

Valley United Way

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Proudly Serving the Valley Community since 1995

United Way



Valley United Way November 2008

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.



President John DeGray takes a dunk for VUW.



Committee members Tim Murray, Alicia Gsell, Erica Byrd and Frank Giusto LIVE UNITED!

Kerite Company "Plunges" into its United Way Campaign

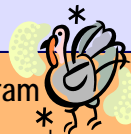
How many bosses do you know who are willing to perch on a dunk tank platform while their employees throw balls at them? At Kerite Company in Seymour, the whole management team was willing to get wet to raise money for the United Way. During an Employee Appreciation Banquet held on October 3, employees paid \$5 for three chances to dunk their bosses. "Many of our supervisors took turns in the tank," said Alicia Gsell, Director of Human Resources, "and all of them got dunked!" Alicia credits employee Jessica Earley for coming up with the fun and easy way to raise money. In total, they netted \$540 for the United Way.

The dunk tank was just a precursor to the company's employee giving campaign, which launches November 21 with a number of employee meetings. Jack Walsh and Laurel Vicidomino from the Valley United Way, along with Laurel Anderson from 2-1-1 InfoLine have been invited to speak. "It's important to show our employees where their donation dollars go," said Alicia. "We are especially excited to have Laurel speak to the group about 2-1-1 Infoline and all the resources available to our employees and their families through that program." (*Visit www.infoline.org for more information.*)

Founded in 1854, Kerite Company manufactures utility transmission and distribution power cable and electrical submersible pump cable. It employs 165 people. In 2007, the company and employees donated more than \$12,000 in campaign contributions to the Valley United Way. Kerite offers their employees the convenience of making donations through payroll deductions and matches employee giving dollar for dollar through the company's matching gift program.

If you would like more information on holding campaign activities in your company, contact Laurel Vicidomino at 926-9478 or laurel.vicidomino@valleyunitedway.org.

CVC Holiday Giving Program



Each year CVC companies adopt needy individuals and families for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, generously providing meals, gifts and other necessities. The Valley United Way is already receiving requests from Valley agencies and the level of need is expected to be particularly great this year. If your company is interested in making the holidays brighter for one or more community residents, **please contact Pat Tarasovic prior to November 22** at 926-9478 or email her at 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:

- *Newtown Savings Bank* • *HSBC Bank*
- *Prudential Financial* • *Kerite Company*

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:

- *NEC Infrontia, Inc. & NEC Unified Solutions*
- *Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce*
- *Prudential Financial*
- *Iroquois Gas Transmission*

November CVC Meeting

The next CVC committee meeting will be held **Thursday, November 20, 2008 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**, hosted by the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce at 900 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton. All CVC members are invited to attend.

Sikorsky Combines Employee Engagement with Giving

Recently, CVC member Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation found a creative way to engage employees, build teamwork, and help the community – all at the same time. Sikorsky Finance employees attending the Finance Education Program at the Waterview Inn in Monroe not only learned about various current topics that effect their jobs and their company, but they were also given a chance to raise food for Spooner House's Food Pantry.

The two-day training event, organized by the Finance C.A.R.E. team to promote engagement of Finance employees, included a team-building activity where groups of 5 competed against one another in various games of skill to win points and earn up to \$250 in prize money. What the groups did not know was that the prize money was to be used to purchase food for Spooner House. At the end of the competition, all teams were transported by bus to B.J.'s Wholesale Club in Derby and given a shopping list. Their final challenge was to buy as many food items on the list as possible with their winnings. In total, the company provided more than \$4,000 in food to Spooner House.

"It was a very successful event," said Sikorsky CVC rep Marie Figueroa. "Everyone had fun and felt really good about what they had done."



Sikorsky Finance employees board the bus and shop for food at B.J.'s for Spooner House.



55% of the food distributed by the Food Pantry at Spooner House comes from CVC company food drives and donations. The value of the food collected by the CVC is estimated at \$125,000 per year. The Food Pantry provides qualified recipients with one week's worth of groceries (the equivalent of 21 meals per family member) every 30 days. 45% of the recipients are children.

Did you know?

- A-Plus Staffing
- Arson Productions
- Altair Global Relocation
- Barnum Financial Group
- Basement Systems
- Better Packages
- BIC Corporation
- Bright Horizons
- CAPS Business Recovery
- Cara Therapeutics
- CDW-G
- Citi Bank
- Comcast
- Commerce Bank
- Computershare
- David M. Grant Caterers
- DeDonato Building
- Emhart Technologies
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- F.W. Serra, Inc.
- Fletcher Thompson
- Fred Ortolì 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
- 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 Robert Hunt, Branch Manager
Webster Bank, Bridgeport Avenue Shelton Branch*



Official Webster colors are PMS 2935 - Webster Blue and PMS1235 - Webster Yellow (PMS116 for uncoated paper)

Tell us about Webster Bank.

With \$17.5 billion in assets, Webster Financial Corp., parent company to Webster Bank, provides business and consumer banking, mortgage, financial planning, trust and investment services through 181 banking offices, including 9 branches in the Valley. Webster Bank owns the asset-based lending firm Webster Business Credit Corporation, the insurance premium finance company Budget Installment Corp., Center Capital Corporation, an equipment finance company headquartered in Farmington, Conn., and provides health savings account trustee and administrative services through HSA Bank, a division of Webster Bank.

How long has Webster Bank been a member of the CVC and why is it important to your company?

Webster has been a member of the CVC for more than 10 years. The United Way is Webster's primary philanthropy because it is an efficient, donor-friendly way to support a broad safety net of human services. Webster raises more than \$1 million annually for the United Way through its employee campaign and its employees also volunteer significant amounts of time to the United Way Day of Caring, United Way boards and allocation committees. For the last seven years, Webster Bank has also provided the Valley United Way with grant money for a "Loaned Executive" during campaign season. The Loaned Executive is usually a business person borrowed from a local company on a short-term, part-time basis to assist with various campaign fundraising activities.

What are some of the CVC programs that your employees support?

The Webster branch on Bridgeport Avenue in Shelton spearheads its CVC events. It holds clothing and food drives annually. Employee and customer response to its last clothing drive in September was so overwhelming — customers were asking when it would happen again — that the branch has decided to hold two clothing drives next year.

As a CVC representative, how do you communicate CVC activities to your employees and drive volunteerism?

One of the five tenets of *The Webster Way*, which define our values as a company, is to give of ourselves in the communities we serve. As a result, our employees embrace volunteerism, giving more than 70,000 hours of volunteer service every year. Working from this foundation, it's not difficult to get significant participation from employees after simply announcing the dates of our annual events.



Branch Manager Robert Hunt has been with Webster Bank for 2 years and has served as its CVC representative for about one year. In addition, he is an active member of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and its Leadership Greater Valley program.

CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES:

Food Pantry – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks

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

Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella

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

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

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

Cell Phone Collection – Used phones for victims of domestic violence

Team Lead:
Walter Binck 922-1199 ext. 250
Wbinck@hamworthy-peabody.com

Computer Collection –Refurbished equipment donated to charities

Team Lead:
Alan Tolmich 944-7300 ext. 149
Alan.tolmich@computershare.com

Valley United Way

Jack Walsh, President & Chief Operating Officer
Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org
Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center
Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org

CVC 2008 Co-Chairs

Dotty Cacchillo, Wal*Mart Derby
magnamo@sbcglobal.net
Bill Bubbico, Pitney Bowes
Bill.bubbico@pb.com

Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:

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