

Valley United Way

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Proudly Serving the Valley Community since 1995

United Way



Valley United Way February, 2009

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.

Looking Back A Recap of CVC's Achievements in 2008

With 2009 more than a month old, it may seem like 2008 is "so last year". But before we move headlong into a new year of volunteer activities, let's take a moment to recap how CVC companies and their employees came together this past year to measurably improve lives in the Valley. Here's what the Valley United Way's Corporate Volunteer Council achieved in 2008:



• **30 Valley businesses held food drives** for the Food Pantry run by Area Congregations Together- Spooner House. It is estimated that 55% of the food that ACT receives – approximately \$125,000 annually – is donated from CVC companies. The Food Bank serves more than 3,400 Valley residents.



• **54 clothing drives were held** by CVC companies for My Sister's Place thrift shop run by the Birmingham Group's Umbrella Domestic Violence Program and for the Helping Hands thrift shop run by Father McKenna St. Vincent De Paul Society. My Sister's Place reports that 28,000 pounds of clothes were received from CVC members last year – an estimated resale value of \$240,000!



• **194 Seymour school children** started the school year with new clothes and school supplies through the generosity of 42 Valley companies who participated in the CVC's Back To School Clothes For Kids program.

• **Over 100 volunteers helped paint** the interior walls of the Derby Historical Society's David Humphreys House and landscaped, built picnic benches and painted a colorful mural in the backyard of the new Spooner House homeless shelter during the CVC's Week of Caring/Day of Action program. Spooner House is a temporary home to an estimated 250 residents annually.



• **20 personal computers** donated by Fletcher Thompson and other CVC companies were refurbished and given to the Boys & Girls Club, SONCCA, the Valley YMCA, TEAM, Inc and the Birmingham Group.

• **Two dozen blankets, scarves** and other items knitted by the CVC's Caring Circle were given to Umbrella residents. Items are distributed by local police when they remove women and children from domestic violence situations.

• **More than 300 Valley residents received gifts and meals** this holiday season from CVC companies who participated in the CVC's Holiday Adoption Program. Employees also donated to TEAM Inc.'s Toy for Tots program, the YMCA's angel tree and many other local charities.

• **Ten new companies** joined the CVC in 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February Food Pantry Drives

The CVC has established a year-round collection schedule to ensure a steady supply of food to the needy. Each month, local businesses conduct food drives on their premises for the **Area Congregations Together Food Pantry**. ACT also runs Spooner House, a homeless shelter in Shelton. Companies holding drives this month are:

- *HSBC Bank*
- *The McIntyre Group*
- *Regional Water Authority*

Clothing Drives in February

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:

- *Basement Systems*
- *Prudential Financial*

February CVC Meeting

The next CVC committee meeting will be held **Thursday, February 19, 2009 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**, hosted by Sikorsky Aircraft, 6900 Main Street, Stratford. All CVC members are invited to attend.

Looking Forward ...A Look at the Planning Underway for 2009

The CVC has begun planning its calendar of events for 2009. This year, the group will place greater focus on "**Getting the Message Out**" about the impact that the CVC has in the Valley community and on **recruiting new corporate members** onto the committee. Dan Fitzgerald, a CVC representative from Basement Systems is developing a series of quarterly social networking events to bring in new companies and acquaint them with CVC efforts. A sub-committee is also underway making plans for the **CVC's first annual meeting and awards ceremony** to be held in March. The event will showcase the Corporate Volunteer Council's efforts in the community and recognize those companies and individuals who have gone above and beyond to **advance the common good** in 2008.

The CVC is also making plans to build **Harvest House III** as their Week of Caring project in September. This highly anticipated "every other year" event draws much support from the community and raises a tremendous amount of food for area charities. The committee is currently seeking a high visibility/high traffic site on which to build its "House of Food". If your company can help with a location, please contact Pat Tarasovic at 926-9478.

