

Valley United Way

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United Way



Celebrating A Dozen Years of Service to Our Community 1995 – 2007

Valley United Way

March, 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 Anniversary Celebration – February 15, 2007

The CVC celebrated twelve years of achievement at a cocktail reception hosted by the Valley United Way. Past and present CVC members and VUW agency representatives were on hand to toast the collective good work performed by the CVC since its inception.



Jack Walsh, Chief Operating Officer of the Valley United Way welcomed attendees and spoke about the origin of the CVC and its value in the community. "It is one of the most innovative approaches to corporate community involvement ever done by this or any other United Way," said Jack. "[The CVC] has made it much easier for corporations large and small to get involved on a variety of rewarding community projects. When you look at the list of beneficiaries whose lives have been touched over the last twelve years, you can see the impact that this simple idea of bringing area businesses together has had on the Valley."

Special guest Susan DeLeon, Director of The Umbrella Group addressed the group about the very first Week of Caring Project in 1995, which was the renovation of the Umbrella's shelter for battered women and children. Susan spoke about how special the residents felt about being able to stay in a house that was renovated in such a beautiful way. Also on hand to congratulate the CVC on their anniversary was Ruth Parkins, Chairman of the United Way Board and a former CVC co-chair.

The highlight of the evening was the premiere of a video produced by Rich Sinclair of Arson Productions, which chronicled the many Week of Caring projects the CVC has completed in its twelve years of existence. The video can be viewed on the Valley United Way website at www.valleyunitedway.org.

Special thanks to David M. Grant Caterers for providing refreshments for the evening.

Giving New Life to Old Computers

Alan Tolmich calls it "Frankensteining". A Software Engineer with Computershare and self-proclaimed "computer geek", Alan is referring to the work he does refurbishing discarded computer equipment for reuse by area charitable agencies. "Basically, I take parts from this machine and put them into that machine to build a working system." He completely cleans the hard drives and reinstalls basic software to make them fully functioning units. These systems can then be given to organizations that don't otherwise have the means to acquire new equipment. Such was the case with Catholic Charities in Ansonia, who received six networked computers and printers, thanks to Alan's expertise and equipment donations from Computershare, Warner Financial and The McIntyre Group. The project was a part of the 2006 Week of Caring project sponsored by the Corporate Volunteer Council.



Alan Tolmich with equipment from EntreCap Financial.

The task was not an easy one. In addition to rebuilding the hardware, Alan and Jack Walsh of the Valley United Way needed to find a way to acquire expensive operating systems and software licenses for Catholic Charities. The answer was www.techsoup.org, a website that offers low cost technical assistance and resources to 501c3 non-profit organizations. "Now that we've cracked the licensing code," says Jack, "we're in a position to really expand this program." His vision: tap CVC companies for donations of equipment that can be given to charitable organizations.

Jack's vision got a boost recently when EntreCap Financial (formerly Pitney Bowes Capital Services) donated two completely functioning desktop computer systems and network printers. These units will be given to the Derby Day Care Center and Seymour-Oxford Nursery Child Care Association (SONCCA). Alan Tolmich also has a couple more PCs ready and is hoping to acquire additional hardware to build more. "The immediate need is for memory and hard drives," says Alan. "Systems with Pentium III class or higher. Also peripherals – monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, scanners, etc. All will go to good use."

Alan is looking for help from some kindred spirits as well. "If there are any other computer geeks out there that want to help me 'frankenstein', I'd love to hear from them!" Anyone interested in donating computer equipment or helping to refurbish it should contact Alan at 203-944-7300 ext. 149 (Alan.tolmich@computershare.com).

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 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 to benefit **Area Congregations Together**, who distribute the food to the needy. Conducting food drives in March are:

- NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions
- Emhart Teknologies

Clothing Drives in the Month of March

CVC companies conduct clothing drives throughout the year. Clothes are donated to **My Sister's Place** thrift shop which sells them to benefit **The Umbrella** Domestic Violence Program. Conducting drives in March are:

- Pitney Bowes
- CAPS Business Recovery Services
- The McIntyre Group
- NEC Infrontia & NEC Unified Solutions

Got Yarn?

The CVC Caring Circle always needs yarn donations and cash donations to purchase yarn. Contact Antonietta Hallet at 203-402-1405 if you can help.

