



# GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED™



We are a leader in mobilizing resources to improve lives and our communities.

FALL 2008

United Way  
steps up our role



## You Can Help Children Be Ready for School

JUST START PLAYING!

On the first day of kindergarten, an achievement gap in our public schools is already established. That's because almost half of America's kindergartners enter school unprepared, with at-risk & impoverished children already 1-2 years behind.

A child's first teacher is family – parents, grandparents and family members who may care for the child during the day. That's why United Way supports *Born Learning*, a public engagement campaign helping families, caregivers and communities build early learning for young children. **Research shows that when adults interact with children— talking, singing, and playing rhyming games – they stimulate language and vocabulary development and build important foundations for learning to read.** *Born Learning* offers fun activities for parents and caregivers to engage their child.

*Born Learning* is just one example of how United Way of Western Connecticut (UWWC) is putting resources into the region to help all children enter school ready to succeed.

Visit our web site at [www.uwwesternct.org](http://www.uwwesternct.org) and click on the *Born Learning* link to access materials you can use today!

## 250 Children Receive School Supplies

DONORS PULL THROUGH TO SUPPORT INCREASED NEED

Faced with a difficult economy and more need, the ability to provide school supplies for all the children on the waiting list was in doubt. But thanks to our donors, shoppers and volunteers, all 250 children received a complete set of back to school clothing, supplies and backpacks in August (a 35% increase from the year before.) Two weeks before the event an anonymous donor offered a challenge to match 50 children, and over \$20,000 was raised in the final days to meet the need. Children of all ages and



Recipients receive their supplies with smiles.

backgrounds from New Milford and surrounding towns were thrilled with their new supplies.

While we can't list everyone who made this possible, a special

thanks goes to Webster Bank, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, our Youth Leadership students, and the many volunteers and donors who made this event a success.

## Your Neighbors are Counting on You



Students from the Youth Leadership program attended kick-off breakfast to support program.



Council members Michael Gold and Dr. Lisa Diamond enjoyed connecting with local supporters of United Way.

### CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF IN SOUTHERN LITCHFIELD

Launching its Live United campaign, attendees of United Way's annual breakfast were encouraged to Give, Advocate or Volunteer to improve their community. Numerous local companies were thanked for their contributions, youth leadership teens Liza Maizel and Stephanie Tyler spoke about their experiences volunteering, and council member Larry Neary reminded everyone about the invaluable work of our local agencies and the importance of promoting United Way to continue to support them.

United Way is about creating opportunities for a better life for all. We want to create long lasting change that prevents problems from happening in the first place. We invite you to be part of the change. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.

### **KUDOS TO OUR CORPORATE CHAMPIONS**

The Chairman's Award is given to the largest corporate contributors to the 2007/08 United Way Campaign. Campaigns include both employee contributions and corporate gifts.

**GE**  
**Boehringer Ingelheim**  
**CARTUS**  
**Praxair, Inc.**  
**Danbury Health Systems**  
**Union Savings Bank**  
**Kimberly-Clark**  
**Ridgefield Bank** *a division of Fairfield County Bank*  
**Branson Ultrasonics**  
**Savings Bank of Danbury**

“Issues that affect women and children have always been close to my heart. It bothers me that in a country with our wealth there are children who have no home to live in, or who go hungry at night. As a businesswoman, I am passionate about people being able to meet their basic needs and support their families. I have been a loyal contributor and volunteer with United Way for over 30 years because they are helping create opportunities for a better tomorrow.”

**Lynn Mohlenhoff, UWWC Board Member and Southern Litchfield Community Council Chairperson**

## **New Milford Youth Ready to Lead**

In February the Class of 2008 graduated from the Youth Leadership program with an increased commitment to improving their community and leadership skills. Under the leadership of Giles Vaughan, 30 students from New Milford and Shepaug High Schools spent a year learning how to be a young leader. They volunteered and organized fundraising events for nonprofits, supported UWWC's back to school project, and awarded grant dollars to worthy youth programs. Congratulations to the graduates, and welcome to the new group of students for 2009!



Camp Sloane weekend retreat, class of 2008.



# Programs You Funded in Southern Litchfield

United Way is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life; a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family throughout their life, and good health. The table shows how Southern Litchfield community volunteers funded programs that show outcomes in these areas.

