

UNITED WAY OF MILFORD

20 Evergreen Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

**Our Mission
is to
Strengthen
and Enhance
Community
and Family
Life.**

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United Way



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Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2012



From the Desk of the President ...

The United Way Campaign is almost over and we are at 92% of our goal of \$900,000. NOW is the time to talk to your neighbors, friends, and coworkers about all the good work that the United Way of Milford does in our community. You might, for instance, point out the many agencies the United Way supports – like the Beth El Center, Bridges, the Rape Crisis Center, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters– and the incredibly valuable work they do.

You might ask if they have ever benefitted from the services of such organizations as the Woodruff Family YMCA, the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, or the Milford Senior Center.

You could add that the United Way cares about the future of our city and its next generation and supports organizations like Kids Count of Milford, the Boys and Girls Club, Milford's Promise, and the Young Parent Program of Milford. And you can tell them that here at the United Way we are always looking for new ways to meet our city's needs through programs like the Juvenile Justice Diversion Program and the Healthy Baby Diaper Drive.

Once you've told your friends, neighbors, and coworkers about how important and vital the work of the United Way is, let them know the time to make a contribution is NOW. The campaign ends March 31. By giving to the United Way we can make our city a better place to live. A contribution to the United Way of Milford is an investment in our community.



FamilyWise Saves Milford Residents

Thousands of prescriptions go unfilled simply because they are too expensive to fill. But free FamilyWise prescription discount cards, provided by the United Way of Milford, address this problem. Last year, this partnership saved residents \$159,156 by cutting the cost of medicines an average of 35 percent.

"More and more we're finding that the high price of medicine means that people have to make a choice. They

can either fill a prescription or put food on the table and keep a roof over their head," says Gary Johnson, President of the United Way of Milford. "FamilyWise free prescription cards save an average of \$20 per prescription. Those savings often mean the difference between taking a medicine or skipping it."

FamilyWise prescription cards are accepted at 95% of pharmacies nationwide, including all major chains. The service is free, does not require enrollment or personal information, and is available to anyone. Cards are available at the United Way of Milford or can be downloaded at www.FamilyWise.org.

United Way
envision a
world where all
individuals and
families achieve
their human
potential
through
education,
income stability
and healthy
lives.

UNITED WAY OF MILFORD Welcomes New Board Members



Kevin J. Curseaden practices in the areas of land use and zoning, residential and commercial real estate, civil litigation, family law and estate planning for the law firm Carroll, Curseaden & Moore. As a Major in the United States Army Reserve, he served a 16 month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and a 7 month deployment to Kosovo. During his tours of duty, Kevin was a Team Leader for Civil Affairs Teams working directly with the United Nations, international forces, and the local populace and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster for his actions in Iraq. He is active in the Milford community, serving on various non-profit boards and providing pro bono legal services to those organizations. Kevin is off to Jordan for another mission in March.



After joining the U.S. Marine Corps and serving overseas, **Philip J. Vetro** returned to this area where he started his own construction business, Vetro Construction, in 1974. He has been a member of the Point Beach Volunteer Fire Department since 1974, and currently serves as captain. An active member of the Milford Chamber of Commerce since 1986, he has also served several terms on the Planning and Zoning Board. He was elected to the Board of Aldermen in 2003, which he currently serves as Chairman of the Board. He is active on the Milford Democratic Town Committee and serves on the Executive Board as an active fundraiser. He and his wife Peggi have been married over 42 years and have 2 sons and 4 grandchildren.

The United Way of Milford would like to thank those members of the Board of Directors who have completed their terms for their many years of service: David DeRubeis, Cody White, Inc.; Karen Dobosz, Shoreline Physical Therapy; Rick George, City of Milford Animal Control; Carrie Jayne, Carrie Travel; Richard Meisenheimer, Spectrum Associates; and Greta Stanford, retired educator.

February 11 (2/11) marked National United Way 2-1-1 Awareness Day. In Connecticut, United Way 211 handled 390,000 calls in 2011 resulting in 525,000 requests from individuals and families looking for connection to services. Callers to 211 will reach a degreed, highly trained call specialist who can help them prioritize their needs and explore available programs and make referrals for services that will fit their needs. Call specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; calls to 211 are confidential. Information is also available at the 211 website, www.211ct.org.



INVEST
IN
YOUR
COMMUNITY

CHAMPION
THE
CAUSE

GIVE
YOUR
TIME



SAVE THE DATE

Community Builders Awards Luncheon

April 25, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Costa Azzurra Restaurant

Please join us as we celebrate those individuals whose work and service strengthens our community and our campaign supporters whose investments in United Way help make lasting change. To nominate an individual for a Community Builders Award please call the United Way at (203) 874-6791 to request a nomination form.

