

**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.*

**“Corporate Connection” Links Teams to Community Projects**

Are you a department manager or team leader looking to build greater teamwork among your employees? Do you want to boost morale among your co-workers? *Corporate Connection* might be a solution for you.

*Corporate Connection* is a program offered through the Valley United Way’s Volunteer Action Center. It matches willing corporate volunteers to community organizations who need help with short-term projects. Activities such as freshening up an agency’s facility, assisting at a special event or organizing a special program for a charity’s clients are just some of the projects that need volunteers. These are great vehicles for companies wishing to increase teamwork amongst their employees or provide workers with alternative ways to gain new skills. They also give managers and employees a chance to interact with one another outside the office on a more personal level.

As Director of the Volunteer Action Center, Pat Tarasovic is the key link between willing volunteers and needy agencies. “I encourage corporate groups to contact me directly. I will talk with them about the size of their group, what they want to accomplish, what skills their team members have and what sort of time commitment they can make. Then I will match them with an appropriate agency who will benefit from their gifts of time and talent.”

The Volunteer Action Center also offers *Volunteer Solutions*, an innovative online website (<https://volunteer.united-e-way.org/uwvalley/volunteer>) where you can find volunteer opportunities in the Valley area and beyond. While the website is geared to individual volunteering opportunities rather than corporate projects, it’s a good way to find out about community organizations and their needs. Currently there are 96 opportunities listed by 33 different organizations servicing the Valley.

To enlist your group for a project through *Corporate Connection*, contact Pat Tarasovic at (203) 926-9478 or email [Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org](mailto:Patricia.Tarasovic@valleyunitedway.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 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 May are:

- Pitney Bowes

**Clothing Drives in the Month of May**

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 May are:

- The Hartford
- Altair Global Relocation
- Iroquois Gas Transmission
- A Plus Staffing

**NEXT CVC MEETING**

Thursday, May 17, 2007

8:30 – 9:30 AM

Wachovia Bank, Shelton Square Office

All CVC Representatives are invited to participate

**Infosys Technologies “Connects” with the Community**

Recently, a group of employees with Infosys Technologies Limited completed two different volunteer projects through the Valley United Way’s *Corporate Connection* program. The group, all consultants on temporary assignment with Pitney Bowes in Shelton, was looking for volunteer projects that they could complete as a team to increase their focus on social causes in the community. With Pat Tarasovic’s help, they connected with the Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center, a 104-acre nature preserve in Ansonia. The group spent a crisp autumn Saturday constructing a foot bridge from logs along one of the many walking trails within the park.

In February, the same group spent another Saturday painting the reception area at TEAM, Inc., a non-profit agency in Derby whose mission is to combat poverty and help low-income families increase their self-sufficiency. Not only did TEAM, Inc. benefit from the work, but the volunteers did, too. “I feel [participating in community projects] helps my team from a team building perspective,” said Ashutosh Agarwal, Program Manager for Infosys Technologies.



*The Infosys Technologies employees volunteer at Ansonia Nature and Recreation Center (left) and TEAM, Inc. (below).*



- 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: Basement Systems**

*A conversation with Dan Fitzgerald, Director of Marketing*

Tell us about your company:

Basement Systems is the world leader in developing and providing products that result in dry, below-grade level space. The company has a network of more than 300 dealers throughout North America, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.

We have been in business since 1987 and hold 24 U.S. patents for innovations in the basement waterproofing and crawl space repair industries. We employ over 150 people in our Seymour offices.



*Team Basement Systems at their company event*

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

We've been a part of the CVC for about six years and actively involved in the last two years. Basement Systems is a major employer in the Valley with a growing customer base and presence. We believe in demonstrating good corporate leadership and giving back to the community where we live and work. Teaming up with the CVC is a good way to do this. We also feel we have resources within our organization that can be leveraged by the CVC to achieve their goals.

As a CVC representative, how do you communicate CVC activities and drive employee participation?

Two years ago I started a program called "Team Basement Systems". The idea was to build a sense of camaraderie and greater awareness of the needs in the community. We developed a team logo and created t-shirts for everyone in the company. We closed the office down early one afternoon and held an event for all our employees at the Sports Center in Shelton. We used this event to launch our annual United Way campaign and to introduce the CVC's Week of Caring project – that year the CVC built Harvest House on the Riverwalk in Shelton. The event was a huge success. We increased our United Way giving levels, collected a large amount of food, solicited a team of volunteers for Harvest House, and had fun at the same time!

We continue to hold "Team Basement Systems" events twice a year to promote company and community efforts. The program goes a long way to build a sense of camaraderie and pride in our company and our ability to help others.

*Dan is co-chair of the CVC's Membership Committee. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut and is a resource member to the Parent-Child Resource Center in Derby.*

**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)