

Valley United Way

Three Corporate Drive, Suite 501
Shelton, Connecticut 06484
203-926-9478
203-926-1368
www.valleyunitedway.org



Proudly Serving the Valley Community since 1995



Valley United Way March 2008

Mission Statement

The Corporate Volunteer Council strives to enhance the quality of life in the Valley by promoting and fostering corporate volunteerism through the sharing of ideas and information on corporate volunteer management and actions that can be driven to address issues of community concern.

All efforts performed by the CVC will be conducted to collectively embrace change and leverage diversity.

Donated Items Help to Improve Quality of Life for YMCA Residents

While the miniature-sized shampoos and soaps that hotels provide might not seem like much to you, they can mean a great deal to someone struggling financially to make ends meet. That is the case with many of the residents at the Valley YMCA on State Street in Ansonia, who through circumstances like job loss, divorce or disability, find themselves homeless and renting a room at the Y. "Regardless of why they are here or whether or not they are working," says Suzanne Reilly, Director, "most of them are having difficulty managing daily living expenses."



Pat Tarasovic and Team Lead Michelle Fabozzi show off GE's "Operation Bubbles" Box.

That's where the CVC's **Notion's Collection** program – and those little bottles of shampoo – can help! Many CVC companies encourage their employees – particularly those who travel frequently – to bring back unopened shampoos, conditioners, soaps, body lotions and other items they receive while staying as guests in hotels. Companies set up boxes in their workplaces to collect these and other personal hygiene items to be donated to the men residing at the Valley YMCA. Prudential Financial and GE International are big supporters of this program. GE even gave its collection effort a name: *Operation Bubbles!*

Generally YMCA residents must provide their own toiletries, but thanks to CVC donations, Y staff is often able to help them out with some items. "When a gentleman first comes to the Y," says Sue, "we provide him with bed linens and a welcome package of personal items to help him get settled. After that, we distribute any donated items we receive based on need." In addition to shampoo and soap, other items that are very much appreciated by Y residents include toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, cologne, shaving supplies, band-aids, aspirin, and hair combs.

While a few men have been residents for many years, most generally stay from a few months to a year or two until they are able to afford more permanent housing. "We can accommodate 29 men at one time," explains Sue, "but due the transient nature of most of our residents, we usually house 50 or more men in any given year." The Y provides residents with affordable housing (rooms rent at \$90 per week) and full use of the YMCA facility, which includes a pool, gymnasium, fitness center, sauna and shower facilities.

The YMCA is not a homeless shelter and does not provide social services to residents. However, many of them receive support from Birmingham Health Services, which helps them with career counseling and other social services. The Y also does not provide meals, however Sue Reilly is quick to point out that residents have often benefited from food donations by generous CVC members, including Pitney Bowes employee Allison Shortell, who cooked an entire turkey dinner for the residents this past Thanksgiving, and the wife of another CVC member who prepares and delivers a full meal to the residents on one Sunday of each month. The YMCA is also grateful for companies like the Greenwich Workshop, who provided each resident with a \$50 gift card from Target during this past holiday giving season. "The residents were overwhelmed by that gesture," said Sue. "It really meant a lot to them."

Sue Reilly and her staff are thankful for CVC support. "We have been in existence for 142 years, so we have a long-standing tradition serving the community. We are extremely appreciative of the support we receive from the CVC and business community. It really helps to improve the quality of life for our residents."

For more details about the CVC's Notions Collection Program, contact Team Lead Michelle Fabozzi at 944-3385 or michelle.fabozzi@corporate.ge.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS



March Corporate Food Pantry Drives

The CVC has established a year-round collection schedule to ensure a steady supply of food to local food banks. Each month, local businesses conduct food drives on their premises to benefit **Area Congregations Together** who distribute the food to the needy through their food bank. ACT also runs Spooner House, a homeless shelter in Derby. Companies holding drives this month:

- GE International, Inc.
- Cara Therapeutics

Clothing Drives in March

CVC companies conduct monthly clothing drives throughout the year. Clothes are donated to **My Sister's Place** thrift shop which sells the clothing to benefit The Umbrella Domestic Violence Program and the **Helping Hands** thrift shop run by Father McKenna St. Vincent De Paul Society. Conducting drives this month:

- NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions
- Pitney Bowes
- Prudential Financial
- The McIntyre Group
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce

Next Corporate Volunteer Council Meeting

The next CVC committee meeting will be held **Thursday, March 20, 2008 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**, hosted by **The McIntyre Group** at Two Corporate Drive, Shelton. All CVC representatives are invited to attend.

LET'S BOWL! 2008 Corporate Community Cup Challenge



2007 Bowling Cup Champions – The United Illuminating Team!!

The Corporate Community Cup Challenge brings Valley businesses together to compete in a series of athletic events and healthy activities that promote company and community-wide health, fitness and wellness. Three CVC companies have already signed up to compete: **Perkin-Elmer, United Illuminating, and CDW-G.**

They will compete with each other for the first time at the **Bowling Tournament on March 15th at 1:00 PM at Valley Bowl in Derby.** Come on down and cheer them on – or better yet: register YOUR company's team in the Corporate Community Cup and challenge them!!!

