

**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.*

**CVC: A “WIN/WIN” FOR THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS**

For more than 10 years, companies within the Valley United Way’s **Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC)** have been lending a hand in the community. Formed in 1995 to promote a partnership between area businesses, charitable agencies and the community at large, CVC is a network of corporations that meet monthly to coordinate volunteer efforts and provide resources to meet community need.

Throughout the year, the CVC sponsors food and clothing drives, refurbishes computers and cell phones for use by charitable agencies, and provides monetary donations to fund community projects. Their employees collectively volunteer hundreds of hours annually to community outreach programs such as Week of Caring, which provides labor and materials for renovations at charitable facilities.

*A “WIN” for the community...*

“The CVC fills a huge hole that would otherwise remain unfilled in our community,” comments Pat Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center for the Valley United Way. “So many area organizations benefit from programs sponsored by the CVC.”

One such organization is **The Umbrella**, which provides emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy and other services to women and children affected by domestic violence. CVC companies conduct clothing drives administered through My Sister’s Place, a thrift shop in Ansonia, which donates 100% of its proceeds to The Umbrella. CVC companies have also donated more than 100 used cell phones given to battered women for use in emergency situations. The CVC also sponsors the “Caring Circle”, a group of volunteers who knit blankets and other items for Umbrella’s battered women’s shelter. With cash donations from CVC businesses to cover the cost of yarn, volunteers have produced more than 580 blankets donated to shelter residents.

CVC companies and their employees also support **Area Congregations Together (ACT)**, a food bank network that supports lower Naugatuck Valley, and which manages **Spooner House**, a 180-bed homeless shelter in Derby. This year CVC members have contributed more than 6,500 food items, helping ACT and Spooner House to provide more than 60,000 meals annually to the hungry and homeless.

The CVC is also exploring ways to expand its reach to other agencies, such as the **St. Vincent DePaul Society** which operates a thrift shop and food pantry that serves the Naugatuck Valley.

*A “WIN” for Business....*

Giving back to the communities where they do business is the primary reason that companies join the Corporate Volunteer Council; but membership makes good business sense as well. Businesses have long seen the value of supporting community outreach as a way to build greater shareholder trust, increase employee morale and maintain customer loyalty. Furthermore, company-supported volunteerism places employees in leadership roles in the community, increasing a company’s visibility. It also provides employees an opportunity to gain business skills and career development experience that they might not gain in their regular jobs.

Finally, partnering with other companies provides a way to network, exchange information and share “best practices” with regard to operating volunteer programs. It enables companies to pool their talents and resources in order to have a greater impact in the community.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Holiday ‘Adopt-A-Family’ Program**

The holidays are quickly approaching, and many of us look forward to the season as a happy time of holiday gatherings and gift giving with family and friends. But some in our community are without the means to provide holiday meals and gifts to their loved ones. Each year, the CVC strives to help individuals and families in need by participating in the Valley United Way’s **Holiday “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 families in need. Area businesses also conduct toy drives and “Angel Tree” programs to provide holiday gifts to needy children, seniors and the homeless.

If you are interested in “adopting” one or more needy families this holiday season and would like more information about the charities supported by the program, please contact your company’s CVC representative or Pat Tarasovic at the Valley United Way, 926-9478.

**November 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 to food pantries throughout the Valley.

The following businesses are conducting food drives in November:

- The Hartford Insurance
- GE International, Inc.
- BPA Worldwide
- Market Data Retrieval
- Emhart Teknologies

**Clothing Drives in the Month of November**

CVC Member companies conduct 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.

The following businesses are conducting clothing drives in November:

- Barnum Financial Group
- American Skandia/Prudential
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
- DeDonato Building Contractors
- Intuit Eclipse
- Iroquois Gas Transmission
- Market Data Retrieval
- OCI Chemical

**It’s United Way Season!**

The leaves are falling which must mean it’s United Way season! **Jack Walsh** and **Jane Snaider** are standing by to help you with your own UW employee campaigns. Contact them at 926-9478 to learn more about conducting fun filled activities that benefit your employees and their community.

**COMPANY OF INTEREST:**

***GE International, Inc.***

*A conversation with Michelle Fabozzi, Customer Service Specialist with GE Mobility Services*

**What does the GE International Group in Shelton do and how many people are employed here?**

GE is a global company with operations in more than 100 countries. Our group is responsible for servicing the GE Businesses and globally mobile employees throughout the life cycle of an international assignment. Specifically, we ensure compliance with immigration and tax legislation, drive and administer policies for international assignments, and coordinate payroll, tax, immigration, relocation and customer services to approximately 1,900 GE employees on assignments around the world.

