



# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

[ 2011 ]  
[ 2012 ]





Kim Morgan  
Chief Executive Officer

There's a wise adage that states, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Those words rang true in Denver back in 1887. Like many frontier towns, Denver was struggling with the social issues that come with a booming population. In an effort to help, five people joined together to collect funds for local charities, coordinate relief services, counsel and refer clients to cooperating agencies, and make emergency assistance grants. United Way was born.

For 125 years, United Way has harnessed the power of caring individuals to identify and resolve communities' most pressing issues.

Today, we are a far cry from those pioneer days, but people still want the same things that people wanted even then: a strong education for their children, financial security, good health, and a helping hand when times are tough.

Here at United Way of Western Connecticut (UWWC), we continue to address the education, income and health concerns in our region as well as support basic human services for those in need.

All of our work is made possible through the help and support of volunteers:

- Our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers
- Our councils and planning committees are staffed by volunteers
- Community members and business employees donate their time to help coordinate our annual giving campaigns
- Volunteers staff our review boards to evaluate and determine where our funds will be invested
- Hundreds of volunteers participate in our annual Day of Action projects
- Thousands of volunteers take part in UWWC-coordinated service activities in the community and at area nonprofits

Our ability to mobilize individuals, businesses and agencies to assist others was especially evident following the December 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. United Way has played a vital role in responding and helping the Newtown community begin to heal. We are humbled and honored to provide the support the area needs to recover and move forward.

This Annual Report is a testament to all that UWWC accomplished this year as a result of volunteers' time, knowledge and talent.

In 2013 and 2014, we aim to use "people power" to achieve even more. Through The Volunteer Center of United Way of Western Connecticut — which was formed last year through mergers with the volunteer centers in Danbury and Stamford — we plan to increase our volunteer mobilization efforts across the region.

We thank you for supporting United Way and being part of all that we do. Please join us as we continue to strive to improve lives in Stamford, Northern Fairfield County and Southern Litchfield County. As those early days in Denver demonstrated, when people work together and LIVE UNITED, they have the power to achieve great things.

Kim Morgan  
Chief Executive Officer

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In early 2012, Michael Johnston handed the CEO reins over to Kim Morgan. During his three year tenure, Michael oversaw the merger with The Volunteer Center Serving Western Connecticut, paved the way for the merger with The Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County, and launched our Strong Heart, Strong Home and Strong Start initiatives.

We wish Michael the best in his new role of CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford.

# WHO WE ARE

United Way helps over 75,000 people each year across the western Connecticut region by focusing on the vital building blocks for a good life: Education, Income and Health.

A good academic foundation is key to acquiring life and work skills. An adequate income establishes financial and household security. Families are strong and can thrive when their members are healthy.

UWWC works to make sure that these building blocks are sound and stable in every town we serve. To accomplish this, we mobilize the people and organizations that have the passion, expertise and resources needed to get the job done.

We fund more than 130 social services programs, partner with nearly 100 agencies, and lead regional initiatives to create a network of aid and support. By leveraging the collective power of the community, we are delivering immediate assistance to those in need and ensuring that everyone in our region has the opportunity to live a good life.

Your annual contribution makes all of this work possible.

We will improve lives by mobilizing the power of caring communities to create lasting change.

*By expanding access to quality early learning education experiences, we are ensuring that more children are entering school ready to learn. By increasing out-of-school opportunities for youth, we are helping young people reach their potential and build the foundation for success.*

## EDUCATION

- CHILDCARE
- PRESCHOOL
- DAY CAMP
- EARLY LITERACY SKILL DEVELOPMENT
- AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
- MENTORING
- YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*By linking un- and under-employed youth and adults with career training and education opportunities, we are helping local residents obtain the skills that will help them provide for their families. Because sometimes people's monetary needs are immediate, we also support emergency assistance programs, including food, legal and housing.*

## INCOME

- EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
- HOUSING PROGRAMS
- LEGAL AID
- EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING
- ADULT LITERACY
- FOOD BANKS

*We are funding programs both in schools and at home that help families eat right, develop active lifestyles, and be mentally and physically healthy.*

## HEALTH

- HEALTHY LIVING
- FAMILY COUNSELING
- WOMEN'S ISSUES
- MENTAL HEALTH

# EDUCATION

Kindergarten *used to be* the place where 5 year-olds were introduced to the alphabet, shown how to hold a pencil, and learned how to count to 10.

Not anymore. Today, *preschoolers* are expected to master their letters, know how to write their names, and identify basic shapes, colors and numbers.

In this more academically rigorous world, many children in our region are unprepared to enter kindergarten. Nearly 50% of preschoolers do not have basic literacy and math skills. Children from lower-income families are particularly at a disadvantage: 30% of them do not attend preschool, 75% of their mothers do not have a high-school degree and as many as 38% come from homes where English is not the primary language. In fact, Connecticut has the largest achievement gap in the country between low-income and higher-income children.

