

**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.*

**Pitney Bowes Maximizes Food Donations with “Cash-For-Food” Program**

If it's April, it means Anne Wege is shopping the two-for-one grocery sales again! That's because Anne, a Director at Pitney Bowes, along with co-chair Louis Fazzino, run the Pitney Bowes annual food drive to benefit the Valley Food Bank of Area Congregations Together (ACT). For the last 5 years, Pitney Bowes has been the single largest CVC contributor to ACT, a food bank that serves lower Naugatuck Valley and which manages Spooner House, a homeless shelter in Derby. The success of the drive is mainly due to Anne's commitment and to a set of best practices she has developed to maximize contributions from PB employees.



*Anne Wege and Louis Fazzino display poster and flyers for Pitney Bowes' annual “Cash-For-Food” drive to benefit ACT.*

Rather than simply asking employees to bring food items from home (which may result in the receipt of expired and possibly compromised food items), Anne runs a “Cash-For-Food” drive, encouraging donors to make cash donations – preferably in the form of tax-deductible checks made payable to ACT. Then she and her team of volunteer shoppers hit the grocery stores in search of sales.

“Over the course of ten to twelve weeks, almost all food types that are staples of a food drive (cereal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, pasta and sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, soups, macaroni & cheese, rice, cookies and snacks, apple juice) are on sale at the grocery stores for buy-one-get-one-free,” says Anne. “As the food goes on sale, we purchase it by the case with collected cash, thus doubling the value of the dollars donated.” That value is actually *tripled* because Pitney Bowes makes a company match to ACT for the dollars donated by its employees.

Anne's methods have undoubtedly worked: last year 181 Pitney Bowes employees donated \$5,850 in cash which purchased 6,020 food items valued at \$11,723. Pitney Bowes then donated a 100% company match to ACT, making the total value of the company's donation equal to an astounding \$17,403!

Anne and her food drive team are hoping for similar results this year. They are already getting the word out through posters, email flyers, and raffles at the Pitney Bowes Shelton facilities. And they're shopping, of course. After all, Stop & Shop has canned goods on sale at half price this week!

**How To Run A Successful Cash-For-Food Drive in Your Company**

- ✓ Promote the food drive with posters, e-mails, flyers, food displays and raffles. Drive participation by stressing that every \$1 donated buys \$2 of food.
- ✓ Ask for cash donations in the form of checks made payable to the 501c-3 agency, which are tax deductible.
- ✓ Collect, track and monitor the cash. Set up a method with the agency to cash checks for food purchases.
- ✓ Follow the sales at the stores, buy in bulk, and ask grocery store managers to order larger quantities of sale items.
- ✓ Collect, weigh and arrange for safe storage of food.
- ✓ Set up a “See the Food” week at the end of the drive to show employees what their cash donations have purchased.
- ✓ Arrange with the charitable organization for the pick-up/delivery of food.
- ✓ Submit the appropriate documentation to your company in accordance with its company match program.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**Valley United Way Annual Meeting & Recognition Dinner**

The Valley United Way's 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner will be held on **Tuesday April 24** at 5:15 pm at **Grassy Hill Lodge** (77 Sodom Lane) in Derby. Tickets are \$45. Reservations can be made by visiting [www.valleyunitedway.org](http://www.valleyunitedway.org) or by calling (203) 926-9478.

**April 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 April are:

- GE International
- Pitney Bowes

**Clothing Drives in the Month of April**

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 April are:

- American Skandia/Prudential
- Hamworthy Peabody Combustion
- Iroquois Gas
- Microsol, Inc.
- Enterprise-Rent-A-Car

- 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 Teknologies
- 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.

**COMPANY OF INTEREST: David M. Grant Caterers**

*A conversation with Dave Grant, Owner*

**Tell us about your company:**

I founded David M. Grant Caterers in 1974 following my graduation from Quinnipiac College of Hamden, Connecticut. What began as a part-time venture enjoyed steady growth, becoming a full-time catering venture within three years.

I am proud of our 30-year history of quality food and superior service. We employ eight full-time and fifty part-time employees in the Valley.

**How long have you been a member of the CVC and why is it important to you?**

I have been involved with the Valley United Way's CVC for about ten years. Community service is very important to me and I am involved with a number of organizations. Many of my clients are members of the CVC. I like what the group stands for and what it does for the community.

**Tell us about some of the CVC events you have supported:**

My business is such that it is difficult for me to attend the CVC meetings or to participate by painting, for example, during the Week of Caring. Instead, I give back by doing what I do best – which is cooking. For the last ten years I have donated the food for the Week of Caring's celebration dinner. I also provide cookies and punch for the Back to School Clothes for Kids distribution party each year. The first time my wife and I attended the school party, we were so impressed with the program that we adopted a child the following year, and have continued to do so each year since. We always adopt a little girl – being parents of boys, my wife gets a kick out of shopping for girls!

*Dave serves on the board of directors for the Valley United Way. He was also past president of the Derby-Shelton Rotary Club, past president and current board member of the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley. Dave has been a long-standing member of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and currently serves as its Chairman of the Board. In 1998, Dave received the Gold Seal Award, the Valley community's most prestigious recognition for volunteerism. For more information on David M. Grant Caterers, visit [www.davecaterers.com](http://www.davecaterers.com).*



*Dave Grant at a recent event*

**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 926-5407  
Bsinclair@necinfrontia.com

Jasmine McIntyre 944-1762  
Jasmine.mcintyre@bdk.com

**Cell Phone Collection – For victims of domestic violence**

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

**Clothing Collection – Used clothes to benefit the Umbrella Program**

*Team Leads:*  
Sue Millican 925-7255  
Sue\_Millican@iroquois.com

Mandi Marcino 203-944-0777 ext. 241  
mam@themcintyregroup.com

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

*Team Lead:*  
Maryann Ferrara 225-3166  
mferrara@ocichemical.com

**Caring Circle – Knitted blankets and apparel for clients at Umbrella**

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

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

**Computer Collection – Refurbished equipment donated to charities**

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

**For more info contact your company CVC rep:**  
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**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)

**Corporate Volunteer Council Co-Chairs**  
Bill Bubbico, Pitney Bowes  
[bill.bubbico@pb.com](mailto:bill.bubbico@pb.com)  
Adrienne Cabral, Iroquois Gas  
[adrienne\\_cabral@iroquois.com](mailto:adrienne_cabral@iroquois.com)