

Community Newsletter
SUMMER 2016

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GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.



“Give From The Heart, Change the Future”



***A Message from Owen J. Quinn
Executive Director***

As we are heading out of the dog days of summer, we, at the United Way are preparing for the 2016 campaign. As you can see in the articles in this newsletter, we have new leadership on the campaign front and a new goal. Luckily Jeff Geddes and Joyce Muse are assembling a dynamic, energized and dedicated campaign cabinet to meet the challenge Jeff has set for himself and the campaign. Fingers crossed for an exciting few months until the end of the campaign on November 10th.

But while we are focused on the future, let's take a look at some changes made to the way we do business here at the United Way of Northwest CT. One of the hallmarks of the United Way's across the country is our unique Citizen Review Panels—these are a group of volunteers that vet every organization that applies to be part of the United Way family, so our donors know that only the most sound, competent and successful agencies make it through this system.

Each year our participating agencies must apply for funding and its these volunteers, many from private industry, that make those funding decisions.

This year we have improved our data collection requirements by asking our agencies to report to us on a quarterly basis their results by town, by outcome and compare the results to what they said they would do in their yearly application.

We track demographics, successful outcomes, and number served in low to moderate income categories. This will give us a better picture of how your donations are being used so that we can assure you that your money goes where it is needed most.

We value your donation to the United Way of Northwest CT as an investment and monitor for results that make a positive community impact in our three priority areas: Education, Financial Stability and Health.

Thank you for supporting the United Way of Northwest CT!

2016 Campaign Planning Underway!

Not only did our United Way meet the 2015 goal, we exceeded it by raising a total of \$792,706! Preparations are now underway to lay the groundwork for the next campaign. Given our past success, we have optimistically set our goal for the 2016 Campaign at \$800,000!

Food for Your Neighbors

This year we decided to postpone our Food for Your Neighbors program into the summer season. The 13th annual Food for Your Neighbors program kicked off June 1st and continued through Friday, July 29th.

A large number of our United Way clients are reached through the help of our local food pantries including 2,974 individuals at Salvation Army Food Bank, 300 families, 1,000 people, at Friendly Hands Food Bank, and 1,917 families at FISH of Northwestern Connecticut as well as 300 families through Fishes & Loaves in North Canaan and Hands of Grace in New Hartford.

In the twelve years United Way has run this program, we have raised almost 220,000 items.

Help end hunger in your community!

2016 Golf Tournament

On Monday, May 23rd, our 35th annual charity Golf Tournament took place at the Torrington Country Club. With the help of our sponsors, raffle donors and 57 golfers, we raised \$12,040 that will go towards United Way Community Impact projects.

Jeff Geddes Chairs United Way



Jeff Geddes, Senior Vice President of Torrington Savings Bank, will lead the 2016 annual fundraising effort. Mr. Geddes has over 30 years of banking experience, including 23 years managing Torrington Savings Bank's residential and consumer lending program, and prior experience at Litchfield Bancorp and New Milford Savings Bank. He attended Western Connecticut State University and graduated from the Connecticut School of Finance and Management.

In addition to his membership on the United Way Board of Directors, he serves on the Board of the Litchfield Hills Micro Loan Fund administered by the City of Torrington.

Jeff is a member of the National Association of Realtors, Connecticut Association of Realtors and Litchfield County Board of Realtors, currently serving on the Public Relations Committee. Jeff and his wife Peggy have two adult children and are lifelong residents of Thomaston.

Interested in joining the campaign team?

Contact Terri Hodge -

terri@northwestunitedway.org.

Volunteers Show They Care!

June 17th was a great day for our Day of Caring volunteers who donated their time and energy to work on five different projects for Boy Scouts, Catholic Charities, Pleasant Valley Children's Center, LARC, and Susan B. Anthony Project. The United Way of Northwest Connecticut has held a Day of Caring since 1999.

This year's committee, which was chaired by Colleen Suppa, Northwest Community Bank, also included Sandi Conforti, Northwest Community Bank; Jessica Dziob, Torrington Savings Bank; Tiffany Hussey and Janice Wojtczak, Litchfield Bancorp; Lauren Zordan, NWCT Chamber of Commerce; Lauren McKenna, Superior Plus Energy Services; and Pat Marciano, United Way.



This year, for the first time, we had a group of volunteers from Superior Plus Energy Services who did some landscaping at LARC. We also had a group of volunteers from the Chamber of Commerce Young Professional Group who was joined by Mel Brickman at Camp Workcoeman. We had groups from many of our local banks including Union Savings Bank, who helped out at the YMCA. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and made our Day of Caring a success.

Upcoming Events

- September 8th—For the 6th straight year, the United Way of Northwest Connecticut will kick off its annual campaign with a Celebrity Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. This year's event will be held at the Torrington Country Club.
- September 14th—For the 3rd straight year, the United Way of Northwest Connecticut will hold a Canaan area Kick-off at Geer. It will be from 5-7. Come have a few snacks, and learn about the United Way.

For more information, call the office at (860) 489-4131 or visit our website, www.northwestunitedway.org.