## EDUCATION Helping children, youth and families achieve their potential

Connecticut Rivers Council	Comprehensive Youth Development	\$	6,500
Boys Scouts of America			
Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center	Child Protection Teams	\$	2,500
	COPEs	\$	1,000
	Parent Aid	\$	11,000
	Safe Home	\$	2,750
Family & Children's Aid	Comprehensive Youth Development	\$	8,300
Girl Scouts of CT	Scholarship	\$	5,000
Kent Children's Center	Advocacy	\$	2,000
WeCAHR	Domestic Violence Services	\$	5,500
Women's Center of Western CT	Sexual Assault Services	\$	4,000
	Women's Resource Services	\$	2,000

## INCOME Promoting financial stability and self sufficiency

American Red Cross	Disaster Services	\$	6,000
	Wheels	\$	7,000
CT Legal Services	Legal Aid - Civil	\$	2,000
Interlude	New Milford Outreach	\$	7,700
Literacy Volunteers on the Green	Literacy (ESL) Training	\$	500

## HEALTH Promoting community wellness

American Red Cross	Blood Services	\$	3,000
	Health & Safety Services	\$	3,000
	Services to Military	\$	1,000
Family & Children's Aid	Child Guidance Center	\$	2,750
Midwestern CT Council on Alcoholism	Outpatient Office in New Milford	\$	5,750
New Milford Hospital Mental Health	Adult and Children's Services	\$	27,000
New Milford Visiting Nursing Association	Hospice	\$	23,500
Northwest Center for Family Services	Child Outpatient Services - NM Office	\$	5,000

Total Southern Litchfield investment (does not include initiative funding) \$ 144,750

## United Way Stayed the Course This Spring Despite Predicted Economic Troubles

UWWC committed same level funding to Southern Litchfield's program partners through June 2009. In spite of ominous economic predictions, the board and local council enthusiastically voted to continue funding for all applicants. Volunteers and staff recognized that many of our community programs are seeing an increased need from local residents due to rising costs of fuel, food and housing. The next funding decisions will be underway in January 2009.

## Join These Great Businesses in Helping United Way Keep Costs Low

Our Corporate Sponsors provide a single annual donation that supports many United Way activities including volunteer events, donor recognition events, and our temporary campaign staff. This year-round support enables us to build a stronger and more caring community in which to live and do business.

We applaud our corporate sponsors for 2008-09

### PLATINUM

Boehringer Ingelheim  
GE  
The News-Times  
Tribuna  
Webster Bank  
WLAD / 98Q / WREF  
WRKI / 195

### SILVER

Carnall Insurance  
Connecticut Light & Power  
Danbury Fair  
Danbury Hospital  
Eaton Corporation  
Ethan Allen Global, Inc.  
Goodrich  
People's United Bank  
The Network Support Company

### GOLD

Bailey & Beatty  
Financial Services  
Branson Ultrasonics  
Duracell  
Fairfield County Bank  
Newtown Savings Bank  
Pitney Bowes  
Praxair  
Savings Bank of Danbury  
Union Savings Bank

### BRONZE

Caldwell & Walsh  
Building Construction, Inc.  
Cannondale Bicycle Corporation  
Cramer & Anderson  
IBM Corporation  
Kimberly-Clark  
Leahy's Fuel, Inc.  
Meyer Jabara Hotels  
Norbert E. Mitchell Co.  
P&G  
Robert J. Reby Group

# DAY OF CARING 2008



Webster Bank employees beautify Chestnut Grove Senior Housing



Duracell employees stock the shelves at the New Milford Pantry



Cartus employees landscape at the New Milford Children's Center



Boehringer Ingelheim employees help clean up the Pratt Center in New Milford



Savings Bank of Danbury cleaned up at Lover's Leap



Kent Children's Center gets a new climbing wall from Caldwell & Walsh and CL&P



United Way Announces  
Two New Regional Grants

# Help Available to Prevent Foreclosures in Western Connecticut

United Way of Western Connecticut has funded a new Foreclosure Prevention Outreach Program, run by the Housing Development Fund (HDF). This program

will operate throughout the Western Connecticut, including New Milford, and is one of the organization's first regional initiatives. UWWC has a strong history of successfully

partnering with HDF to address housing issues in the region.

The new foreclosure prevention program will respond to the recent surge in nontraditional subprime mortgage lending, which is jeopardizing many of the nation's low-to-moderate income homeowners. It is estimated that nearly 2.2 million borrowers nationally will lose their homes and up to \$164 billion in wealth. Not only does predatory lending lead to foreclosures, but it also can destabilize communities through lowered home values and increased crime. HDF will council homeowners at risk, provide outreach to nonprofits and town social service departments, and provide referrals to the CT Families Fund for rescue funds.

For more information on this program, visit our website at [www.uwwesternct.org](http://www.uwwesternct.org) or call 211.

## Get Involved!

Join us for a  
**Community Conversation  
on Early Childhood**  
Nov. 8, 2008  
8:30am-12pm  
New Milford High School.

You will connect with local families, providers and community leaders to find solutions to early childhood issues in the greater New Milford area. Caregiver participation and perspectives are needed to help improve opportunities for our youngest community members. The program is free, but you must register. Call the VNA of New Milford at 860-354-2216 for more information.



### United Way of Western Connecticut

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*Controller*

#### SOUTHERN LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Heather Beck  
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Lisa Diamond  
Michael Gold  
Dan Lachman  
Michelle Liguori  
Ann Martindale  
Margie McClure  
Lynn Mohlenhoff\*  
Larry Neary  
Vin Nolan  
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*\*Indicates UWWC Board member*

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