

## Valley United Way

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# United Way



*Celebrating Over Ten Years of Service to Our Community 1995 – 2006*

**Valley United Way**

December, 2006

### 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.*



## Thank You CVC

*This holiday season, we give thanks for all of our CVC volunteers -- for all you do the whole year through!*

### CVC Companies Bring Thanksgiving Meals to Needy

In early November, calls began coming in from various United Way agencies expressing great need for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and asking for help. CVC companies answered those calls and thanks to their efforts, many needy Valley families were able to enjoy Thanksgiving meals with their loved ones.

**Prudential Financial, Inc.** solicited food and cash donations from their employees, which provided turkeys and holiday food to 25 families through St. Vincent de Paul Society and five families through the Valley YMCA. They also made a cash donation to Area Congregations Together (ACT) food bank and Spooner House.

ACT/Spooner House also received five overflowing boxes of food from the folks at **GE International** and 805 can goods compliments of employees at **CDW-G**.

**OCI Chemical Corporation's** employees pitched in to provide turkeys and an abundance of food for two large families identified through the Valley United Way.

Another Valley family received a full Thanksgiving meal compliments of the generous employees at **CAPS Business Recovery**.

Two families identified through the Parent-Child Resource Center received turkeys and bountiful meals from the employees at **NEC Infrontia, Inc.**



*OCI employees pack meals for their adopted families*

New CVC member **Bright Horizons** day care facility filled a van with 15 overflowing boxes of food which they donated to 20 families associated with the Valley Women's Health Center at Griffin Hospital.

Lastly, one generous Valley business that wishes to remain anonymous presented a check for \$500 to Catholic Charities.



*Bright Horizons students and teachers show the food they collected.*

The Valley United Way is proud of and grateful for the support and generosity of the Corporate Volunteer Council and we wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

## Did You Know?

*As of October, CVC Companies have donated 13,052 items of food to Valley food banks. That's a 60% increase over last year's total of 8,232 items. Many thanks to all CVC companies that conducted food drives at their facilities.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### Holiday Giving Program

Each December, the CVC strives to make the holidays brighter for individuals and families in need by participating in the Valley United Way's **Holiday Giving Program**. We need CVC companies to sponsor a number of holiday efforts, including providing food baskets, hosting holiday meals, and collecting toys and gifts for needy children, seniors and the homeless.

For a list of agencies in need of holiday assistance, please contact Pat Tarasovic of the Valley United Way at 926-9478.

#### December 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, 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 December:

- Iroquois Gas Transmission
- A Plus Staffing

#### Clothing Drives in the Month of December

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 December:

- Iroquois Gas Transmission
- A Plus Staffing
- OCI Chemical Corporation
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce

#### Got Yarn?

The CVC Caring Circle is always looking for yarn donations as well as cash to purchase yarn. Contact Antonietta Hallett at 203-402-1405.

### CVC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Mark your calendar to celebrate more than a decade of service to the community at a **CVC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** to be held Thursday evening, Feb. 15, 2007 at VUW headquarters. More details to come...

## COMPANY OF INTEREST:



OCI CHEMICAL CORPORATION

*A conversation with Scott Porter, Executive Vice President of OCI Chemical Corporation*

## Give us an overview of your company:

OCI Chemical Corporation is the world's second largest producer of soda ash (known chemically as sodium carbonate), an essential raw material to a variety of industries. The single largest application of soda ash is in the production of glass. OCI Chemical employs 500 dedicated individuals, 40 of which are located at our headquarters at Two Corporate Drive in Shelton.

## Why is it important for OCI to be a part of the CVC?

The company understands the importance of giving back to the community and therefore encourages us to become involved. OCI's philosophy is "do the right thing" and our company's core values reflect this. In fact, upholding these values – things like having a passion for excellence, maintaining trustworthy behavior and having a commitment to each other – is as important to employment at OCI as is having the skills and knowledge to do your job. We are a part of the CVC because partnering with other area companies is a great way for our employees to "do the right thing" for the community.

## How does OCI encourage its employees to get involved?

OCI has an internal webpage where we publicize company-sponsored volunteer activities (i.e., Back to School Clothes for Kids, Giving Tree, etc.). Based on that, folks will contact the United Way chair and volunteer. Usually a person is solicited to head up the project either by word of mouth, email or sometimes it is the person who did it the year before. Additional volunteers needed for the project are solicited in the same way. After each charitable activity or event is completed, an article and photos are posted on our internal webpage.

## Share with us a volunteer effort that was particularly successful:

For the Week of Caring, our employee [and VUW board member] Tim Gugino took the lead as he has in the past and coordinated with the United Way. We wanted to make it a significant group effort, where our employees would have the opportunity to work on a worthwhile project as a team. The teamwork generated from accomplishing positive things as a group definitely carries over into a greater sense of teamwork in the office. We were proud to have 16 OCI employees lend a hand at Catholic Charities during the Week of Caring.



*Scott Porter (top row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and his team lend a hand at Catholic Charities during the CVC Week of Caring.*

## CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES

The following CVC subcommittees manage ongoing collections throughout the year. For information on how you can support these efforts, contact 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 for the men in residence at the Valley YMCA**

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  
203-925-7255  
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  
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Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center  
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**Corporate Volunteer Council Co-Chairs**

Bill Bubbico, Pitney Bowes  
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