Children who start school behind tend to stay behind. The best way to combat this achievement gap is with solid early education programs. Through our **STRONG START** initiative, we are investing dollars in effective preschool programming, partnering with educational organizations and nonprofits, and leading community coalitions like the **STAMFORD EARLY CHILDHOOD BLUEPRINT** and **DANBURY'S PROMISE FOR CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP** to ensure *all* children in our region are ready for school.



## IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Simply reading to children is the best way to develop pre-literacy skills. But 61% of low-income families have no books at home for their kids to read. To remedy

this, our Imagination Library program delivers FREE, high-quality books to participating children (from birth to age 5) each month and encourages families to devote time to reading. Several of the books are even printed in both Spanish and English.

The program is available to all children in Danbury, Bethel, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford and Newtown. We have also launched a pilot of Imagination Library

in Stamford through the Early Head Start and Head Start programs at Childcare Learning Centers. To date, more than 5,500 children have benefited.

The program costs very little to run - about \$36 a year per child – but makes a huge impact. Participating families report that they read together more, that their child(ren)'s interest in books has grown, and that their children are better prepared for kindergarten.

## HELPING STUDENTS STAY ON TRACK

Not only are we working to prepare children for school, we're helping to keep them engaged and on the path to success once they are there. United Way funds and supports after-school and school-break programs, mentoring and tutoring programs, and career and college-preparation services.

To make sure all students have the tools they need to hit the books strong, United Way also runs annual **BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVES**. As the saying goes, to be prepared is half the victory, so we give qualifying low-income students school clothes and backpacks filled with paper, pens, notebooks and other age-appropriate school supplies so they're ready to learn. Last year, we helped over 750 students across Stamford, greater Danbury and greater New Milford.

### FISCAL YEAR 2011 - 2012

#### NORTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern CT</b>	Mentoring	\$6,662
<b>Community Action Committee of Danbury</b>	Action Early Learning Center	\$11,103
<b>Connecticut Institute for Communities</b>	Harambee Center	\$5,912
<b>Danbury Grassroots Tennis</b>	Danbury Grassroots Tennis	\$8,882
<b>Danbury Youth Services</b>	Earn-a-Bike TARGET	\$2,221 \$17,765
<b>Education Connection</b>	Danbury School Readiness Council	\$21,651
<b>Families Network of Western CT</b>	Nurturing Families - Home Visitation Nurturing Parents - Parent Groups	\$21,384 \$13,886
<b>Family &amp; Children's Aid (DRCAC merger)</b>	COPEs Program Family Enrichment Teams Program Volunteer Mentor Program	\$9,998 \$33,140 \$10,263 \$7,500
<b>Girl Scouts of Connecticut</b>	The Girl Scout Program	\$11,103
<b>Regional YMCA of Western CT</b>	Camp Greenknoll Childcare Preschool Escape to the Arts School Age Child Care	\$13,879 \$19,558 \$13,879 \$12,213



*Paying it Forward: New Fairfield High School students Julie Reiner and Erin Mannion raised \$865 dollars to help establish Imagination Library in their town when they requested donations in lieu of birthday gifts.*

(L-R): Barbara Mechler, Assistant Superintendent of New Fairfield Public Schools, Julie Reiner, Erin Mannion, and Aimee Turner, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

<b>Salvation Army - Danbury Corp.</b>	The Right Place	\$20,540
<b>WeCAHR</b>	Advocacy for Children and Families	\$5,505
<b>Women's Center of Greater Danbury</b>	Domestic Violence Services	\$16,004
	Resource Services	\$3,201
	Sexual Assault Services	\$8,002
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$294,251</b>

**SOUTHERN LITCHFIELD COUNTY**

<b>Boy Scouts of America, CT Rivers Council</b>	Boy Scouting	\$1,250
	Cub Scouting	\$1,250
<b>Family &amp; Children's Aid (DRCAC merger)</b>	Family Enrichment Services	\$2,000
	Teams Program	\$2,500
<b>Girl Scouts of Connecticut</b>	The Girl Scout Program	\$2,500
<b>Kent Children's Center</b>	Scholarship Program	\$2,000
<b>New Milford Visiting Nurse Association</b>	Nurturing Families	\$1,000
<b>Pratt Nature Center</b>	Summer Day Camp	\$1,000
<b>WeCahr</b>	Advocacy for Children and Families	\$3,000
<b>Women's Center of Greater Danbury</b>	Domestic Violence Services	\$5,500
	Sexual Assault Services	\$4,000
	Women's Resource Services	\$2,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$28,000</b>