CVC Notions Collection Program

Do your employees regularly take business trips or attend conferences? This is a great opportunity to collect shampoo, soap, toothpaste and other complimentary toiletries offered by hotels for donation to the YMCA, Spooner House and other area homeless shelters. Consider setting up a notions drop-off box in your company to collect these much needed items. Contact Maryann Ferrara at 203-225-3166 for more information.

CVC Member Companies
A-Plus Staffing
American Skandia
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
Computershare
Cushman & Wakefield
David M. Grant Caterers
DeDonato Building
DiGiorgi Roofing & Siding
Emhart Technologies
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Fletcher Thompson
Fred Ortolini Photography
GE International
GVCC
Hamworthy Peabody
Hasler, Inc.
Health Net
Homewood Suites
Intuit Eclipse
Iroquois Gas
Kerite Company
Latex Foam
Life Touch Studios
Market Data Retrieval
Microsol, Inc.
Naugatuck Savings Bank
NEC
Northeast Utilities
OCI Chemical
Pitney Bowes
PerkinElmer
Professional Travel
Prudential Financial, Inc.
SSC, Inc.
Sikorsky Aircraft
The Greenwich Workshop
The Hartford
The McIntyre Group
United Illuminating
Wachovia
WalMart
Warner Ins & Financial
Webster Bank
Yankee Gas Co.



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COMPANY OF INTEREST: Enterprise Rent-A-Car



A conversation with Tom McCabe, Regional Corporate Account Manager

Tell us about Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Enterprise is a world-class company with homegrown roots. We are a \$9 billion company with over 6,900 offices in the U.S., Canada, the UK, Ireland and Germany and more than 64,000 people worldwide. In the U.S., we operate in more communities than any other rental car company in the nation, reaching more than 90 percent of all Americans.

Enterprise was founded in 1957 by Jack Taylor, who believed in a simple, yet powerful set of core values, including treating customers and employees like family, maintaining the highest ethical standard, and never compromising our commitment to superior customer service.

How long has Enterprise been a member of the CVC and why is your participation important?

We have been participating in the CVC for about 8 months now. Enterprise may be a large company, but we operate through small, neighborhood offices. Our employees work to engage the neighborhoods in which we operate and believe in contributing hours and dollars to support causes that matter most in our local areas. In the Valley, where we have 18 employees, the CVC is a great way for us to connect with and impact local causes.

Tell us about your community efforts at the local level.

Last year we were involved with a summer food drive, Toys for Tots, and the Back to School Clothes For Kids program. We also donated old cell phones to victims of domestic violence and participated in the Week of Caring renovation project for Catholic Charities. In addition to CVC activities, our employees were involved in the American Heart Walk last April and the Special Olympics in May. We served over 2000 walkers from our Enterprise Booth where we provided water and other "E" giveaways. We also participated with our own Walk Team. At the Special Olympics Track and Field event held in last May, Enterprise employees escorted athletes to and from the track and cheered them on for their races and events. We also contributed \$2,500 to support this worthy event.



Tom McCabe (back row near right end) and Enterprise's DFFG

What best practices can you share about how Enterprise drives volunteerism and community efforts?

We have a regional Diversity And Family Focus Group (DFFG) of 20 employees from various levels in the organization. We maintain our own philanthropy budgets and try to think strategically to make sure we use charitable dollars to do the most good in our communities. We believe in thinking out of the box: it's not always about dollars. It's about dedication, longevity, and creating maximum impact. The overall goal is to advance the interests and priorities of both our company and those we serve.

CVC COLLECTION COMMITTEES

The following CVC sub-committees 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 Leads: Bonnie Sinclair 203-926-5407
Bsinclair@necinfrontia.com
Jasmine McIntyre 203-944-1762
Jasmine.mcintyre@bdk.com

Clothing Collection – Used clothes to benefit the Umbrella Program
Team Leads: Sue Millican 203-925-7255
Sue_Millican@iroquois.com
Mandi Marcino 203-944-0777 ext. 241
mam@themcintyregroup.com

Notions Collection – Toiletries for the men in residence at the Valley YMCA
Team Lead: Maryann Ferrara
203-225-3166
mferrara@ocichemical.com

Cell Phone Collection – For victims of domestic violence
Team Lead: Walter Binck
203-922-1199 ext. 250
Wbinck@hamworthy-peabody.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 charities
Team Lead: Alan Tolmich
203-944-7300 ext. 149
Alan.tolmich@computershare.com

For more info contact your company CVC rep:

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

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