

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BETTER LIFE

United Way is working to advance the common good by focusing on Education, Income and Health. We know the building blocks for a good life are a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family throughout their life, and good health. This report outlines where contributions were invested in our region to create opportunities for a better life for all.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 90¢ of every \$1 contributed to UWWC goes directly towards programs.

For more information go to www.uwwesternct.org

INVESTMENT REPORT 2009

How Your Contributions Improve Lives

United Way
of Western Connecticut



IMPACT AREA: Education and School Readiness



Education is the single most important determinant of poverty in America, so United Way is focused on preparing children to succeed in school. When a child succeeds in school we reduce the chance that the person will fall into poverty. The community also saves on the future costs related to crime and corrections, unemployment, substance abuse and special education, because all of these are linked to poverty as well. Funding quality preschools, educating parents on everyday activities that promote learning, and putting free books into the hands of children help ensure positive development opportunities.

Stamford and Danbury have been working on creating community plans to ensure children are ready for kindergarten. United Way is proud to be a strong partner in these efforts.

United Way puts books into the hands of children

Graduating from high school can be predicted reasonably well by the level of reading skills at the end of grade 3. That's why we launched Imagination Library this year in Danbury. This innovative partnership with the Dollywood Foundation offers free books every month to children under five years old.



Preschool reading and parent involvement are critical indicators for future school success. With United Way's efforts, these factors are being addressed.

During the first 12 months of the program, over 850 children have been registered. If you are interested in supporting this program in other communities, call Carole Southall at 203-348-7711.

Connecting Leads to Learning

Children are constantly learning, right from birth. Research shows that speaking to an 8-month old infant improves her vocabulary at age three (Hart and Risley 1995). But in 2005, more than one-third of pre-k 3-to-5-year-olds were not read to more than three times a week by their parents.

United Way helps parents, grandparents and caregivers support learning through its Born Learning public awareness campaign. Fun, educational materials that encourage early childhood learning and healthy development are disseminated to families throughout the community. Born Learning Trails are being installed in parks and schools throughout western Connecticut by United Way volunteers.



Volunteers from Boehringer Ingelheim installed a Born Learning Trail at the Pratt Center in New Milford as a Day of Caring project

There's nothing like a smile on that first day at school

Remember that first day of school when you were a kid? The first-day jitters, new teachers, new classes, new friends – and the feeling of pride in looking good with your new school clothes.

Unfortunately, some families don't have the means to provide their children with new clothes or supplies to start out the school year. United Way helps these children through that first day and well into the challenging year ahead.

For over 18 years United Way has been providing school supplies for children living in New Milford, Kent, Washington, Roxbury, Sherman, Bridgewater, and Warren. This year over 250 children will be helped by our generous sponsors and volunteers. That's over \$60,000 invested in our youth this year.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.™



From homelessness to homeownership, United Way supports programs that help people attain independence in safe and affordable housing.

This year over \$550,000 will go towards a range of organizations that provide shelters, supportive housing, home ownership opportunities and foreclosure intervention services.

Affordable housing has been one of Western Connecticut's most identified needs, and United Way will continue to invest in this crucial issue.

Fairfield County Collaborative Fund for Affordable Housing

United Way of Western Connecticut contributes \$20,000 to a regional fund operated by LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) in Fairfield County. These funds help increase the scale and impact of community development and affordable housing, transforming neighborhoods and building stronger communities.



Project Homeless Connect

For the first time since 2005, there has been an abrupt halt to a decline in family, chronic, and overall homelessness. Each year United Way assists in the planning of Project Homeless Connect. This one-day forum offers a multitude of services for homeless individuals and families under one roof.

Foreclosure Intervention

United Way is funding a regional foreclosure intervention program run by Housing Development Fund in Stamford. It offers an effective solution for borrowers at risk of foreclosure or with an unaffordable mortgage. This year over 109 families were assisted through this program.



Creating Financial Stability

United Way's Financial Stability Partnership™, a national initiative focused on financial stability and independence, is designed in steps to help individuals and families to get off the financial tightrope.

Local organizations in Stamford are working with UWWC to help families with homeownership, retirement planning, establish savings accounts, access credit, and access quality childcare and education programs. Through this kind of initiative, we bring our resources and partners to the table so the community as a whole can achieve the vision it sets.

Basic Needs Campaign Helps Residents During Critical Time

Donors responded to our Take Five to Give 5 campaign this spring, allowing us to distribute over \$50,000 to help families survive these difficult economic times.

Agencies receiving funds include Americares, Amos House, Association of Religious Communities, CTE, Family Centers, Martha and Mary Outreach, New Covenant House of Hospitality, New Milford Social Services, Person to Person, Salvation Army, Shelter for the Homeless, The Food Bank of Stamford, and TBICO. Funds will be used for shelter, food, clothing and emergency needs.

2-1-1

UWWC helps fund the statewide information and referral hotline 211. This nationally recognized service is a joint partnership of the State of CT and United Ways in CT.