In addition to Harvest House, the group will sponsor a second community volunteer effort in June to coincide with **United Way of America's National Day of Action**. The project to be undertaken is still to be determined and suggestions are welcome. And of course, the CVC will continue its highly successful **Back to School Clothes for Kids** program at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. *Stay tuned for more to come from the Valley United Way's Corporate Volunteer Council.*

- A-Plus Staffing
- Arson Productions
- Altair Global Relocation
- Barnum Financial Group
- Basement Systems
- Better Packages
- BIC Corporation
- Bright Horizons
- CAPS Business Recovery
- Cara Therapeutics
- CDW-G
- Citi Bank
- Comcast
- Computershare
- David M. Grant Caterers
- DeDonato Building
- Emhart Technologies
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- F.W. Serra, Inc.
- Fletcher Thompson
- Fred Ortol Photography
- GE International
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
- HSBC Bank, USA
- Hamworthy Peabody
- Health Net
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Holiday Inn Express
- Homewood Suites
- Iroquois Gas
- Kerite Company
- Latex International
- Market Data Retrieval
- Marks of Design
- Microsol, Inc.
- NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions
- Naugatuck Savings Bank
- Ned Miller Associates
- Newtown Savings Bank
- People's United Bank
- PerkinElmer
- Pitney Bowes
- Professional Travel
- Prudential Financial, Inc.
- Regional Water Authority
- SSC, Inc.
- Sikorsky Aircraft
- Starbucks
- T.D. Bank
- The Greenwich Workshop
- The Hartford
- The McIntyre Group
- United Illuminating
- Wachovia
- WalMart
- Warner Insurance & Financial
- Webster Bank
- William Raveis Real Estate



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COMPANY OF INTEREST:

A conversation with Angela Marshall, CRP
Relocation Consultant



Tell us about Altair Global Relocation.

Altair Global Relocation is an independent, full-service relocation management company offering a comprehensive selection of U.S. and international mobility solutions. Altair's clients are some of the most recognized names in today's global business community. Founded in 1989, Altair is the largest certified woman-owned relocation management company and one of the largest relocation management companies based in the United States.

Altair services are coordinated from US regional service centers in Dallas, Texas; Shelton, Connecticut; Walnut Creek, California; and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and from our EMEA region office in London. The global headquarters office is in Dallas, Texas. Visit www.altairglobal.com for additional information about Altair Global Relocation and the services they provide.

Altair employs more than 200 people, of which 30 work in the Shelton office.

How long has Altair been a member of the CVC and why is it important to your company?

Our office has been involved with the CVC for approximately two years. We feel it is very important to give back to the community, as it helps us to grow as a company and as individuals.



Altair's Shelton Office Staff

What are some of the CVC programs that your employees support?

We run food drives for the ACT Food Pantry and clothing drives for My Sister's Place. Altair also is a sponsor each year for the Back to School and Holiday Adoption programs. One of our "best practices" is our Jeans Fund. On selected days we invite our staff to wear jeans to work for an employee donation of \$2 and a manager donation of \$5. The monies collected are used for charitable endeavors. We also share ideas with other branch offices. For instance, our Shelton office runs a Project Linus initiative, where we donate handmade blankets to Yale Children's Hospital. Our headquarters in Dallas adopted the idea from us and donates their blankets to the Chiapas Group, an Indian Reservation in Mexico.

As a CVC representative, how do you encourage volunteerism among your employees?

There is a committee of five of us who share the responsibility of attending CVC meetings. In addition to myself, the committee is made up of Rob Sanford, Operations Manager, Ann Lucas, Administrative Assistant for Sales/Marketing/Global Development, and Relocation Associates Donna Mackey and Michelle Grailich. As to encouraging volunteerism, that's easy -- we make announcements at our weekly staff meetings and our generous employees take it from there!

CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES:

Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks

Team Lead:
Bonnie Sinclair 926-5407
Bsinclair@necinfrontia.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

Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella

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

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

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

Cell Phone Collection – Used phones for victims of domestic violence

Team Lead:
Walter Binck 922-1199 ext. 250
Wbinck@hamworthy-peabody.com

Computer Collection –Refurbished equipment donated to charities

Team Lead:
Alan Tolmich 929-9746
atolmich@sbcglobal.net

Valley United Way

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Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center
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CVC 2008 Co-Chairs

Dotty Cacchillo, Wal*Mart Derby
magnamo@sbcglobal.net
Bill Bubbico, Pitney Bowes
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Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:

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