

Valley United Way

Three Corporate Drive, Suite 501
Shelton, Connecticut 06484
203-926-9478
203-926-1368
www.valleyunitedway.org



Celebrating A Dozen Years of Service to Our Community 1995 – 2007 **Valley United Way** September 2007

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 committee members display some of the 206 Back-to-School clothing packages donated by CVC companies to children in need at Lafayette and Sunnyside Schools in Shelton.



Shelton Students Go Back to School in Style – Thanks To The CVC!

The Corporate Volunteer Council has run another successful Back-To-School Clothes for Kids Program – this year providing 206 students at Lafayette and Sunnyside Schools in Shelton with new school clothes and supplies to start the new school year right. This is the largest number of children ever outfitted in one year. Since 1995, the CVC has outfitted 1498 Valley youth through donations totaling \$273,615 in new clothes and school supplies.

The CVC's Back-To-School Clothes for Kids program goal is to provide new clothing to underprivileged children at the start of the school year. Nationally, statistics show that many disadvantaged children miss the first few days of school simply because they do not have new clothes to wear. By providing two complete school outfits, shoes, a winter coat, and a back pack full of school supplies, the CVC hopes to boost children's self-esteem, reduce truancy and help kids put their best foot forward for the new school year.

Special thanks to the committee that organized the Distribution Party at Lafayette School on August 23: Carla Sullivan of Barnum Financial, Allison Shortell of Pitney Bowes, Maria DeMaio of Fletcher Thompson, Michelle Fabozzi of GE, Dotty Cacchillo of Derby WalMart, Antoinetta Hallet of Prudential Financial, and Carol Anzidei of the Valley United Way. Thanks also to Dave Grant Catering for providing cookies and punch for the party, Enterprise Rent-A-Car for the popcorn machine, Pitney Bowes for the ice cream truck, Fletcher Thompson for donating pencil cases for each child and W.B. Mason for providing the pencils to go in the cases. Louis Zayas from W.B. Mason served as deejay during the party. In addition, CDW-G provided \$1,000 in technical support to each school, and Derby WalMart gave 67 packages of socks and underclothes to each school, and also supplied the balloons and decorations for the party.

Pitney Bowes Scores an A+ With Their Back-To-School Efforts



While all the companies participating in the Back-To-School Clothes for Kids program are to be commended for their generosity, the contribution made by Pitney Bowes is particularly noteworthy. PB employees sponsored 61 children this year – the most children any company has helped through the program to date.

Pitney Bowes took a dual approach to the effort: half of the children were "adopted" by individual employees and department teams who shopped for clothes and school supplies themselves. Purchases for the remaining children were made from cash donations solicited by a "shopping team" organized by PB employee Rose Gurn with help from co-workers Mary Corkery, Sarah Gallo, Leslie Amoroso, Marie D'Alionte, Gail Ostrowski, and Mary Iaffaldoano. "Soliciting cash donations from our employees allowed us to leverage Pitney Bowes' company match program to sponsor even more children," said Rose. "It also enabled us to extend additional help to other schools in the Valley." That additional help was in the form of 55 back packs donated to children in Mead, Irving, Lo Presti, and Oxford Elementary Schools and "Nurse's Boxes" to each of those schools containing socks, underwear and other items needed by students during the year. Also, some of the cash raised was donated to local food banks that serve some of these children and their families.



Rose Gurn (3rd from right), CVC Co-chair Bill Bubbico and other PB employees.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wine Tasting Event – September 20

R.D. Scinto and Il Palio Restaurant present the 2nd Annual Wine Tasting to benefit the Valley United Way. The event will take place from 5 – 7 p.m. in the Corporate Park Circle. Tickets are \$25 if purchased in advance, \$30 the day of the event. Contact Laurel Vicidomino at 926-9478 or visit www.valleyunitedway.org to pre-register.

Valley United Way Campaign Kick-Off Reception – September 24

Valley United Way will kick-off its charitable giving campaign with a reception from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at Housatonic Lumber Company, 23 Factory Street, Derby. To R.S.V.P. contact Laurel Vicidomino at 926-9478 or visit www.valleyunitedway.org.

Harvest House II – September 29

Harvest House II will be constructed of donated food to benefit area charities outside of the Valley United Way office at 3 Corporate Park, Shelton. Volunteers are needed to collect food and help build Harvest House on Saturday, September 29 from 8 AM to 5 PM. To register, contact Pat Tarasovic at 926-9478 or visit www.valleyunitedway.org.

September Food Pantry Drives

The CVC has established a year-round collection schedule to ensure a steady supply of food to benefit **Area Congregations Together** who distribute the food to the needy. Companies holding drives this month:

- The McIntyre Group ▪ HSBC Bank USA
- Health Net ▪ Holiday Inn Express
- The Barnum Financial Group

Clothing Drives in September

CVC companies conduct monthly clothing drives for **My Sister's Place** thrift shop to benefit The Umbrella Domestic Violence Program and **Helping Hands** thrift shop run by Father McKenna St. Vincent De Paul Society.