Milford's 4th Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), a collaborative effort between the Milford

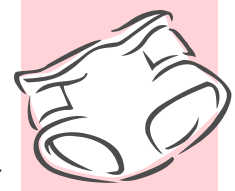


Health Department, Milford Public Schools, the United Way of Milford, and Kids Count of Milford, began this past January. PLTI was developed by the State of Connecticut's Commission on Children to enable parents to become leading advocates for children. Cornerstones of the program are respect, validation, and a belief that when the tools of democracy are understood the public will actively engage in civic life. PLTI students participate in an 18 week program designed to provide the civic and leadership skills needed to work in the community on behalf of children. Participants also complete a community pro-

ject that contributes to the well-being of Milford's children. This year's participants are Colleen Berry, Joyce Carloto, Lindsay Carlson, Eamteong Chay, Richard Ferrari, Talina Galvez, Beth Granger, August Harrigan, Tracey Irby, Tori Lawlor, Jen Mino-Scopp, Nuha Musallam, Jane Mirmina, Kelly Nealy, Pat Pritchard, Marie Romano, Kerry Sciuto, Christine Sarel, Jessica Theisen, and Larissa Watt. For more information about the program, contact PLTI coordinator Lesley Darling at the Milford Health Department (203) 783-3314.

Women with United Vision Announces Healthy Baby Diaper Drive

Women with United Vision, a women's initiative of the United Way of Milford, plans to collect 10,000 diapers during the month of March as part of their Healthy Baby Diaper Drive. The diapers will be distributed to local Milford families through United Way agencies and the Department of Human Services.



"Many struggling families cannot afford sufficient quantities of diapers for their children," Darcy Ellis, co-chair of WUV said. "And since daycare facilities require parents to supply their own diapers, lack of diapers becomes an obstacle for working parents. Diapers cannot be purchased with food stamps or through the WIC federal program and can cost families an average of \$100 per month."

Melissa Wunder, chairperson of WUV's Healthy Baby Diaper Drive and PTA Council Vice President, has been working to involve Milford area schools in this project. "We are thrilled to have so many schools participating," Wunder said. "The principals and PTAs are committed to helping Milford families in need."

Additionally, several local businesses have agreed to serve as collection points and to encourage their employees and customers to contribute. Diapers can be dropped off at the following locations: ShopRite of Milford, Super Stop and Shop on East Town Road, Woodruff Family YMCA, GE Federal Credit Union, IKON Office Solutions, Turner Construction, Sand Castle Learning Center, Trixie Salon, and Milford Public Schools. For more information or to become involved in the Healthy Baby Diaper Drive contact the United Way of Milford at (203) 874-6791.

**UNITED
WAY
DOLLARS
MAKE
A
DIFFERENCE!**

City of Milford Juvenile Justice Diversion Program



Pictured are (l to r): Gary Johnson, President, United Way of Milford; Lisa Diamond Graham, Executive Director, Department of Human Services/ Youth and Family Services, City of Milford; and Chief Keith Mello, Chief of Police, Milford Police Department

The City of Milford Juvenile Justice Diversion Program begins this month. The program, funded by the United Way, is a collaboration between the Milford Police Department and Milford Youth and Family Services and is designed to divert Milford juveniles who have committed a first time, non-violent offense away from the Juvenile Justice System while providing them an opportunity to develop responsibility and accountability, increase problem resolution skills, and strengthen family relationships. The juvenile would attend 5 meetings, four with a Marriage and Family Therapist and a Police Officer to explore present challenges in the juvenile's life and healthy solutions. The final meeting is a family assessment with the juvenile, family, and the therapist. Upon completion of the program, the arrest will be cleared and continued services will be available if needed. The program is at no cost to the participant or the family.



Girl Scouts of Connecticut will be visiting Hartford on Wed. March 7 for Girl Scout Day at the Capitol where they will have the opportunity to visit local legislators and discuss issues important to them. The day will also highlight Girl Scouts of CT's commitment to educational opportunities for girls, especially in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields (STEM).

The Kennedy Center presents their 6th Annual Magic Moments event on March 24th at the Quick Center for the Arts at

Fairfield University. The event will begin with a cocktail party at 6:30 featuring Moët and Chandon champagne, international food stations, and wines and spirits. At 8:30 a concert will be performed by recording artist Ben Taylor, talented son of Carly Simon and James Taylor. A Black Box After-Party immediately follows at 10 p.m. with a meet-and-greet with Ben Taylor. Ticket prices are \$250 for the entire evening, \$125 (concert and cocktail party), and \$50 (concert only). Proceeds benefit The Kennedy Center's Autism Project. For more information, go to <http://www.thekennedycenterinc.org/giving/events/magic-moments.html> or call The Kennedy Center at (203) 365-8522 ext. 216.

