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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Western Connecticut Announces Grant Recipients of IBM Computers for Youth

DANBURY, CT (February 12, 2008) – The United Way of Western Connecticut (UWWC) is pleased to announce five agencies throughout Northern Fairfield County and Southern Litchfield County were awarded IBM computers. UWWC was selected to receive and distribute the latest technology as part of the 2007 IBM Technology Program.

The computers included four *Young Explorers Early Learning Centers*, one *IBM ThinkPad Laptop*, and nine *Desktop Computers*. All totaled, the computers were valued at \$21,700. Priority was given to preschools and public schools, and agencies that provide adult/family literacy or work force development services and engage in the use of technology to assist low income persons attaining employment.

The *Young Explorer Centers* will be used to prepare 3-5 year old children currently in preschool for kindergarten. Recipients of the *Young Explorers* are *The Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut Children's Center* and *The Children's Center of New Milford*. The total value of these Centers was \$8,600.

IBM ThinkPads will be used to provide increasing technology to low income children, and teach computer literacy and general literacy to low income and non-English speaking individuals. The recipient was *The Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield*. The total value of this computer was \$1,600.

IBM Desktop Computers were distributed to *Literacy Volunteers of America - Danbury*, *Regional YMCA*, and *TBICO*. The total value of these computers was \$11,500.

The United Way anticipates announcing a new round of IBM grants in 2008.

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The United Way of Western Connecticut was formed on July 1 with the merger of United Way of Stamford, United Way of Housatonic/Shepaug, and United Way of Northern Fairfield County. It will distribute close \$4 million to benefit human service programs and community initiatives within the three regional areas of Northern Fairfield County, Southern Litchfield County, and Stamford. The towns covered within these regions are Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, Newtown, New Milford, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Stamford, Warren and Washington.

The United Way of Western Connecticut is a leader in mobilizing resources to improve lives and our communities. We bring together community leaders, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and businesses to focus on the most pressing needs in our community and provides the resources – human, technical and financial – to get to the heart of problems.