated their 10 year anniversary by constructing "Harvest House", a 1,200 sq. ft. structure assembled on Shelton's Riverwalk from an estimated 100,000 canned goods and nonperishable food items. "Harvest House" was constructed to raise awareness of the large number of hungry in our community and to encourage food donations to organizations that strive to feed them, including Spooner House, The Umbrella Agency, the Valley YMCA, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, St. Vincent DePaul and the Parent Child Resource Center.

Last year's Week of Caring project was the refurbishing and landscaping of Catholic Charities in Ansonia. And soon planning will begin for the 2007 Week of Caring. But not before the Corporate Volunteer Council commemorates a dozen years of service at a **CVC Anniversary Celebration** on February 15, 2007 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Valley United Way Headquarters at 3 Corporate Drive in Shelton. Past and present CVC members and representatives from various United Way agencies are invited to a cocktail reception and presentation commemorating the CVC's formation, growth and impressive list of accomplishments for the good of the Valley community. That this celebration will be held the day after Valentine's Day is no accident -- and is in fact, most appropriate for recognizing the good work of a group with such a big heart!



## Did You Know?

The first CVC meeting was held on March 22, 1995 at United Illuminating, hosted by Bob Fiscus, UI's President & Chief Financial Officer. Representatives from 22 companies attended the meeting and the Valley Corporate Volunteer Council was born.



## CVC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

The CVC commemorates a dozen years of community service at the **CVC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** to be held Thursday evening, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at VUW Hqtrs, 3 Corporate Drive in Shelton. Past and present CVC members and United Way agency representatives are invited to attend.

## February 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 on their premises to benefit **Area Congregations Together** who distribute to food pantries throughout the Valley. Conducting food drives in February are:

- Iroquois Gas
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car

## Clothing Drives in the Month of February

CVC member companies conduct 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. Conducting clothing drives in February are:

- NEC Infrontia & NEC United Solutions
- Wachovia Bank

## Got Yarn?

The CVC Caring Circle always needs yarn donations and cash donations to purchase yarn. Contact Antonietta Hallet at 203-402-1405 if you can help.

## CVC Notions Collection Program

Do your employees regularly take business trips or attend conferences? This is a great opportunity to collect shampoo, soap, lotion, toothpaste and other complimentary toiletries offered by hotels for donation to the YMCA, Spooner House and other area homeless shelters. Consider setting up a notions drop-off box in a central area in your company to encourage collection of these much needed items. Contact Maryann Ferrara at 203-225-3166 for information on pick-up and distribution.

*Tip:* Good places to get complimentary samples of hand creams and toothpaste for donation are medical and dental offices!

- A-Plus Staffing
- American Skandia
- 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 Ortolini Photography
- GE International
- GVCC
- Hamworthy Peabody
- Hasler, Inc.
- 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
- Pitney Bowes
- PerkinElmer
- Professional Travel
- Prudential Financial, Inc.
- SSC, Inc.
- Sikorsky Aircraft
- The Greenwich Workshop
- The Hartford
- The McIntyre Group
- Transcendent Corporation
- 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: The Hartford Financial Services Group**

*A conversation with Amy Merriman, Training & Development*



**What does The Hartford do and how many people does it employ in the Valley?**

Founded in 1810, The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: HIG) is one of the largest investment and insurance companies in the United States. We have nearly 30,000 employees in the U.S., Japan, Brazil, Ireland and England, and \$2.7 billion in income 2006. The Hartford is a leading provider of investment products – annuities, mutual funds, college savings plans – as well as life insurance, group and employee benefits, automobile and homeowners’ insurance and business insurance.

Our office in Shelton, CT is a Commercial Claims office employing 95 people. There are also an additional 19 employees in NY and NJ that have participated in some of our giving events.

**Tell us about your company’s community efforts.**

In 2006 our employees participated in many community-based projects. We ran clothing drives two different months and the bin was full for every pickup. In April our food drive collected 249 items and at Thanksgiving, our employees provided 25 turkeys, 240 side dishes and \$175 in gift cards to Spooner House. The Hartford also donated Junior Fire Marshal kits to the entire third grade of Mead School in Ansonia and raised \$187 for the March of Dimes, among other things.

We always have high participation in the Back-to-School Clothes for Kids and Holiday Gift Giving programs. This year our group provided outfits for 10 schoolchildren and purchase holiday gifts to 20 YMCA children. It really makes people feel good when they get involved in these projects. Many of our staff have children of their own and like to get their kids involved in the shopping as a way to teach them about others less fortunate.

**Why is CVC membership so important to your organization?**

The Hartford has been a CVC member since its inception. We believe it is important to give back to the communities where we live and work. I think most of the employees realize how fortunate they are, and because of that, giving back comes naturally to them.



*Amy Merriman (left) and Maria Nicolia (right) with Pat Tarasovic of VUW.*

*Amy Merriman and Maria Nicolia, a Team Leader at the Hartford Financial Services Group share responsibility for attending CVC meetings and coordinating community giving programs within their organization. They have co-chaired the Back-To-School Clothes for Kids Distribution Party for the past three years.*

**CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES**

The following CVC subcommittees manage ongoing collections throughout the year. For information on how you can support these efforts, contact the individual sub-committee Team Leads listed below.

**Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks**  
 Team Leads: Bonnie Sinclair 203-926-5407  
 Bsinclair@necinfrontia.com  
 Jasmine McIntyre 203-944-1762  
 Jasmine.mcintyre@bdk.com

**Clothing Collection – Used clothes to benefit the Umbrella Program**  
 Team Lead: Sue Millican 203-925-7255  
 Sue\_Millican@iroquois.com  
 Mandy Marcino 203-944-0777 est. 241  
 mam@themcintyregroup.com

**Notions Collection – Toiletries for the men in residence at the Valley YMCA**  
 Team Lead: Maryann Ferrara  
 203-225-3166  
 mferrara@ocichemical.com

**Cell Phone Collection – For victims of domestic violence**  
 Team Lead: Walter Binck  
 203-922-1199 ext. 250  
 Wbinck@hamworthy-peabody.com

**Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella**  
 Team Lead: Antonietta Hallet  
 203-402-1405  
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com

**Computer Collection –Refurbished equipment donated to charities**  
 Team Lead: Alan Tolmich  
 203-944-7300 ext. 149  
 Alan.tolmich@computershare.com

**For more info contact your company CVC rep:**

**Valley United Way**  
 Jack Walsh, President & Chief Operating Officer  
[Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org](mailto:Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org)  
 Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center  
[Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org](mailto:Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org)

**Corporate Volunteer Council Co-Chairs**  
 Bill Bubbico, Pitney Bowes  
[bill.bubbico@pb.com](mailto:bill.bubbico@pb.com)  
 Adrienne Cabral, Iroquois Gas  
[adrienne\\_cabral@iroquois.com](mailto:adrienne_cabral@iroquois.com)