**STAMFORD**

<b>Abilis</b>	Stamford Birth to Three Services	\$22,342
<b>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern CT</b>	Mentoring	\$5,167
<b>Boys &amp; Girls Club of Stamford</b>	After School Program	\$15,000
<b>Center for Children's Advocacy</b>	Stamford Youth Legal Advocacy Clinic	\$5,651
<b>Childcare Learning Centers</b>	Early Care & Education	\$66,729
<b>Domus Kids</b>	Family Advocate Program	\$22,303
<b>Inspirica (formerly St. Luke's LifeWorks)</b>	Youth Services	\$14,800
<b>Jewish Community Center</b>	Jump Start	\$8,937
<b>Stamford Public Education Foundation</b>	Middle School Mentoring	\$3,000
<b>Stamford YMCA</b>	L.E.A.D Academy	\$16,682
	L.E.A.D Program	\$16,682
<b>Women's Mentoring Network</b>	First Generation College Bound	\$5,382
<b>Yerwood Center</b>	IXCEL Teen	\$10,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$212,675</b>

# INCOME

An adequate income is essential to pay for living expenses, save for the future and establish a secure financial foundation. Yet economic stability is quickly getting farther out of reach for many. More than 25% of western CT families (5,600 families in Fairfield County alone) are now considered working poor.

As the economy continues to sputter, a whole new category of people is seeking assistance: individuals and families who once considered themselves part of the middle class but are now on the financial brink due to job loss, housing foreclosure, crushing medical costs or personal crisis. Since many of these individuals have never needed help before, they don't know where to turn. United Way gives them the place to start.

Our 2-1-1 24-hour hotline connects people in need to health and human services. Information and referrals are offered for everything from basic needs to children's services, crisis intervention, senior and veterans' services and healthcare. In 2012, 2-1-1 handled more than 13,700 calls for our region.

Because sometimes people's needs are immediate, UWWC funds a number of Basic Needs programs that helped an estimated 85,000 people across our region gain access to services that include food pantries, clothing distribution and emergency assistance.



We offer **FAMILYWIZE** discount prescription cards to those without prescription drug coverage to help lower the cost of select medicines by as much as 30%. Users in our region have saved over \$1.1 million to date.

As part of our **STRONG HOME** initiative to help low-to-moderate income families become economically stable, United Way opened the **FINANCIAL RESOURCE CENTER** in April 2012. The Center acts as a "one-stop financial navigator," steering individuals in Northern Fairfield and Southern Litchfield Counties along the path back to financial health. The FRC is staffed by a Certified Educator in Personal Finance as well as volunteer financial and business experts. The FRC offers one-on-one budget coaching and guides clients as they work to address credit card debt, mortgage assistance, foreclosure prevention and student loan debt. We also plan to offer financial "how-to" workshops and seminars beginning in 2013.

In an effort to provide affordable housing opportunities to low- and moderate-income residents in our region, the Local Initiative Support Corporation's Fairfield County Collaborative Fund for Affordable Housing was funded for \$10,895.