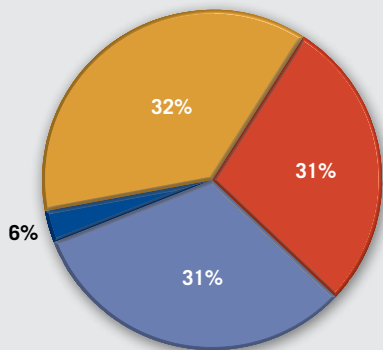
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOL

Improving the Health of Children

Connecticut children are less likely than their counterparts nationwide to be physically active for at least four days per week, and more likely to spend two hours or more a day in front of a television or computer screen. Less than 25% of students in the Danbury school system passed the physical fitness test in 2007.

United Way is a partner in the Coalition for Healthy Kids, whose goal is to improve the overall health and nutrition of children residing in the Housatonic Valley region. Data collected from focus groups and surveys will aid in developing key actions steps for a community communication plan.

INCOME EDUCATION HEALTH OTHER



2009 Community Impact Funding Announced

\$2,611,114 will be invested in community programs in the categories of Income, Education and Health. An additional \$116,000 will support programs that provide capacity building for nonprofits.

For a comprehensive review, our audited financials and 990 forms can be found at www.uwwesternct.org/about-us/financials.



RX Discounts in Difficult Economy

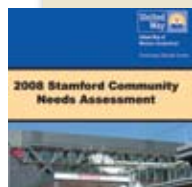
United Way of Western Connecticut has partnered with the FamilyWize Program to distribute a prescription drug discount card. The card can offer immediate savings on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies for people

that have no health insurance, during deductible periods, and for prescription medicine not covered by health insurance, Medicare and other benefit plans. Individuals save an average of up to 30% or more off the pharmacy's usual and customary retail price of prescription drugs, with the highest savings on generic drugs.

To date over \$52,000 has been saved by families in our 15-town region. When families save money on medicine, their finances improve along with their health.

Critical Need: Data Analysis

Addressing the most critical needs in our communities requires current and reliable data. This year UWWC completed two important data-driven studies of the quality-of-life conditions in our region. United Way and community leaders can now prioritize those interventions that will provide measurable success.



Stamford Needs Assessment: Our Needs Assessment Report is a portrait of Stamford which includes detailed information about demographics, economics, and the poverty rate. It also identified the community's most significant needs. The report was a collaboration of the United Way of Western Connecticut, the Community Results Center of United Way of CT and the Stamford Human Services Planning Council. The full report can be viewed at www.uwwesternct.org.



The Community Report Card of Western Connecticut establishes a comprehensive baseline profile of our community's health status by assessing several key quality-of-life factors in the Housatonic Valley region. The report card provides the foundation upon which to monitor our success in impacting the health of our community on critical issues like childhood obesity, mental health, and basic health care for the uninsured.

All funding decisions are made by volunteers from the communities they represent. Community data is a useful tool in the decision making process. Additionally, all programs that apply for grant funding must submit measurable results demonstrating strong programs and best practices.

Northern Fairfield County

EDUCATION

Helping children, youth and families achieve their potential

Assoc. of Religious Communities	Domestic Violence Prevention System
Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield	After School and Vacation Program
CACD	Action Early Learning Center
CT Institute for Communities	Harambee Youth Center
Danbury Children First	Lee y seras Parent Leadership Development Institute
Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center	People Empowering People COPEs Program Parent Aide Program Team Programs Volunteer Mentor Program
Families Network of Western CT	Nurturing Families Home Visitation Nurturing Parents Groups Harmony House Starshine Home
Family & Children's Aid	Girl Scout Program Good Friend
Girl Scouts of CT	Interfaith Early Learning Center
Green Chimneys	Camp Greenknoll
Interfaith Social Action Corporation	Escape to the Arts Great Hollow Wilderness Camp
Regional YMCA of Western CT	Nursery School Child Care School Age Child Care The Right Place
The Salvation Army	Advocacy for Children and Families
WeCAHR	Domestic Violence Services Resource Services Sexual Assault Services

INCOME

Promoting financial stability and self sufficiency

Ability Beyond Disability	Supported Independent Living
AIDS Project Greater Danbury	Rent Subsidy
American Red Cross	Disaster Services Wheels Transitional Living Program
Amos House	Danbury Resettlement
Assoc. of Religious Communities	The Emergency Aid Network
CACD	Food Pantry VITA Income Tax Program
Catholic Charities of Fairfield County	Family Loan Program Morning Glory Breakfast Program
Connecticut Legal Services	Legal Aid- Civil
Family & Children's Aid	Home Care Program
Housing Development Fund	Housing Resource Center
Interlude	Intensive Residential Support Program
Literacy Volunteers	Adult Teaching and Tutoring
Ridgefield Sunrise Cottage	Sunrise Cottage
Shelter of the Cross	Shelter of the Cross
TBICO	Key Rings Security Deposit Assistance The Corporate Edge
The Salvation Army	Emergency
WeCAHR	Advocacy for Adults with Disabilities

