

## Valley United Way

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*Proudly Serving the Valley Community since 1995*

# United Way



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June, 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.*

### Derby Students Will Receive Back To School Clothes from the CVC

The Corporate Volunteer Council has selected the Derby school system to be the recipient of this year's **Back-To-School Clothes For Kids** program, which will take place in August. The council makes its selection based on the level of need in each town as determined by the number of free and reduced lunches served during the school year.

Derby's Irving and Bradley elementary schools reported a combined total of 423 children who received lunch assistance during this school year.

The CVC began the Back-To-School Clothes for Kids program in 1995 as a way to boost self-esteem and reduce truancy on the first day of school resulting from peer pressure with respect to clothes. National studies show that many underprivileged children stay home the first few days of a new school year simply because they do not have new school clothes to wear like their classmates. The CVC's Back-To-School Clothes for Kids program provides two complete school outfits, a winter coat, shoes, and a backpack full of school supplies to each child who qualifies and applies to participate in the program. To date, the CVC has purchased school clothes for more than 1,700 Valley students.

It is no surprise that the number of children qualifying for this program grows each year. We encourage all CVC companies to start making plans now to adopt one or more children. Many companies solicit cash donations from employees and set up shopping committees to purchase clothes and supplies for their adopted children. Others divvy up items amongst employees to purchase and then hold viewing parties to see the full outfits. Be creative! This program is a great way to build team spirit amongst your employees.

Information about the children (ie. age, sizes, color preferences, etc.) will be available mid-summer. The date for the Distribution Party will be set soon. In the meantime, please visit the CVC page under the Volunteer Center tab on [www.valleyunitedway.org](http://www.valleyunitedway.org) to view photos and read about previous Back-To-School programs.

### Announcing Harvest House III -- Build It and They Will Come!

The CVC is excited to announce its plans for **Harvest House III**, which will be built on the grounds of **Shelton's Riverwalk** from **September 24 to September 28**. Harvest House is a 400 square foot building constructed with more than 100,000 items of non-perishable food donated by the community. Construction of the structural walls begins Thursday, September 24. On Saturday, September 26, Valley businesses, schools, civic groups, and the community-at-large are invited to help build our house of food by placing donated items on the walls of Harvest House. On Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, an Open House will be held, then Valley food banks and other VUW agencies will dismantle Harvest House to distribute the food to their clients.



The Harvest House III planning committee is in the process of preparing information packages and promotional materials, which will be distributed to all CVC representatives in July. In the meantime, begin thinking about how your company will help to build Harvest House III.

### Meet Jeremy Ortiz From Barnum Financial Group

*Jeremy Ortiz is the newest member to the Corporate Volunteer Council, representing Barnum Financial Group (BFG), an office of MetLife. As a Financial Services Representative, Jeremy's mission is to provide knowledge and value to his clients while maintaining their financial needs, goals, and dreams.*

*Jeremy holds a Series 6 Securities registration and a Life & Health Insurance license in CT. Jeremy graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's of Arts in Economics and Sociology. Prior to becoming a member of BFG, Jeremy was a Team Manager with Countrywide Bank. Welcome, Jeremy!*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### June 11 – 70's Night Event to Benefit Valley United Way!

From 5:00 – 8:00 pm at Il Palio Restaurant. Tickets are \$35 per person if purchased before-hand (\$40 at door). Beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres, deejay, silent auction. 70's attire encouraged! For tickets, contact Laurel Vicidomino at 926-9478 or email [laurel.vicidomino@valleyunitedway.org](mailto:laurel.vicidomino@valleyunitedway.org).

#### June 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:

- *Homewood Suites by Hilton*
- *F.W. Serra, Inc.*
- *G.E. International*
- *People's United Bank*

#### Clothing Drives in June

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:

- *Prudential*
- *TD Bank*
- *NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions*
- *The McIntyre Group*
- *Naugatuck Savings Bank*

#### June CVC Meeting

The next CVC committee meeting will be held **Thurs., June 18, 2009 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**, hosted by Computershare at 2 Enterprise Drive, Shelton.