## FISCAL YEAR 2011 - 2012

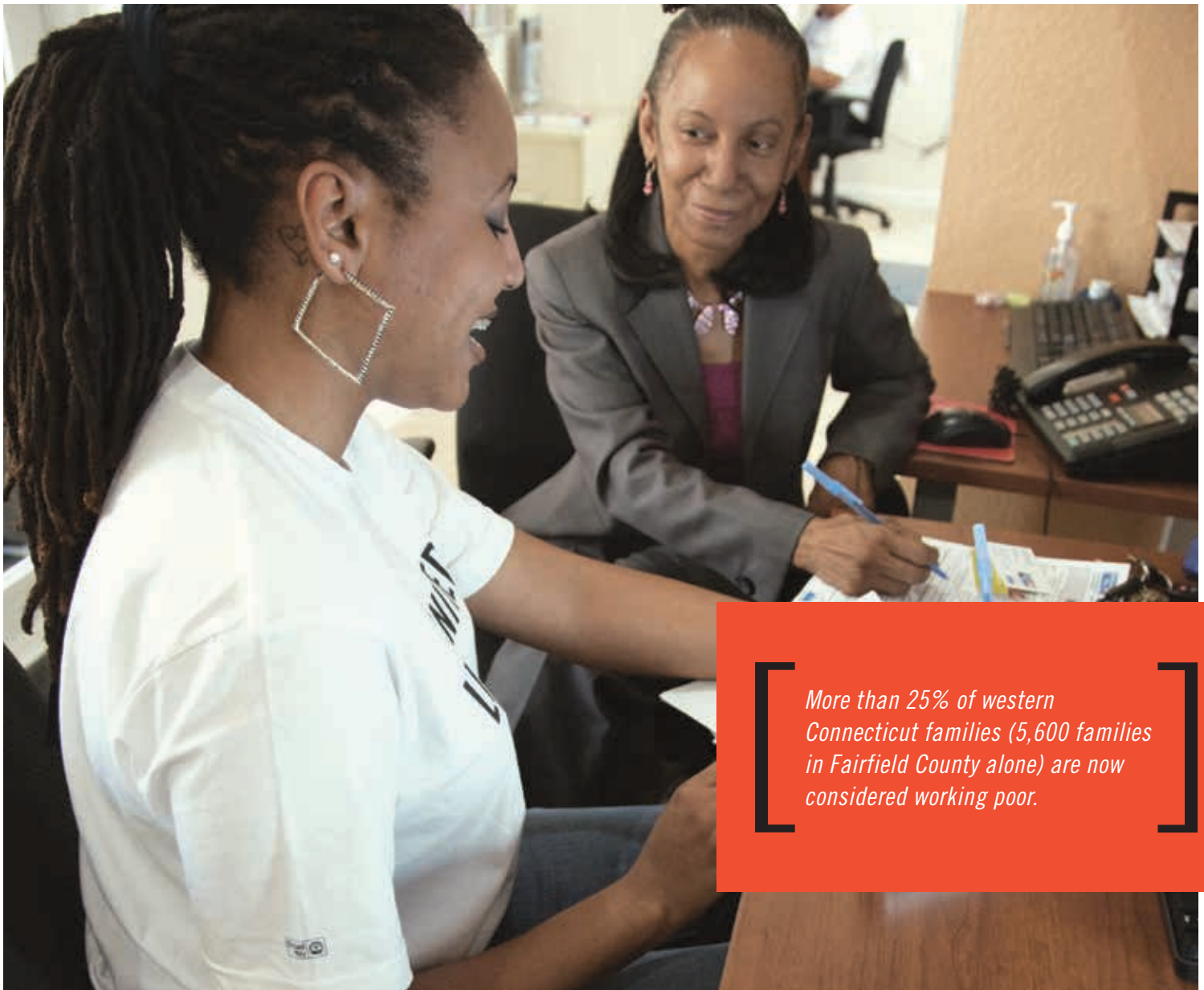
### NORTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

<b>Ability Beyond Disability</b>	Supported Independent Living	\$13,831
<b>AIDS Project Greater Danbury</b>	Rent Subsidy	\$17,304
<b>American Red Cross, Connecticut Region</b>	Emergency Services	\$11,526
<b>Amos House</b>	Amos House Transitional Living Program	\$32,747
<b>Association of Religious Communities</b>	Danbury Resettlement Emergency Aid Network	\$6,069 \$5,178
<b>Community Action Committee of Danbury</b>	Food Pantry	\$5,813
<b>Catholic Charities of Danbury</b>	Family Loan Program	\$24,635
<b>Catholic Charities of Fairfield County</b>	Morning Glory Breakfast Program	\$5,763
<b>Family &amp; Children's Aid</b>	Harmony House	\$13,714
<b>Interlude (merged with ABD as of 7/1/12)</b>	Intensive Residential Support	\$33,194
<b>Literacy Volunteers of America - Danbury</b>	Adult Teaching and Tutoring	\$8,852

<b>Renewal House</b>	Renewal House	\$7,557
<b>Ridgefield Sunrise Cottage</b>	Ridgefield Sunrise Cottage	\$4,426
<b>Salvation Army - Danbury Corp.</b>	Community Emergency Assistance	\$4,500
<b>TBICO</b>	Key Rings Security Deposit Assistance The Corporate Edge	\$15,674 \$11,065
<b>WeCAHR</b>	Advocacy for Adults with Disabilities	\$13,278
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$235,125</b>

### SOUTHERN LITCHFIELD COUNTY

<b>American Red Cross, Connecticut Region</b>	Emergency Services	\$5,000
<b>Connecticut Legal Services</b>	Legal Aid - Civil	\$3,500
<b>Literacy Volunteers on the Green</b>	Literacy (ESL) Training	\$3,500
<b>TBICO</b>	Key Rings Security Deposit Assistance The Corporate Edge Skills Training	\$2,000 \$2,500
<b>WeCAHR</b>	Advocacy for Adults with Disabilities	\$2,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$18,500</b>



*More than 25% of western Connecticut families (5,600 families in Fairfield County alone) are now considered working poor.*

