

## 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*

# United Way



Valley United Way May, 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.*



## Fighting Hunger in the Valley

As our country suffers the largest economic downturn in recent memory, many people who have never needed food assistance before are asking for help. Area Congregations Together (ACT) which runs the food pantry at Spooner House in Shelton reports a 30% increase in food assistance requests. "So many people are coming in for assistance," said Susan Agamy, Executive Director of ACT/Spooner House. "The numbers are going up [as] the unemployment rate rises." With Connecticut's unemployment rate at its highest in 20 years (7.8% in March), it is estimated that 280,000 state residents are at risk of hunger.

The CVC's Food Drive program goes a long way toward helping to meet the food need in the Valley. It is estimated that 55% of the food donations made to ACT/Spooner House come from CVC companies. Last month, ACT's Food Pantry shelves got a big boost from two large scale food collections by Valley companies. **Pitney Bowes** employees donated \$9,424 to the company's annual "Cash for Food" drive. Utilizing the company's matching gift program and taking advantage of 2-for-1 sales and bulk discounts, the donated funds purchased an amazing \$20,174 worth of food – a total of 8,099 items weighing more than five tons! Anne Wege, a director at Pitney Bowes has run the food drive for the past six years.



*Some of the five tons of food donated by Pitney Bowes employees.*

### Tips for Running a Food Drive

- Give employees a list of food bank staples to donate – including cereals, canned fruits and juices, pasta, peanut butter and canned vegetables.
- Take advantage of bulk shopping to stretch your food dollars. Shop at warehouse clubs or ask your local grocer for discount pricing on cases.
- Set up a contest -- challenge your employees to see who can buy the most for less using coupons and 2-for-1 sales. Or pit departments against one another to see which team can collect the most items.
- If your company has a matching gift program, consider a "Cash-for-food" drive where employee donations are matched by the company. Set up a shopping team to shop for the food.

**Griffin Hospital**, with assistance from **Basement Systems**, donated 1,600 cases of food to Spooner House and several other Valley food banks. Griffin employees used hospital funds earmarked for employee gifts to instead purchase food for the hungry as a way of celebrating the hospital's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Basement Systems donated its 57,000 square foot warehouse to use as a food distribution center. Nearly 70 Griffin employees volunteered their time to sort and distribute food to local agencies.

Even with these tremendous efforts, there continues to be steady need for food in the Valley. The CVC is asking everyone to support two upcoming efforts. **The National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive** will be held on May 9. Please publicize this event in your company and encourage your employees to leave nonperishable food items at their mail boxes for their letter carriers to collect for local food banks.

And it's not too early to begin planning for CVC's **Harvest House III**, which will be built September 24 – 26 on the grounds of Webster Bank on Bridgeport Avenue in Shelton. In the past, this event has raised more than 100,000 food items for area agencies. This year the need for food has never been greater, so we are counting on the support of all our CVC companies and their employees to help us feed the hungry in our community.

## Ms. Tarasovic Goes to Washington!

Pat Tarasovic traveled to our nation's capital from April 20 to 23 to attend **National Volunteer Week** sponsored by the Points of Light Institute/ Hands on Network. Points of Light Institute is the nation's largest volunteer and civic engagement organization. Pat was one of twenty community volunteer leaders personally invited by Points of Light CEO Michelle Dunn, and the only one attending from New England. This year's event took on special significance with the signing of the *Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act* by President Barack Obama. The week culminated with a reception honoring Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Orin G. Hatch for their lifetime of leadership in service and volunteerism, and the induction of eight individuals into *The Extra Mile--Points of Light Volunteer Pathway*, a national monument dedicated to the spirit of service in America.



### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### May 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:

- Pitney Bowes
- Webster Bank

#### Clothing Drives in May

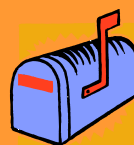
CVC companies conduct monthly clothing drives throughout the year. Clothes are donated to **My Sister's Place** thrift shop which sells the clothing to benefit The Umbrella Domestic Violence Program and the **Helping Hands** thrift shop run by Father McKenna St. Vincent De Paul Society. Conducting drives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

- Prudential
- NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions
- Iroquois Gas Transmission
- Naugatuck Savings Bank
- Altair Global Relocation
- The McIntyre Group

#### May CVC Meeting

The next CVC committee meeting will be held **Thursday, May 21, 2009 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**, hosted by Prudential at One Corporate Drive, Shelton.

### National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive



May 9, 2009

The nation's largest annual one-day food drive. Please encourage employees to participate by leaving non-perishable food items at their mailboxes for their mail carriers to collect and deliver to local food banks. For more information, contact Kim Damien, Connecticut Food Bank at 203-469-5000 ext. 311

**Corporate Companies**  
 Arson Productions  
 Altair Global Relocation  
 Barnum Financial Group  
 Basement Systems  
 Better Packages  
 BIC Corporation  
 Bright Horizons  
 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 Ortolini 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.  
 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 Cheryl Biros, Marketing Manager



Give us a brief overview of Ned Miller Associates.

Ned Miller Associates Inc. is the culmination of 30 years insurance experience in the Valley by its president, Ned Miller. An independent insurance agency, NMA represents 10 large insurance carriers and offers all forms of insurance from business related (Liability, Property, Auto, Worker's Comp, Group Health) to personal Home and Auto. The agency's six employees each average over 15 years of experience in the insurance industry.

**Why is Ned Miller Associates a member of the Corporate Volunteer Council?**

Ned Miller is the driving force of our involvement with the CVC and he has a long history of community service. He was president of the Valley United Way board, Shelton Jaycees and Ansonia Rotary. He has been a Board Member of Griffin Hospital, Recreation Camp and is currently on the board of the Valley Chamber of Commerce. He was a founding director of Ronald McDonald House in New Haven and a corporator of Birmingham Group and Shelton Economic Development Corporation. He has been awarded the Joseph A. Pagliaro Jr. Award of Distinguished Service, the Volunteer Of The Year Award by the Valley United Way and the Gold Seal Award by the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce.

**What are some of the CVC programs that your company supports?**

Mr. Miller's involvement has inspired his employees to also participate in the community. NMA has been a member of the CVC for many years and most recently held a Food Drive for Spooner House in Shelton and a Clothing Drive for My Sisters' Place in Ansonia.

**How long have you served as your company's CVC representative and how do you communicate CVC activities to your coworkers?**

I joined Ned Miller Associates three years ago as Marketing Manager and became the company's CVC representative in 2008. Prior to that, Ned served as CVC representative. I use our company email system and weekly staff meetings to keep our employees informed of CVC activities and enlist their participation.



*Ned Miller Associates employees (from left) Harry DiAdamo, Barbara Smith, Barbara Trianovich, Ned Miller, Linda Cretella and Cheryl Biros bring clothes to My Sister's Place Thrift Shop to benefit The Umbrella program.*

**CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES:**

**Cell Phone Collection – Used phones for victims of domestic violence**

*Team Leads:*  
 Walter Binck 922-1199 ext. 250  
 Wbinck@hamworthy-peabody.com  
 Carol Pendagast 926-0001  
 carolp@fwserra.com

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

*Team Lead:*  
 Antonietta Hallet 402-1405  
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.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

**Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks**

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

**Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella**

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

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

**Computer Collection – Refurbished equipment donated to charities**

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

**Valley United Way**  
 Jack Walsh, President & Chief Operating Officer  
[Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org](mailto:Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org)  
 Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center  
[Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org](mailto:Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org)

**CVC 2009 Co-Chairs**  
 Dotty Cacchillo, Wal\*Mart Derby  
[magnamo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:magnamo@sbcglobal.net)  
 Antonietta Hallet, Prudential  
[Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com](mailto:Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com)

*Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:*  
 Karen Crane, Editor  
[Karen.crane2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Karen.crane2@sbcglobal.net)