#### Hold the Date!

**CVC Quarterly Social Event  
Thursday July 16, 5 – 7 p.m.  
at Basement Systems, Seymour**

Do you have contacts in other Valley companies that might like to join the CVC? Please forward their names and email address to Dan Fitzgerald at [danf@basementsystems.com](mailto:danf@basementsystems.com) so they can be sent an invitation to this event.

**CVC Member Companies**  
 Arson Productions  
 Altair Global Relocation  
 Barnum Financial Group  
 Basement Systems  
 Better Packages  
 BIC Corporation  
 CDW-G  
 Citi Bank  
 Comcast  
 Computershare  
 David M. Grant Caterers  
 DeDonato Building  
 Emhart Teknologies  
 Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
 F.W. Serra, Inc.  
 Fletcher Thompson  
 Fred Ortolini 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  
 T.D. Bank  
 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 Scott McKay, General Manager  
 Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Shelton/Trumbull



Give us a brief overview of Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites.

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Shelton/Trumbull has been a part of the Valley for well over 10 years. Opening in 1998 as the Amerisuites Shelton Corporate Towers, the hotel converted to a Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites in April of 2007, bringing the fastest growing hotel chain in the country to the area.

We just completed a brand re-launch that all Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express hotels are required to complete by January of next year. Proud to be one of the very first within Connecticut to complete this global re-positioning of the brand, the hotel now showcases a bold new logo and striking exterior lighting, which is obvious to anyone driving on Bridgeport Avenue. Interior changes include a redesigned front desk and new signature lobby scents and music. With our new look and 128 deluxe studio suites, we continue to provide corporate and leisure travelers alike great value-added accommodations and superior hospitality. The hotel employs up to 30 associates.

**Tell us about your hotel's involvement with the CVC and why membership is important to you.**

We have been a member of the CVC for several years now and helped to complete the last Harvest House. More recently, my team and I spent time over this past holiday season working in the TEAM toy store. We also adopted four families that we purchased gifts for. It was great to see our staff take on the role of Santa for children they will never meet with such joy and enthusiasm. Just this past March, the hotel completed a successful food drive that even had our guests involved in the giving. Being a part of the CVC is an important part of our commitment to being a strong and positive member of the community.

In addition to our involvement with the CVC, the hotel is also actively involved with *Give Kids The World Village* in Orlando, Florida through our brand affiliation. Give Kids The World is a non-profit organization that provides children with life-threatening illnesses and their families the experience of a memorable, magical, cost-free visit to Central Florida's attractions. Our hotel is donating an overnight package on an upcoming eBay auction to help fund the Village's activities.



**As a CVC representative, how do you drive volunteerism?**

I believe the best way to drive volunteerism among my employees is to lead by example. I am the first to put food in the bin or to volunteer my time, and that drives positive momentum.

*Scott McKay (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and some of his staff with a van full of donated food from their March food drive. Scott has served as GM of the Shelton hotel since 2007. His other community activities include spearheading a book drive for Reading is Fundamental and participating in Habitat for Humanity and other inner city clean-up projects.*

**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

**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:*  
 Antonietta Hallet 402-1405  
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com

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

*Team Lead:*  
 Antonietta Hallet 402-1405  
 Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com

**Food Pantry** – Corporate food drives to benefit area food banks

*Team Lead:*  
 Bonnie Sinclair 926-5407  
 Bsinclair@necinfrontia.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](mailto:Jack.walsh@valleyunitedway.org)  
 Patricia C. Tarasovic, Director, Volunteer Center  
[Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org](mailto:Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org)

**CVC 2009 Co-Chairs**  
 Dotty Cacchillo, Wal\*Mart Derby  
[magnamo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:magnamo@sbcglobal.net)  
 Antonietta Hallet, Prudential  
[Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com](mailto:Antonietta.hallet@prudential.com)

*Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:*  
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