**STAMFORD**

<b>Abilis</b>	Stamford Residential Services	\$19,525	<b>Literacy Volunteers - Stamford/Greenwich</b>	Bridges to Success	\$5,956
<b>ARI of Connecticut, Inc.</b>	Individualized Home Support	\$10,174		English for Speakers of Other Languages	\$13,964
<b>Catholic Charities of Fairfield County</b>	Elderly Hispanic Outreach Program	\$3,000	<b>Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern CT</b>	Affordable Housing Development	\$11,769
	New Covenant House of Hospitality	\$6,303	<b>Neighbors Link Stamford</b>	Neighbors Link Stamford	\$4,152
	Senior Neighborhood Support Services	\$6,416	<b>Person-to-Person</b>	Emergency Assistance	\$16,259
<b>Connecticut Legal Services</b>	Legal Aid - Civil	\$10,719	<b>Shelter for the Homeless</b>	Pacific House - Emergency Shelter	\$11,303
<b>Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County</b>	Food Bank	\$11,988		Workforce Development Program	\$3,963
<b>Housing Development Fund</b>	Foreclosure Intervention Counseling Program	\$12,208	<b>Women's Mentoring Network</b>	E to the 4th Power	\$3,023
<b>Inspirica (formerly St. Luke's LifeWorks)</b>	Jumpstart Education & Employment Program	\$8,039	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$176,120</b>
<b>International Institute of Connecticut</b>	Legal Immigration & Citizenship Services	\$4,529			
<b>Jewish Family Service</b>	Case Management/ Emergency Assistance	\$8,142			
	Employment Readiness Education Center	\$4,688			

# HEALTH

United Way is helping to lead health and wellness efforts in western Connecticut. Each year, we fund and support key health services, including visiting nurse and home health care, alcohol and drug treatment programs, healthy food pantries, medical clinics, hospice care, and behavior and mental health services.

Through our **STRONG HEART** initiative, we are also heading community efforts to fight the growing childhood obesity epidemic. According to estimates from Candlewood Valley Pediatrics in New Milford, Danbury Children’s Health and Wellnes Center in Danbury, and Stamford’s Pediatric Center, more than 30% of children seen at their centers are overweight or obese. If left unaddressed, childhood obesity can lead to serious medical problems, including diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

United Way is a key member of childhood health coalitions across the region: **Coalition for Healthy Kids** in Danbury, **Childhood Obesity Task Force** in Stamford, and **Healthy Communities 2020** in New Milford. These groups are generating public awareness of childhood obesity issues, encouraging families to eat right and exercise, and promoting the **5-2-1-0** Healthy Living message:



United Way is one of the main funders of Students Can Run And Move (SCRAM), a physical and nutrition after-school program at four Title 1 Danbury elementary schools that gets kids moving and eating right. Over the last year, the SCRAM program has helped 275 kids learn healthy eating and exercising habits. Since its inception in 2010, it has assisted more than 500 children and their families. Over 24-weeks, students are given healthy snacks, participate in physical fitness activities and learn about good nutrition. Through the program’s parent education component, healthy behaviors are reinforced at home.

United Way supports the “I’m Moving, I’m Learning” preschool exercise initiative at Childcare Learning Centers in Stamford. The program also includes healthy living events and workshops for parents.

In New Milford, United Way helps fund the Health Promotion Resource Center at Candlewood Valley Pediatrics, which is steering families onto healthy tracks. We also support the Sarah Noble Intermediate School Walking Project, which gets elementary students walking. According to their pedometers, the kids log over 50,000 miles every 4 weeks! The program was recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics at its October 2011 convention.

## FISCAL YEAR 2011 - 2012

### NORTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

AIDS Project Greater Danbury	Drug Treatment Advocate	\$6,637
AmeriCares	BI AmeriCares Free Clinic of Danbury	\$14,687
Association of Religious Communities	Domestic Violence Prevention System	\$8,203
Catholic Charities - Danbury	Behavioral Health Clinic	\$35,304
Connecticut Counseling Centers	Danbury Opioid Treatment	\$8,644
Connecticut Institute for Communities	Greater Danbury Community Health Center	\$9,519
Danbury Youth Services	Youth and Family Counseling Program	\$8,000
Family & Children's Aid	Child Guidance Center	\$15,386
Hispanic Center	Health Education & Prevention	\$5,711
Interfaith AIDS Ministry	The Living Pantry	\$19,582
Interlude (merged with ABD as of 7/1/12)	Intensive Residential Recovery Program	\$36,303
MCCA	Sobering Center	\$18,839
Newtown Youth & Family Services	Behavioral Health Services for Children and Adults	\$24,921





*Along with health and education leaders, we're encouraging healthier lifestyles for children — and their families — in kid friendly ways.*

<b>Regional YMCA of Western CT</b>	Activate America - Diabetes Prevention	\$3,808
<b>Western Connecticut Home Care, Inc. (formerly Danbury VNA)</b>	Home Health Care Public Health Program	\$9,791 \$9,791
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$235,126</b>