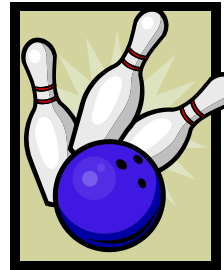
THE KENNEDY CENTER

LIVE UNITED. UNITED WAY OF MILFORD

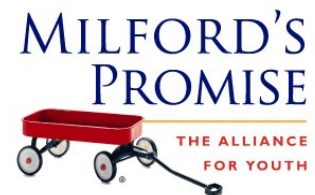


Information on mental health /social service agencies and veteran's benefits will be available Monday, March 16 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Milford Library. Representatives from Bridges, Veterans Administration, Rape Crisis Center of Milford, the Beth-El Center, and more will be on hand. Free food and giveaways!

Boy Scouts of America, Connecticut Yankee Council will honor three local women whose leadership to their communities helps to inspire future generations of young people. Honorees include Lissette Andino, Public Affairs Coordinator of Southern Connecticut Gas Co. and President of the Greater Bridgeport Latino Network; Meredith Reuben, CEO of Eastern Bag and Paper, a family owned and operated business since 1918 and the largest paper distributor in the northeast; and Gail Solis, Executive Director of the Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce. The event will be at Testo's Ristorante Thursday, March 8 from 6 - 8 pm in Bridgeport. For more information contact Elsie Hemmings at elsie.hemmings@scouting.org or (203) 876-6868 ext. 244.



Big Brothers Big Sister's annual Bowl for Kids' Sake will be held on Saturday, April 28 at Milford AMF Lanes. Sign up to bowl at noon, 2 , or 4 p.m. For details go to www.bbbsswct.org or call (203) 366-3766.



BECOME A MENTOR!

Do you have 1 free hour a week?
Are you looking to make a difference in the life of a child in Milford?

Milford's Promise is looking for mentors to meet with a child 1 hour per week during the day in the elementary schools or after school at the Boys and Girls Club. For more information, please contact Danielle Dumont at danielle.dumont@ymail.com or (203) 490-9160.



Walk A
Mile
In Her Shoes:

The Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault, and Gender Violence

To benefit the Rape Crisis Center of Milford
All Walkers Welcome
Sunday, April 29: Noon check-in, 1 pm Walk
Starts and ends at Lisman's Landing with complimentary refreshments at the Stonebridge Restaurant

For more information or to register, go to www.rapecrisisctr.org or call (203) 874-8712

THANK YOU
FOR INSPIRING HOPE
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED 

UNITED
WAY
PARTNERING
TO
HELP
MEET
CRITICAL
NEEDS

MILFORD SENIOR CENTER MARCH EVENTS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am to 12 pm: Free tax preparation with AARP Tax Guide. Call for an appointment.

Mar. 2 at 1:15: Movie ("The Help") followed by ice cream social.

Mar. 12 at 10:30 am: Low Vision Group meeting.

Mar 12, 11 am to 4 pm: Super Bingo with lunch break 1 to 2 pm.

Mar. 12, 4 to 5 pm: Line dancing (call program director Mary Steinmetz (203) 877-5131 to register).

Mar. 14, 9:15 am to 1:15 pm: AARP Driving Course (call Frank at (203) 929-7487 to register).

Mar. 16, 1 to 3:30 pm: St. Patrick's Day Dance. Corned beef dinner catered by Lasse's and music by Vinnie Carr. Tickets \$15; call Mary Steinmetz to register.

Mar. 25, 9 am to 12 pm: Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. Call Senior Center for tickets (\$4 adults, \$2 children).

Mar 26, 11 am to 4 pm: Super Bingo with lunch break 12 to 1 pm.

Mar. 28, at 1:15: The Note Ables, Milford Senior Center's band, will perform a concert. (Linda Whittaker, band teacher, is looking for a bass instrument, baritone sax, bass guitar, string bass or a keyboardist to play bass clef. Call Mary Steinmetz or Linda Whittaker at (203) 877-2134 if interested.)

THE UNITED WAY OF MILFORD HELPED US

When Tropical Storm Irene struck
our neighborhood was
devastated.

The Jamieson family lost everything in their basement under almost five feet of water. Every time the kids asked for something, Debbie, mother of seven, found herself saying, "It's all gone." Without heat and hot water for 33 days, Debbie said, "The neighborhood came together, neighbors helping neighbors. With help from United Way we were able to replace the kids' clothes, boots, winter coats, even school supplies." Husband Gerard expressed gratitude for the support from the local community following Tropical Storm Irene. Debbie continued, "We are very thankful to the United Way of Milford for helping our family. They were there for us when we really needed help."



LIVE UNITED. UNITED WAY OF MILFORD

REACH OUT A HAND
TO ONE AND
INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.