

United Way seeks projects for annual Day of Caring

by DAVID DESCHENES
United Way

Looking for help on a community improvement project? This year the United Way of Northern Fairfield County is expanding the scope of its Day of Caring.

Traditionally, the Day of Caring has connected volunteers from Greater Danbury businesses and corporations with the area's social service organizations to spend a day working on repair or upkeep projects that may otherwise have gone undone for lack of financial or human resources.

This year, United Way is in search of additional project needs from within the community.

Perhaps a local school is looking for its gymnasium to be refurbished with fresh varnish on the floors and paint on the walls ... a child care center needs a book drive ... a civic group needs volunteers for a special project ... or maybe a resident may have been eyeing a park or playground in his or her town that could use some beautification. These are examples of the types of community-based projects that the United Way hopes to add to this year's Day of Caring.

"United Way, with the help of our community corporations and businesses, is dedicated to making our community a better place to live. This year we want to extend our assistance to groups who have a vision for a community change, but may not have the volunteers to bring that vision to fruition," said Bernadette Wolf, manager of resource development and special events. The Day of Caring event is an example of getting people involved in their neighborhoods and community. The United Way of Northern Fairfield County is looking to hear from groups or individuals who are interested in submitting a project for consideration. Those interested in submitting a project for consideration may visit the United Way of Northern Fairfield County's Web site at www.unit-edwaynfc.org to respond electronically, or call 792-5330 for a submission form.

To be considered for the Day of Caring, the project should benefit the community through not-for-profit organizations or public areas within the towns of Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, Newtown, Redding

or Ridgefield. The extent of the project should be such that it will be completed within a full day, on the Day of Caring.

This year's Day of Caring will take place on Thursday, Sept. 14, and is expected to include up to 1,000 volunteers from greater Danbury businesses and corporations. For information on this event, contact Bernadette Wolf of United Way of Northern Fairfield County at 792-5330 ext. 29 or e-mail bernadette.wolf@uwnfc.org.