**SOUTHERN LITCHFIELD COUNTY**

<b>American Red Cross, Connecticut Region</b>	Blood Services	\$3,000
<b>Association of Religious Communities Family &amp; Children's Aid</b>	Domestic Violence Prevention System Child Guidance Center	\$5,000 \$5,000
<b>MCCA</b>	Outpatient Program - New Milford	\$2,000
<b>New Milford Hospital Behavioral Health</b>	Behavioral Health Services	\$5,000
<b>New Milford Visiting Nurse Association</b>	New Milford VNA Hospice	\$7,950
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$27,950</b>

**STAMFORD**

<b>Catholic Charities of Fairfield County Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education</b>	Behavioral Health Clinic Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Counseling Services	\$5,070 \$17,920
<b>Child Guidance Center of Southern Connecticut</b>	Promoting Healthy Emotional Functioning & Development Stabilizing Crisis & Reducing Risk	\$27,813 \$11,035
<b>Domestic Violence Crisis Center Family &amp; Children's Agency Family Centers</b>	Crisis Shelter - Safe House Services for Seniors Mental Health & Counseling School Based Health Centers Stamford Cares	\$18,838 \$7,576 \$24,089 \$26,121 \$16,090
<b>Jewish Community Center</b>	Senior Adult Program	\$1,003
<b>Kids In Crisis</b>	Adolescent Emergency Services	\$30,112
<b>Liberation Programs</b>	Liberation House Outpatient Services	\$5,015 \$3,009
<b>RF Youth Boxing</b>	After School Boxing	\$3,009
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$196,700</b>



In April 2011 and July 2012, The Volunteer Center Serving Western Connecticut and The Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County became part of United Way of Western Connecticut, respectively. For nearly 40 years, these volunteer centers had been the “go-to” community service organizers within their communities, recruiting individuals and

groups – including youth, senior citizens and skilled professionals – to give their time and talent to area nonprofit projects.

By combining The Volunteer Centers’ volunteer recruitment expertise with UWWC’s resources, the new Volunteer Center of United Way of Western Connecticut offers greater volunteer coordination capabilities. Last year we mobilized over 4,100 volunteers who donated 157,235 hours of service (worth \$4 million) at 654 sites.

Our **Volunteer Consultant Program** sent 72 professionally-skilled volunteers to 26 agencies to help them with business projects (such as marketing, IT, strategic planning and finance). In particular, 54 Western CT State University marketing students helped 11 nonprofits develop social media marketing programs. The students helped the agencies develop their online goals, policies and strategies, and produced content (Facebook posts, Tweets, video, etc.) to build their Internet presence.

Our **Seniors Add Valuable Experience (SAVE)** program connected 36 senior Danbury homeowners with volunteer activities at city agencies. Seniors were visitor greeters at City Hall and local museums, and provided clerical and maintenance assistance to city departments. In return for 100 hours of service, qualifying Seniors received up to \$600 in property tax credits.

The **Youth Volunteer Corps** engaged 107 Northern Fairfield County young people in 113 challenging, service-learning projects, including tutoring grade-schoolers, working with rescued animals, and assisting the elderly. They also collected 2200 lbs of groceries and built a Healthy Wall of Food to raise awareness of community hunger and food pantries; the food was given to the Interfaith Aids Ministry food pantry.

The **Youth Leadership Program** showed 20 New Milford high school students how they can use their skills to make a difference in their community. Among their many service projects, the students participated in the 5K Walk for Warmth and raised \$800 for the New Milford fuel bank, read to children at preschool centers, and volunteered at the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

During the holidays, The Volunteer Center worked to help make the season brighter for all through several initiatives including our *Adopt-a-family*, *The Giving Fund* in partnership with The News-Times, and *A Christmas Wish* in partnership with Cumulus Media.

**Western Connecticut Business Volunteer Council**, a coalition of area business representatives, ran holiday, spring and back-to-school drives to benefit the elderly and disadvantaged children in our community. The Holiday Fruit Basket program delivered fruit baskets to 234 area senior citizens, the Spring Buddy Basket Project assembled 1138 baskets of educational and recreational items for low-income preschool children, and the Back-to-School Drive gave 326 Danbury students sneakers, clothes and backpacks full of classroom supplies to start the school year strong.



*Maria Roessler (front) and Minnie Cruz volunteer throughout the year, and were part of a larger team of dedicated volunteers who assembled more than 1,100 Spring Buddy Baskets filled with educational and recreational items that were delivered to low-income preschool children.*



*A dedicated Pitney Bowes volunteer reads with his mentee at Stamford's Yerwood Center during The Volunteer Center's Summer Reading Program.*

Several times a year, members of **Community Volunteers in Action (CVIA)** in Stamford participate in cooking and serving a meal to about 60 men at Shelter for the Homeless. A CVIA member generously opens his home where several other members join him to prepare and cook the meal. They then transport the meals to Shelter for the Homeless where another 3-4 members serve. The meal of salad, macaroni and meatballs, garlic bread and brownies for dessert was a hit!

