

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.



The Corporate Volunteer Council Elects New Co-Chairs for 2008

At the December CVC meeting, 2006/2007 Co-Chairs **Bill Bubbico** (pictured in front row, far left) and **Adrienne Cabral** (front row, third from left) passed along the baton of leadership to newly elected 2008 Co-Chairs **Renee Bergen** (front row, second from left) and **Dotty Cacchillo** (not pictured). "Leading the CVC for the last two years has been a very rewarding experience," said Bill Bubbico. "Adrienne and I will remain on the council and look forward helping Renee and Dotty transition into their new roles."

Renee Bergen, who only recently joined the CVC as a representative from Cara Therapeutics, is very excited about the new leadership challenge. "I am so impressed with what the CVC has done for the surrounding communities," says Renee. "I am looking forward to working with everyone on the council and contributing my efforts toward helping people in the community."

Dotty Cacchillo has been a CVC representative from Wal*Mart/Derby for five years. "Being involved in our community is a critical piece of Wal*Mart's culture," says Dotty. "As a CVC Co-Chair, I will have an open mind to new projects and commitments in our community."

Patricia Tarasovic, Director of the Volunteer Action Center for the Valley United Way (pictured, second row, center) is thrilled with the new appointments. "Dotty and Renee both joined the CVC with so much enthusiasm and a great desire to do good for the community. Their natural spirit is contagious. They will make another great team in leading the CVC."

Meet Dotty Cacchillo



Dotty is the Personnel Manager for Wal*Mart Stores Inc. in Derby, where she has worked for the past ten years. She lives in the Valley with her husband Robert and her two children Sarah and David. She also has two step-children, Robert and Daniel. Dotty has represented Wal*Mart on the CVC for five years. In addition to her work on the CVC, she is active in other volunteer efforts. This coming May, Dotty and her daughter, Sarah will travel to Casa Del Mar on a missionary trip for 10 days.

When she's not volunteering, Dotty enjoys watching her children play sports, cooking in the kitchen, and taking in a good movie!

Meet Renee Bergen



Renee is an Executive Assistant for Cara Therapeutics in Shelton, an emerging biotechnology company focused on developing novel therapeutics to treat human diseases associated with pain and inflammation. She joined the company in August 2007 and also joined the CVC at the same time. Prior to that, she worked for five years for the City of Danbury as an Executive Assistant. Renee also holds her Real Estate license and sells homes part-time. Needless to say, she is busy!

When she's not working, Renee helps out in her community with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. She lives in Danbury with her two children.

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 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 the food to the needy through their food bank. ACT also runs Spooner House, a homeless shelter in Derby. Companies holding drives this month:

- *HSBC, Inc.*

Clothing Drives in January

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:

- *NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions*
- *Prudential Financial*
- *Warner Financial Group*
- *Cara Therapeutics*
- *Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce*

Next Corporate Volunteer Council Meeting

The next CVC committee meeting will be held **Thursday, January 17, 2008 8:30 – 9:30 AM**, hosted by People's United Bank, in Tower One Corporate Drive, Shelton. All CVC representatives are invited to attend.



In 2007, the Corporate Volunteer Council was responsible for more than 70% of the donations made to My Sister's Place, a thrift shop that sells used clothes and household goods to benefit The Umbrella Domestic Violence Program. CVC donations have netted approximately \$100k in profits in 2007.

The CVC plays Santa to Valley Families



The Corporate Volunteer Council marked the holiday season with an outpouring of support for needy families and the charities that assist them. In the true spirit of giving, CVC companies donated food, clothing, toys, gift cards and more to over one hundred Valley families to help make their holidays special. "What's different this year," commented Pat Tarasovic, "is that we are seeing many more working families requiring assistance. A number of people that contacted me this year told me that they had helped out others in the past; now they need help themselves."

