

Valley United Way

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www.valleyunitedway.org



Proudly Serving the Valley Community since 1995

United Way



Valley United Way November, 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.

Thanksgiving "Adopt-A-Family" Program



For most of us, Thanksgiving is a happy time to gather with family and friends around a holiday table laden with food. But some people in our community are without the means to provide holiday meals to their loved ones. Each year the CVC strives to help individuals and families in need by participating in the **Valley United Way's Thanksgiving "Adopt-A-Family" Program**. CVC member companies provide turkeys and food baskets for Thanksgiving and other holiday meals that are distributed by United Way agencies to the underprivileged.

"I've been receiving calls about Thanksgiving donations since September," said Pat Tarasovic. "I've never seen this many requests this early in the season." With more people in the region out of work than in previous years, local agencies are seeing an increase in clients asking for help; at the same time, food donations have declined. The Red Cross, Parent Child Resource Center, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Visiting Nurses' Association have already begun submitting families for adoption for Thanksgiving and expect to have many more requests as the holidays get nearer.

A listing of needy families will be available to CVC representatives shortly. If your company is interested in participating in the CVC's Thanksgiving "Adopt-A-Family" program or would like to help in some other way, please contact Pat at 203-926-9478 or patricia.tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 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:

- *F.W. Serra, Inc.* • *Newtown Savings Bank* • *Prudential*

Clothing Drives in November

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:

- *Iroquois Gas Transmission* • *Naugatuck Savings Bank*
- *Prudential* • *The McIntyre Group*
- *Barnum Financial* • *NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions*

November CVC Meeting – Thursday, November 19, 2009 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., hosted by Iroquois Gas Transmission at One Corporate Drive, Shelton. All CVC members are invited to attend.

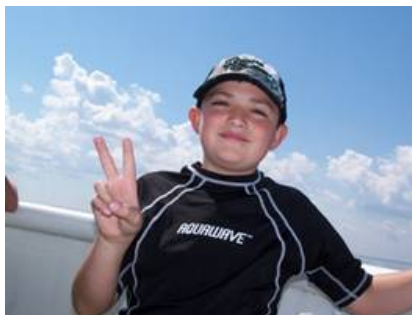
Be The Match: CVC Member Looking for Bone Marrow Donor for Her Son

CVC representative and Naugatuck Savings Bank Branch Manager, **Seleste Lucas** has been an active member of the CVC since joining in 2007. When the CVC refurbished the backyard of Spooner House during its 2008 Week of Caring, Seleste was a key member of the planning committee, and she and her husband, John, along with their son, Nicolas spent many hours helping to paint, plant and build picnic benches for the homeless shelter's residents.

Now the Lucas family needs help of their own. Eleven-year old Nicolas has developed an acute form of leukemia and urgently needs a bone marrow transplant from a 100% matching donor. So far, a match has not been found, and they are appealing to the community to register with **Be The Match Registry®**, the National Bone Marrow Donor Program. Registering is a simple process that entails a screening survey and cheek cell swab. Registered donors agree to donate bone marrow if they are found to be a match for a patient. For more information, please go to www.bethematch.org.

A trust fund has also been set up to help Seleste and her family cover the cost of treatment that Nicolas will need. Nicholas' treatment is expected to continue for three to four years and, in addition to having the needed bone marrow transplant, will also involve chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

Donations can be made out to the "Nicolas D Lucas Fund" and sent in care of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Waterbury Portuguese Club 1966 Baldwin St., Waterbury, CT 06706.



Seleste, John and Nicolas Lucas helped out at the 2008 Week of Caring backyard project for Spooner House. Nicolas has been diagnosed with an acute form of Leukemia and his family is searching for a 100% bone marrow donor match.

Did you know?

Valley United Way is a local sponsor of the **Gifts In Kind International Program** making free and low cost product donations to local nonprofits. **Gifts In Kind Valley** operates as an internal program of United Way through the Valley United Way. If your company has products that you would like to donate through Gifts In Kind Valley, please contact Jack Walsh at (203) 926-9478 or email him at Jack.Walsh@valleyunitedway.org.