On September 27th and 28th, **The Volunteer Center** coordinated more than 30 Stamford-based **Nestle Waters North America** employees as they constructed large wooden recycling bins that were later donated to three non-profits in the Stamford community. The Volunteer Center worked with the Points of Light Foundation to arrange a team-building project for employee volunteers that focused on Nestle Waters' desire to promote recycling. On each morning of the project, employee volunteers in teams of two and three built wooden recycling bins from scratch. Their colleagues completed the project by sanding and painting the bins during the afternoon shift. In total, 10 bins were constructed and delivered to Childcare Learning Centers (CLC), Domus and Cloonan Middle School.

The day was a great success from the standpoint of both employees and the receiving non-profits. Employees reported in large numbers that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with their colleagues in a non-work setting. The non-profits appreciated the gift of the bins as a means to re-energize recycling in their school settings.

**Volunteer Recognition Day** in Stamford was held to honor a number of volunteers for their commitment to service at area non-profits. The awards honored youth volunteers, senior volunteers and group volunteers for their dedication to the community.

In August, *Back to School Clothes for Kids*, a project of the **Workplace Volunteer Council** of The Volunteer Center of United Way of Western Connecticut, supplied 88 students from Northeast Elementary School in Stamford with clothing and school supplies. This support was generously funded by 16 local companies.



*Noemi Berkoff, Northeast Elementary School staff member and longtime volunteer, assists in unloading school supplies and clothes for our annual Back to School Clothes for Kids Drive.*

# HURRICANE SANDY AND SANDY HOOK RECOVERY EFFORTS

*During late 2012, two tragedies struck our region.*

**In October, Hurricane Sandy hit New England and left a path of destruction in her wake. United Way was there to help:**

Our 2-1-1 hotline handled 17,500 storm-related calls to connect people to basic and relief services, such as food, shelter and utility assistance.

Residents called United Way to offer their time and support to storm-ravaged neighbors. The Volunteer Center coordinated and facilitated projects.

We tapped our numerous community and business contacts to organize Basic Needs drives (for such critical items as diapers, food and toiletries) and storm clean-up projects.

We were asked by Union Savings Bank and the leaders of several area towns to oversee and administer the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. The monies were used to help offset damage costs not covered by insurance and government agencies.



In December, as the tragedy in Sandy Hook Elementary School unfolded, United Way was called upon to provide support services and assistance, and help the Newtown community begin a challenging road to recovery:

In partnership with Newtown Savings Bank, we established the Sandy Hook School Support Fund as a trusted vehicle for individuals, businesses and organizations to make contributions. As of early February 2013, the fund had received over \$9 million in donations from around the world; neither United Way nor Newtown Savings Bank will charge the fund with administrative or management fees so 100% of the contributions can go to meet the long-term needs of the Newtown community.

A Transition Team with representation from the Town of Newtown, School Board, Newtown Savings Bank and United Way was formed to create a foundation to oversee the Sandy Hook School Support Fund. Former Senator Joe Lieberman agreed to serve as an adviser to the Transition Team, providing important guidance and critical counsel.

As of mid-February, the Transition Team was appointing community members to manage this new foundation and administer the monies with input from the Newtown community. We anticipate that the Sandy Hook School Fund will be utilized for many years to come as Newtown residents, families, students and first responders continue to recover and move forward from this tragedy.

We helped Newtown set up a volunteer/call center to help the town handle the flood of calls, donations and offers of aid from around the world. Within 24 hours of the town's request, we arranged for the center to have phones, computers, printers and high speed Internet connection, all through donated products and services. We also provided a volunteer coordinator to assist in streamlining donation intake and volunteer management.



United Way established the Sandy Hook Immediate Needs fund to address pressing income, education, health and community concerns. United Way directed \$250,000 to Sandy Hook families' and first responders' financial hardship issues, community mental health needs, a regional-wide vigil and children's programs at the Newtown Youth Academy.

United Way joined the Connecticut Department of Mental Health, Newtown Police, Danbury Hospital and the Red Cross in meetings with the FBI Victim's Assistance Program to help set up a Coordinating Council. This Council met several times in the days and weeks after the tragedy to ensure sufficient counseling services were available in Newtown and continues to meet regularly.

United Way helped Newtown Youth and Family Services — which has led the Sandy Hook counseling efforts — grow to accommodate additional staff and counselors. United Way secured additional computers for the agency's expanded space and connected them with communities across the country that have experienced similar tragedies to learn best practices from their mental health professionals.

We convened weekly conference calls with area nonprofits to discuss the greater area's needs in the wake of the tragedy. The calls gave the agencies a chance to compare notes with their professional colleagues and serve as a forum to ask for additional resources and assistance from each other as they aided their constituents.