Our offices at Corporate Drive in Shelton employ approximately 55 employees.

**When did your group first become involved with the CVC and why?**

GE International has been a CVC member for about four years now. We were approached by [CVC member] Linda Hvizdo from Homewood Suites who thought that we would be a good fit for the council.

**Tell us about some of the CVC-sponsored programs that your group has implemented?**

We recently participated in the Back-To-School Clothes for Kids program, which was a huge success. We had a 90% participation rate from our employees and raised \$1,000 in donations, which enabled us to provide five children with new school outfits, winter coats and school supplies. We also conduct a program called "Operation Bubbles". Each time our employees travel on business, they are encouraged to bring back extra soap bars, shampoos and other amenities provided by hotels. These items are donated to the Ansonia YMCA and the Umbrella group's battered women's shelter. Our employees also participate in the Food Pantry, as well as the "Angel Tree Program" during the holidays -- always a huge success. Last year, we purchased holiday gifts for 15 children.

**What is the value of these programs to your employees and company?**

GE's ability to positively impact the communities in which employees work and live is an important aspect of what it means to be a good corporate citizen. These local community events provide GE International employees an opportunity to make a difference by sharing their time, skills and resources.



*Michelle (left) with coworkers Diane Kosarko and Steve Niehaus at the Back-To-School Clothes for Kids event at Mead School in Ansonia.*

**CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES**

The following CVC subcommittees manage ongoing collections throughout the year. For information on how you can support these efforts, contact your company's CVC representative or the individual sub-committee Team Leads listed below.

**Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks**  
 Team Lead: Bonnie Sinclair  
 203-926-5407  
 Bsinclair@necinfrontia.com

**Notions Collection – Toiletries distributed to homeless shelters**  
 Team Lead: Antonietta Hallet  
 203-402-1405  
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com

**Cell Phone Collection – For victims of domestic violence**  
 Team Lead: Jasmine Davidson  
 203-922-1199 ext. 222  
 Jdavidson@hamworthy-peabody.com

**Clothing Collection – Used clothes sold through My Sister's Place to benefit the Umbrella Program**  
 Team Lead: Sue Millican  
 203-025-7255  
 Sue\_millican@iroquois.com

**Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella**  
 Team Lead: Antonietta Hallet  
 203-402-1405  
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com

**Computer Collection – Refurbished equipment donated to area charities**  
 Team Lead: Alan Tolmich  
 203-944-7300 ext. 149  
 Alan.tolmich@computershare.com

**For more information contact your Company's CVC Rep or:**

**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)

**Corporate Volunteer Council Co-Chairs**  
 Bill Bubbico, Pitney Bowes  
[bill.bubbico@pb.com](mailto:bill.bubbico@pb.com)  
 Adrienne Cabral, Iroquois Gas  
[adrienne\\_cabral@iroquois.com](mailto:adrienne_cabral@iroquois.com)

- CVC Member Companies*
- Alliance Security*
- Ansonia Copper and Brass*
- Barnum Financial Group*
- Bank of America*
- Basement Systems*
- BPA Worldwide*
- CAPS Business Recovery*
- CDW-G*
- Chase Bank*
- Computershare*
- Cushman & Wakefield*
- David M. Grant Caterers*
- DeDonato Building Contractors LLC*
- DiGiorgi Roofing & Siding*
- Emhart Teknologies*
- Fletcher Thompson*
- Fred Ortol Photography*
- GE International, Inc.*
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce*
- Hamworthy Peabody*
- Hasler, Inc.*
- Health Net*
- Homewood Suites*
- Intuit Eclipse*
- Iroquois Gas*
- Latex Foam*
- Life Touch National School Studios*
- Market Data Retrieval*
- Microsol, Inc.*
- Naugatuck Savings Bank*
- NEC*
- Northeast Utilities*
- OCI Chemical*
- Pitney Bowes*
- PerkinElmer*
- Pro Travel*
- Prudential*
- SSC, Inc.*
- Sikorsky Aircraft*
- The Hartford*
- The McIntyre Group*
- United Illuminating*
- Wachovia*
- WalMart*
- Warner Ins & Financial*
- Webster Bank*