HEALTH

Promoting community wellness

AIDS Project Greater Danbury	HIV/AIDS Prevention Education & Outreach Drug Treatment Advocate
Americares Free Clinics	Free Clinic of Danbury
Catholic Charities of Fairfield County	Behavioral Health Clinic
Connecticut Counseling Centers	Danbury Opioid Treatment
Danbury VNA	Home Health Care Public Health Program
Danbury Youth Services	TARGET Youth and Family Counseling
Family & Children's Aid	Child Guidance Center
Interfaith AIDS Ministry	The Living Pantry

NFC HEALTH *continued*

Interlude	Intensive Residential Recovery Program Free Medical Clinic
Kevin's Community Center	Latino Outreach and Treatment
MCCA	Sobering Center Community Education and Empowerment
Newtown Parent Connection	Behavioral Health Services for Children & Adults
Newtown Youth & Family Services	Child Outpatient Services
Northwest Center for Family Services	Healing Hearts Children's Program
Regional Hospice of Western CT	Healing Hearts Town Program
Regional YMCA of Western CT	Activate America Boughton Street Scholarships Monthly Visit Program Well Child Clinic
Ridgefield VNA	

Southern Litchfield County

EDUCATION

Helping children, youth and families achieve their potential

Boy Scouts of America, CT Rivers Council	Boy Scouting Cub Scouting
Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center	Parent Aide Program Teams Program Volunteer Mentor Program
Family & Children's Aid	Starshine Home
Girl Scouts of CT	Girl Scout Program
Kent Children's Center	Scholarship Program
New Milford Visiting Nurse Assoc.	Nurturing Families
WeCAHR	Advocacy for Children & Families
Women's Center of Greater Danbury	Domestic Violence Services Resource Services Sexual Assault Services

INCOME

Promoting financial stability and self sufficiency

American Red Cross	Disaster Services Wheels Transportation Program
Amos House	Transitional Living Program
Connecticut Legal Services	Legal Aid- Civil
Interlude	The Supportive Housing Project
Literacy Volunteers on the Green	Literacy (ESL) Training
TBICO	The Corporate Edge
WeCAHR	Advocacy for Adults with Disabilities

HEALTH

Promoting community wellness

American Red Cross	Blood Services Health & Safety Preparedness
CMHA/Northwest Center for Family Services	Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Psychotherapy Services for Uninsured Bilingual Families
Family & Children's Aid	Child Guidance Center
MCCA	Outpatient Program New Milford
Behavioral Health	Behavioral Health Services
New Milford VNA	Hospice

Stamford

EDUCATION

Helping children, youth and families achieve their potential

Abilis	Stamford Birth to Three
Boys and Girls Club	After School Program
Childcare Learning Centers	Early Childhood and Education Program
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	PeaceWorks

Stamford EDUCATION *continued*

Domus	Family Advocate Program Career & Post Secondary Transition Services JumpStart First Generation College Bound PRIDE Extended Day Program Yerwood Scholars Extended Day Program YES Camp L.E.A.D. Academy L.E.A.D. Program
Jewish Community Center	
Women's Mentoring Network	
Yerwood Center	
YMCA	

INCOME

Promoting financial stability and self sufficiency

Abilis	Stamford Residential Services
American Red Cross	Disaster Response
ARI of Connecticut	Individualized Home Supports
Catholic Charities of Fairfield County	Elderly Hispanic Outreach Program Senior Neighborhood Support Services Legal Aid - Civil
CT Legal Services	Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County
Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County	Immigration & Naturalization Counseling Refugee Services Case Management Employment Readiness Education Center
International Institute of CT	ESOL & Basic Literacy Housing Development Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry
Jewish Family Service	Affordable & Supportive Housing Development and Preservation Emergency Assistance Pacific House Berkely House
Literacy Volunteers	Financial Education for Youths and Adults
Mutual Housing Association of SWCT	Financial Coaching
New Covenant House of Hospitality	
New Neighborhoods	
Person-to-Person Shelter for the Homeless	
Urban League of Southern CT	
Women's Business Development Center	

HEALTH

Promoting community wellness

Child Guidance Center of Southern CT	Crisis Division Programs Ongoing Treatment Division Programs
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	Counseling & Advocacy Crisis Shelter Services for Seniors Mental Health & Counseling School Based Health Centers Stamford CARES
Family and Children's Agency	Senior Adult Program Counseling and Psychotherapy Residential Cleaning Service Adolescent Emergency Services Family/Youth Options Liberation House Mens' Residence Outpatient Services & Aftercare After School Program Crisis Services and Education
Family Centers	
Jewish Community Center	
Jewish Family Service	
Kids in Crisis	
Liberation Programs	
RF Youth Boxing	
The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis	Counseling and Education

Programs that provide capacity building for nonprofits:

CACD	Retired Seniors Volunteer Program
Greater Danbury Nonprofit Resource	Capacity Building Center
The Volunteer Center serving Western CT	Comprehensive Volunteer Services
The Volunteer Center of SWFC	Volunteer Development Nonprofit Resource Center Training