We are humbled and honored to help the Newtown community manage through this tragedy and its aftermath.



# DAY OF ACTION





In June 2012, 870 employees from 36 companies completed more than 60 projects at 50 human services agencies across Northern Fairfield County, Southern Litchfield County and Stamford.

Tasks ranged from painting and repairing facilities, to establishing walking trails and refurbishing gardens, to reading with children at local preschools. Based on the value of volunteerism according to The Independent Sector, more than \$150,000 worth of time and services were donated! In addition to these volunteer efforts, local businesses donated thousands of dollars worth of materials and supplies.

Day of Action allows nonprofit agencies to direct valuable, limited resources to its clients and programs rather than necessary but costly maintenance projects and repairs.



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## STAMFORD COMMUNITY AWARDS LUNCHEON, APRIL 2012



Sandro Brelomme, an employee of Yerwood Center, pays tribute to Eugene Campbell, Executive Director of the center as Mr. Campbell is honored with the Advocate Award. These kinds of special events allow United Way to publicly recognize those who have gone above and beyond in their communities while inspiring others to follow their lead.

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
 Due to the timeframe represented in this report, 2012/2013 donors are not listed. They will be included in a future report.

This list was prepared with great care to ensure the accuracy of contributor information. Should any errors or omissions be found, please contact the United Way office so that we may extend our apologies and make corrections for the future. Thank you.

### Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2012	2011	2010
Cash and Investments	4,577,425	4,661,974	5,640,996
Promises to Give & Other Receivables	909,899	773,995	690,919
Land, Building and Equipment, Net	694,138	794,481	829,395
Amounts Raised on Behalf of Others	380,638	283,948	302,057
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,562,100</b>	<b>6,514,398</b>	<b>7,463,367</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Liabilities

Accounts Payable	346,645	316,282	272,480
Community Grants Payable	1,513,489	1,529,850	2,290,074
Amounts Raised on Behalf of Others	380,638	283,948	302,057
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,240,772</b>	<b>2,130,080</b>	<b>2,864,611</b>

#### Net Assets

##### Unrestricted

Land, Building and Equipment, Net	694,138	794,481	829,395
Board Designated	3,213,906	3,023,949	3,341,488
Undesignated	358,815	523,527	319,753
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>4,266,859</b>	<b>4,341,957</b>	<b>4,490,636</b>

##### Temporarily Restricted

<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>4,321,328</b>	<b>4,384,318</b>	<b>4,598,756</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>6,562,100</b>	<b>6,514,398</b>	<b>7,463,367</b>
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### Statement of Activities

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT	2012	2011	2010
Campaign Revenue	4,170,391	4,084,325	4,602,787
Contributions and Grants	1,175,814	1,163,085	1,612,008
Investment, In-Kind and Other	1,182,438	258,237	287,455
<b>Total Support Revenue</b>	<b>6,528,643</b>	<b>5,505,647</b>	<b>6,502,250</b>

### COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS, OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

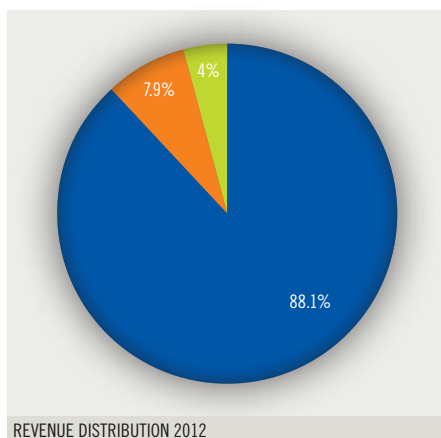
Community Impact Grants & Other Distributions	3,062,523	2,398,005	3,559,502
Community Impact Programs and Shared Services	2,692,403	2,436,948	2,343,409
Supporting Services	836,707	885,132	700,168
<b>Total Grants and Other Distributions</b>	<b>6,591,633</b>	<b>5,720,085</b>	<b>6,603,079</b>

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	4,384,318	4,598,756	4,699,585
Change in Net Assets	(62,990)	(214,438)	(100,829)
<b>Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>4,321,328</b>	<b>4,384,318</b>	<b>4,598,756</b>

### PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE USED IN SUPPORT SERVICES (FORM 990)

	2012	2011	2010
Total Revenue <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	6,441,646	5,208,528	6,150,703
Management and General Expenses	259,429	428,917	308,262
Fundraising Expenses	509,665	443,502	381,181

(1) Net of unrealized gains, rental income and in-kind donations. (2) FY 2012 includes \$868,777 gain on the sale of the Stamford building.



- COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS, PROGRAMS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS
- MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL EXPENSES
- FUNDRAISING



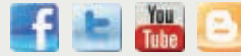
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