For more information on the Corporate Community Cup Challenge or to register your company's team, visit www.valleyunitedway.org/cup/2008/ or call Jack Walsh of the Valley United Way at 926-9478.

- A-Plus Staffing
- Arson Productions
- Altair Global Relocation
- Barnum Financial Group
- Basement Systems
- Better Packages
- Bright Horizons
- CAPS Business Recovery
- Cara Therapeutics
- CDW-G
- Citi Bank
- Comcast
- Commerce Bank
- Computershare
- David M. Grant Caterers
- DeDonato Building
- Emhart Technologies
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- F.W. Serra, Inc.
- Fletcher Thompson
- Fred Ortolini Photography
- GE International
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
- HSBC Bank, USA
- Hamworthy Peabody
- Hasler, Inc.
- Health Net
- Holiday Inn Express
- Homewood Suites
- Iroquois Gas
- Kerite Company
- Latex International
- Life Touch Studios
- Market Data Retrieval
- Marks of Design
- Microsol, Inc.
- NEC
- Naugatuck Savings Bank
- Ned Miller Associates
- Newtown Savings Bank
- People's United Bank
- PerkinElmer
- Pitney Bowes
- Professional Travel
- Prudential Financial, Inc.
- SSC, Inc.
- Sikorsky Aircraft
- The Greenwich Workshop
- The Hartford
- The McIntyre Group
- United Illuminating
- Wachovia
- WalMart
- Warner Insurance & Financial
- Webster Bank



Proudly Serving the Valley Community since 1995



COMPANY OF INTEREST:

Warner Financial Group Inc.
Charting The Course To Wealth Preservation

A conversation with Eric Wilkins, Financial Consultant

Tell us about your company.

Warner Financial and Warner Insurance make up the Warner Group, a business formed in 1988 by Connie and Jim Warner. We will celebrate our 20th anniversary this July. Warner provides clients with insurance, investments, estate planning and retirement planning services. We are located at One Enterprise Drive, Suite 105 in Shelton and have a staff of eight professionals.

How did you become involved with the CVC and why is membership important to Warner Financial?

Jim Warner became involved with the CVC about 3 years ago and asked me to take his seat two years ago. As a business, the Warner Group feels it is our responsibility to give back in some way to the communities that support us. The CVC provides a way for us to participate in projects that we could never undertake on our own, given our small size.

Tell us how Warner Financial supports CVC activities and the impact you have had.

I have participated in the two *Harvest House* projects and made many good friends while assembling the walls of food. Our office also collects clothing for *My Sister's Place* and currently has a bin in our office that other companies in the building donate to as well. Jim and Connie live in Oxford Greens and conducted two very successful clothing drives in their neighborhood in December and January. Residents were asked to leave clothes on their front porches, and with the help of a donated van from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Jim and I picked up the clothes. We nearly filled the van both times!

I also like to crochet (as a way to stay awake in front of the TV) and have knitted many blankets that I have donated to the Umbrella's Domestic Violence Program. I'm proud to know my handiwork brings comfort to women and children who are victimized by domestic violence.



Eric Wilkins (2nd from right) and the former CVC co-chairs display some of the many blankets that Eric has knitted for the Umbrella Group. Eric has been with Warner Financial since 2005 following his retirement from a successful career with SNET/SBC/ATT. In addition to the CVC, Eric is involved with the Stratford Rotary Club and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Stratford Chamber of Commerce.

CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES:

Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks

Team Leads:
Bonnie Sinclair 926-5407
Bsinclair@necinfrontia.com

Jasmine McIntyre 944-1762
Jasmine.mcintyre@bdk.com

Notions Collection – Toiletries for the men living at the Valley YMCA

Team Lead:
Michelle Fabozzi 944-3385
michelle.fabozzi@corporate.ge.com

Clothing Collection – Used clothes for the Umbrella Program & St. Vincent DePaul Helping Hands of the Valley

Team Leads:
Sue Millican 925-7255
Sue_Millican@iroquois.com

Mandi Marcino 203-944-0777 ext. 241
mam@themcintyregroup.com

Cell Phone Collection – Used phones for victims of domestic violence

Team Lead:
Antonieta Hallet 402-1405
Antonieta.hallet@prudential.com

Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella

Team Leads:
Antonieta Hallet 402-1405
Antonieta.hallet@prudential.com

Michelle Fabozzi 944-3385
michelle.fabozzi@corporate.ge.com

Computer Collection – Refurbished equipment donated to charities

Team Lead:
Alan Tolmich 944-7300 ext. 149
Alan.tolmich@computershare.com

Valley United Way

Jack Walsh, President & Chief Operating Officer
Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org
Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center
Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org

CVC 2008 Co-Chairs

Dotty Cacchillo, Wal*Mart, Derby
magnamo@sbcglobal.net
Renee Bergen, Cara Therapeutics
rbergen@caratherapeutics.com

Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:

Karen Crane, Editor
Karen.crane2@sbcglobal.net