Thankfully, many companies answered their call. **United Illuminating Company** donated \$2,500 through the CVC, who set up a team of "shopping elves" to complete the wish lists for many needy Valley families. Special thanks to CVC members Michelle Fabozzi (GE International), Kris Bures (HSBC), Diane Faczek (People's United Bank), Bonnie Sinclair (NEC), and Sue Millican (Iroquois Gas Transmission) for doing the shopping. **Fletcher Thompson** employees adopted two families from Parent Child Resource Center (PCRC) and held a special party for them at their headquarters. Employees at **Health Net of the Northeast, Inc.** also adopted families from PCRC and from St. Vincent DePaul's Helping Hands in the Valley Project.

Latex International sponsored three families from Catholic Charities and 10 children from PCRC, for a total of 20 people and raised \$4,000 to do this. **Iroquois Gas Transmission** provided \$300 to Birmingham Group Health Services' Under the Tree program; \$200 for holiday needs at Parent Child Resource Center and adopted a PCRC family of five; \$300 for TEAM's Toys for Tots; \$250 to ACT/Spooner House; \$250 to St. Vincent's De Paul; \$500 to Shriners' Children Hospital; and \$400 to Bridgeport Hospital's Hug A Bear program in memory of 16 employees who lost relatives in 2007. **Pitney Bowes** employees provided 30 toys for the YMCA Angel Tree Program. They also participated in TEAM's Toys for Tots program, bought gifts for 67 children through PCRC, and provided three Valley families with holiday food. Plus, they provided lunch for 45 people at Spooner House (including staff) on December 19. **Greenwich Workshop** provided \$50 Target gift cards to 29 residents of the Valley YMCA. **Prudential Financial** adopted several families in need and one Prudential employee arranged for a washer and dryer for one family, thanks to a cousin in the appliance business!

HSBC National Bank made the holidays brighter for two needy families, who received food and gifts from HSBC employees. Also, the employees of **Cara Therapeutics** purchased winter clothes, toys and gifts cards for another Valley family. One Valley dialysis patient has *two* CVC companies to thank for their generosity this year: **Hamworthy Peabody** employees provided him a new TV and gifts, and **Sikorsky Aircraft** employees assisted with his electric bill for the month of December. Sikorsky employees also helped out another family who needed to have special phone services for a daughter with medical problems requiring ongoing access to emergency ambulance services. Sikorsky employees raised over \$1,500 through their "dress down" program to provide these services, as well as food and gifts to the two families.

The Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,000 each to ACT/Spooner House and the Valley YMCA. They also served as a drop-off point for TEAM's Toys for Tots program. **NEC Infrontia and NEC Unified** provided two families with food and gifts for the holidays. **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** got all its branches involved in a county-wide winter clothing drive to benefit The Birmingham Group's Umbrella program and St. Vincent De Paul Society. They also donated a van for delivery. **Homewood Suites by Hilton** raised money for the Fallen Heroes of Connecticut families. **Basement Systems** gave Wal*Mart gift cards and care packages to six needy families and made cash donations to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. They also served meals to the needy via their meal truck over the Christmas season. **People's United Bank** sent teams of employees to volunteer their time for TEAM's Toys for Tots program. People's employees also shopped for two families and added a cash donation.

Also in the Christmas spirit was Fred Ortolì of **Fred Ortolì Photography**, who donated a Christmas tree to one needy family. **Perkin Elmer** employees collected roughly 100 coats for "Coats for Kindness" and donated toys to 75 children through the Salvation Army. They also collected food and purchased Stop & Shop gift cards for 23 families. Plus, they raised \$1,600 during their holiday party, which they donated to The Housatonic Valley Association and gave a \$500 Wal*Mart gift card to Safe Homes. **Warner Financial** also made a donation to Safe Homes and **CDW-G** provided them with a DVD player. **GE International** employees made a donation to ACT/ Spooner House, as did **David M. Grant Caterers**. Dave Grant also made holiday donations to TEAM Inc., Boys & Girls Club, Parent Child Resource Center, Shelton Gaelettes, Fire Stations, and Shelton Historical Society.

"We are so proud of all the contributions made by CVC companies this holiday season," said Bill Bubbico, (former) CVC Co-Chair. "Our goal now is to do what we can to make sure these families don't fall through the cracks during the remainder of the year."

Valley United Way

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