Conducting drives in September:

- NEC Infrontia, Inc. ▪ Holiday Inn Express
- Wachovia Bank ▪ Prudential Financial
- Microsol Inc. ▪ Barnum Financial Group

Next CVC Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 20th 8:30 – 9:30 AM, hosted by Prudential Financial at One Corporate Dr. Shelton. All CVC reps are invited to attend.

- A-Plus Staffing
- Ansonia Copper & Brass
- Arson Productions
- Altair Global Relocation
- Barnum Financial Group
- Bank of America
- Basement Systems
- BPA Worldwide
- Bright Horizons
- CAPS Business Recovery
- CDW-G
- Chase Bank
- Comcast
- Computershare
- Cushman & Wakefield
- David M. Grant Caterers
- DeDonato Building
- DiGiorgi Roofing & Siding
- Emhart Teknologies
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- F.W. Serra
- Fletcher Thompson
- Fred Ortolí Photography
- GE International
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
- HSBC Bank, USA
- Hamworthy Peabody
- Hasler, Inc.
- Health Net
- Holiday Inn Express
- Homewood Suites
- Intuit Eclipse
- Iroquois Gas
- Kerite Company
- Latex Foam
- Life Touch Studios
- Market Data Retrieval
- Marks of Design
- Microsol, Inc.
- NEC
- Naugatuck Savings Bank
- Ned Miller Associates
- Northeast Utilities
- OCI Chemical
- People's United Bank
- PerkinElmer
- Pitney Bowes
- Professional Travel
- Prudential Financial, Inc.
- SSC, Inc.
- Sikorsky Aircraft
- The Greenwich Workshop
- The Hartford
- The McIntyre Group
- United Illuminating
- Wachovia
- WalMart
- Warner Insurance & Financial
- Webster Bank
- Yankee Gas Co.

COMPANY OF INTEREST: Health Net of the Northeast, Inc.



A conversation with Debbie Lewis, Supervisor Facilities

What does Health Net do and how many employees do you employ in the Valley?

Health Net of the Northeast, Inc., headquartered in Shelton, is a subsidiary of Health Net, Inc. (NYSE:HNT) one of the largest publicly traded managed health care companies and serving 6.6 million individuals nationwide. Health Net of the Northeast, Inc. employs 1,800 associates in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York and offers full-service health plans that serve nearly one million members in the tri-state area. The Northeast health plans offer a wide array of products including Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), Point-of-Service (POS), Preferred Provider Organization (PPO), Third-party administration, Medicare and Medicaid. With a physician network of more the 90,000 physician and provider office locations, Health Net is one of the largest health plans in the Northeast, offering a full range of open-access products and coordination for multi-region employers.

Why is Health Net a member of the CVC?

Health Net strives to be a thoughtful corporate citizen in the communities that we serve. Our Northeast headquarters is based in Shelton -- and we live here, too -- so it is important for us to support programs that improve the lives of people in the area.



Health Net employees display an impressive amount of food collected for Harvest House I.

Tell us about a CVC-related activity that has been successful at Health Net.

During the 2005 Week of Caring, Health Net held a food drive in support of Harvest House. Associates started a company-wide competition by department, which led to an overall donation of 14,000 lbs of food. Donations were collected over a 3-day period and the atrium in our building was completely filled with donated goods. The event not only impacted Harvest House in a positive way, it brought Health Net departments together for a great cause, strengthening relationships and the spirit of team work which continued after the drive was completed. With plans for Harvest House II underway, we are looking forward to repeating our efforts – and hopefully exceeding our results of two years ago.

As a CVC representative, how do you communicate CVC efforts and promote volunteerism in your organization?

Fortunately, it does not take a lot of effort to find volunteers to help at any event Health Net promotes. Our associates are eager to help in any way they can. We solicit volunteers through mass emails and promote volunteerism through our company Intranet. Also, many volunteers take on their own campaigns and collaborate with our Corporate Communications Department to develop communication plans to recruit volunteers. Many campaigns have dedicated volunteers who return year after year to their cause.

HELP WANTED: Volunteers Needed to Build Harvest House II

Prior construction experience is not needed – just a desire to help. That, and about 100,000 cans and boxes of food is what the CVC is seeking to construct Harvest House II, a 400 sq. ft. house of food to benefit area food banks and other charitable organizations. Corporations, civic organizations, schools, church groups and the community at large are being asked to collect non-perishable food, make cash donations and help with the construction of Harvest House on **Saturday, September 29 from 8AM to 5 PM** on the grounds of Scinto Corporate Park in Shelton. "We are challenging our corporate and community supporters to find creative ways to collect food, such as running collection contests and utilizing company match programs to increase cash donations," says Pat Tarasovic. "The level of hunger is so great in the Valley. We hope everyone who is in a position to help will participate."

Volunteers can register online at www.valleyunitedway.org by clicking on "Volunteer Center" then "Find a Volunteer Opportunity" and entering their information under "Harvest House II". Everyone who registers online will be given a T-shirt on the day of the build.

For more information, Contact Pat Tarasovic at 926-9478.

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

CVC Co-Chairs
 Bill Bubbico, Pitney Bowes
bill.bubbico@pb.com
 Adrienne Cabral, Iroquois Gas
adrienne_cabral@iroquois.com

Forward comments regarding the CVC newsletter to:

Karen Crane, Editor
Karen.crane2@sbcglobal.net