



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED™



We are a leader in mobilizing resources to improve lives and our communities. **SUMMER 2008**



United Way
steps up our role

Quality Early Childhood Education Critical

On the first day of kindergarten, an achievement gap in our public schools is already established. That's because almost half of America's kindergarteners 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. A partnership with Pitney Bowes has helped to ensure that Stamford residents get the most out of what Born Learning has to offer.

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 and click on the Born Learning link to access materials you can use today!

Stamford Sponsors Early Childhood Fair to Promote Week of the Young Child

On May 3rd, the first Early Childhood Fair took place in Stamford as one of several events celebrating The Week of the Young Child, an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the week is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

The fair, cosponsored by the Stamford School Readiness Council, Stamford Public Schools, and United Way of Western Connecticut (UWWC) was held at Cove Island Park. United Way provided a Born Learning Trail sponsored by Pitney Bowes that was full of activities for children and parents to participate in. Over 200 families attended the event.

“Learning isn't limited to books or a classroom. There are hundreds of ways parents and caregivers can help their children learn and Stamford's Early Childhood Fair offered wonderful examples,” said Michelle James, President of UWWC's Stamford Office.

Entertainment was provided by Stark & Stillmeadow Elementary School performers, renowned African Drummer Henry Jones, and children's musician Marcia Louis. Touch a Truck featured fire, police, the bomb squad and Parks and Recreation vehicles. In addition to the entertainment, Stamford Public Schools, area preschools, and community organizations were available with information about their programs and to answer parent's questions. Representatives from UWWC partner agencies CLC, CTE, and Jewish Community Center were among the organizations present.



Stamford children enjoyed the “Touch a Truck” event at the fair.

United Way is committed to helping children, youth and their families achieve their potential. We know that a quality education is the cornerstone to a better life. In Stamford we fund quality programs and participate in several early childhood efforts. This year we will invest over \$200,000 in programs that prepare children for school success. We also support the efforts of Stamford's School Readiness Council and the Stamford Public School's Engaging Families Early work.

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	Purdue Pharma
First County Bank	RBS National Bank
P&G Beauty	

Stamford leaders enjoy an evening celebrating United Way's work at the Leadership Reception held at Morton's Steak House in November.



GE Asset Management employees Danette Melchionne, Matt Simpson, Jane Hackney and Rohit Shenoy.



GE Financial Asset employees made a difference at Domus during Days of Caring.

"I chose to get involved in the United Way of Western Connecticut in order to help make an impact on the lives of people in the community in which I work. Going forward, I believe the United Way of Western Connecticut is well positioned to do just that. We have terrific leadership and a dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to improving the lives of those who most need our help."

Andy Zeitlin, UWWC Board member and Stamford Community Council Chairperson

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

United Way hosted its annual celebration on May 20 to recognize our top 5 corporate contributors in Stamford with the Chairman's Award. The new Live United campaign was launched at the event.



From left to right - Adam Klimek, Greg Fankhanel, Matt Culbreth, Maureen Reynolds and George Boyce enjoyed breakfast at the Sheraton.



HOW UNITED WAY INVESTS IN STAMFORD

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 Stamford community volunteers funded programs that showed success in these areas.

United Way Stays the Course despite Difficult Economy

UWWC will invest over \$4million dollars in the coming year, maintaining last year's funding levels to local social service programs for 2008-09. While there are concerns that the difficult economy may impact individual pledge commitments, the Board recognized that many community programs are seeing an increased need from local residents due to rising costs of fuel, food and housing. "Now is not the time to pull resources from our health and human service partners. As people's needs increase, it becomes even more important that United Way is there to help" states Rey Giallongo, Board Chairman and Senior VP of First County Bank in Stamford. The combined resources of the newly merged UWWC have allowed funding levels to be maintained across the entire region.