CVC Member Companies
 Arson Productions
 Altair Global Relocation
 Baldrige Seminars Int'l
 Barnum Financial Group
 Basement Systems
 Better Packages
 BIC Corporation
 Bull's Head Printers
 CDW-G
 CG Automation Systems USA
 Calvert Safe & Lock
 Citi Bank
 Comcast
 Computershare
 Cutting Edge Communications
 DRS Consultants, Inc.
 David M. Grant Caterers
 DeDonato Building
 Emhart Teknologies
 Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 F.W. Serra, Inc.
 Fletcher Thompson
 Fred Ortol Photography
 Freedom Disability
 GE International
 GVCC
 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
 Minuteman Press Center
 NEC
 Naugatuck Savings Bank
 Ned Miller Associates
 NewAlliance Bank
 Newtown Savings Bank
 People's United Bank
 PerkinElmer
 Pitney Bowes
 Professional Travel
 Prudential Financial, Inc.
 Regional Water Authority
 Riverview Funeral Home
 SSC, Inc.
 Sikorsky Aircraft
 T.D. Bank
 The Greenwich Workshop
 The Hartford
 The McIntyre Group
 United Illuminating
 Wachovia
 WalMart
 Warner Financial
 Webster Bank
 William Royce's Real Estate



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COMPANY OF INTEREST:

A conversation with Kathy M. Barrios,
Executive Assistant



Tell us about SSC Freedom Disability.

Social Service Coordinators (SSC) is the leading provider of outreach and advocacy services, offering health plan members a broad range of government and community assistance programs. Freedom Disability (Freedom) is an SSC company that recently expanded its operations into a new corporate headquarters in Shelton in May of this year. When the company moved from downtown Milford to Shelton they had 44 employees and they now have 74. The move to Shelton has and will allow us to hire many new employees to help our clients.

Freedom Disability is the nation's premier Social Security Disability representation firm. We help individuals interested in applying for, or appealing a denied application for, Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

How did you learn about the CVC and why did you decide to join?

I am a member of Freedom's Social Committee and in July we held our first meeting at the new Shelton office location. Many members voiced their interest in getting more involved in community projects. Our HR representative sent out an employee survey and several employees indicated that they would be interested in a food or clothing drive. With that being said, I took the lead and searched for upcoming projects and found the Harvest House III event. I immediately sent an email to Jack and Pat to find out how we could join the CVC and the rest is now history!

What is your company's philosophy on community involvement and volunteerism?

Our company's culture is to support those less fortunate and our mission is to get more involved with charity work and community projects. Taking Freedom's values into consideration I would like to see us get more involved with organizations that help the disabled and the elderly.

My first experience with the CVC was Harvest House III. Freedom ran a month-long food drive that we set up as a team competition. We offered incentives and held a raffle drawing at the end of the food drive where the winner received an over night stay at the Trumbull Marriott on the evening of this year's holiday party. It was a huge success! We were able to collect nearly 4000 items and I was truly overwhelmed by our employees' generosity. I volunteered for the Harvest House build and being there made me realize how the community really has to come together to pull off a project of this magnitude. It was very rewarding to be a part of it.



Kathy Barrios (2nd from left) and the "SSC Sharks" food drive winners pose with the 4,000 food items collected for Harvest House. Kathy joined Freedom Disability in 2003. She's a past president of the White Hills Volunteer Company's Ladies Auxiliary, and has run a Toys for Tots program at Freedom for 7 years.

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

Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks

Team Lead:
 Kristin Bures 929-2357
 Kristin.j.bures@us.hsbc.com
 Carol Pendagast 926-0001
 carolp@fwserra.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

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

Team Lead:
 Antonietta Hallet 402-1405
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.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
 Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center
Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org

CVC 2009 Co-Chairs

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magnamo@sbcglobal.net
 Antonietta Hallet, Prudential
Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com

Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:

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