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 Stamford sponsors for 2007-08

PLATINUM
GE

GOLD
Deloitte
Shipman & Goodwin
Pitney Bowes
Webster Bank

SILVER
Stamford Hospital

BRONZE
Connecticut Light & Power
First County Bank
P & G Beauty

EDUCATION Helping children, youth and families achieve their potential

Boys and Girls Club	After School Program	\$ 73,200
Childcare Learning Centers	Early Childhood and Education Program	\$ 173,400
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	Community Education & Outreach	\$ 26,100
Domus	Stamford Academy Family Advocates	\$ 46,700
	Stamford Public Schools Family Advocates	\$ 39,500
Family Centers	Young Parents Program	\$ 10,900
Jewish Community Center	Jump Start	\$ 21,800
Kids In Crisis	Adolescent Emergency Services	\$ 49,300
Yerwood Center	Yerwood Scholars	\$ 19,500
	YES Camp	\$ 15,200
	Community Outreach & Educational Program	\$ 19,600
YMCA	LEAD Academy	\$ 16,300
	LEAD	\$ 16,300
	Total	\$ 527,800

INCOME Promoting financial stability and self sufficiency

American Red Cross	Disaster Response	\$ 50,900
CT Legal Services	Legal Aid - Civil	\$ 19,000
CTE	Employment and Entrepreneurship	\$ 10,800
Domus	Chester Addison Employment Specialist	\$ 18,000
Family Centers	Vocational Self Sufficiency	\$ 5,400
Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County	Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County	\$ 14,100
International Institute of CT	Immigration and Naturalization Counseling	\$ 12,000
Jewish Family Service	Case management	\$ 8,700
	Employment Readiness Education Center	\$ 10,900
Literacy Volunteers	ESOL & Basic Literacy	\$ 43,600
Mutual Housing Association	Stamford Affordable Housing Programs	\$ 28,800
New Covenant House of Hospitality	Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry	\$ 23,700
New Neighborhoods	New Housing Development	\$ 16,000
	Housing Preservation	\$ 10,500
	Supportive Housing Development	\$ 5,500
Person-to-Person Shelter for the Homeless	Emergency Assistance	\$ 31,400
	Night Program	\$ 35,550
	Day Program	\$ 21,850
	Transitional House	\$ 7,500
Urban League of Southern CT	Career Choice/WORKPLACE TRAINING	\$ 17,300
	Homebuyer Education & Counseling	\$ 15,200
	Total	\$ 406,700

HEALTH Promoting community wellness

Child Guidance Center of Southern CT	Ongoing Treatment & Care	\$ 103,100
	Crisis Division Programs	\$ 50,000
Domestic Violence Crisis Center	Counseling	\$ 31,900
Family and Children's Agency	Elderly Services	\$ 5,400
Family Centers	Mental Health&Couns	\$ 65,000
Family ReEntry	Explore Domestic Violence	\$ 2,700
HealthCare Connection	Stamford CARES	\$ 35,000
	School Based Health Ctrs	\$ 49,600
Jewish Community Center	Senior Program	\$ 10,900
Jewish Family Service	Counseling	\$ 16,300
Liberation Programs	Family/Youth Options	\$ 16,300
	Outpatient Services	\$ 17,400
	Liberation House Mens' Residence	\$ 29,800
Sexual Assault Crisis & Education Center	Education	\$ 13,100
	Advocacy	\$ 16,300
	Total	\$ 462,800

Programs that provide foundational support in the community:

Volunteer Center of SW FC	Volunteer Development	\$ 7,600
	Nonprofit Resource Center Training	\$ 3,300
211 Grant		\$ 35,000
Total Stamford investment (does not include initiative funding)		\$ 1,443,200



United Way
Announces Two New
Regional Grants

Affordable Housing Remains A Priority for United Way

United Way of Western Connecticut has increased funding to the Fairfield County Collaborative Fund for Affordable Housing (FCCF) and is supporting a new Foreclosure Prevention Outreach Program, run by the Housing Development Fund (HDF). These programs will operate throughout Western Connecticut, and are the

organization's first regional initiatives.

United Way is investing \$30,000 into the FCCF, managed by the Local Initiatives Support Collaborative (LISC). Stamford/Norwalk has the most costly rental market in the nation. A family must earn \$27.63/hour (\$57,480/year) to afford a 2-bedroom apartment.

The collaborative provides operational support, training and technical assistance to nonprofit housing developers in the region. Developers then provide housing opportunities for low to moderate income families and individuals. In addition, grantees provide financial literacy and home buyer education courses.

The new HDF Foreclosure Prevention Program will respond to the recent surge in nontraditional sub prime 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 counsel 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 or call 211.

United Way Helps Stamford Assess Needs

We need your input! UWWC is launching a community needs assessment in Stamford this summer. Results will help the community understand current needs and help United Way make more informed funding decisions. Please share your perceptions of our community and help shape our future direction by filling out the survey online at www.uwwesternct.org.



United Way of Western Connecticut

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