

United Way of Sullivan County 2010 Update

Mission: To mobilize the caring power of our community through participation in fundraising, volunteerism, advocacy, education and partnerships for the purpose of improving lives and building a strong and vital Sullivan County.

2010

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MOVING AHEAD IN TOUGH TIMES

Without a doubt, 2010 was a challenging year in counties across the state and throughout the nation. Residents of Sullivan County, one of the poorest counties in New York State, had an especially difficult time. Poverty, homelessness, unemployment, budget cuts, and diminishing resources all played a role. United Way of Sullivan County worked hard to do more with less and remains committed to addressing the needs of local residents through collaborations and partnerships that will ultimately lead to lasting positive changes in our community and measurable differences in the lives of the people who live here.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT & COMMUNITY IMPACT

In 2010, United Way of Sullivan County conducted a Community Needs Assessment Survey to determine the most critical needs in our community. The results of

the survey will be used to determine the allocation of resources and our support for new and existing Community Impact Projects.

The population surveyed included key people in agencies and organizations that were split into the following categories: elected officials, educators, health care providers, religious/spiritual leaders, social services, law enforcement, and private business.

The survey focused on the health and social problems impacting Sullivan County residents and determined that three major issues exist in Sullivan County. The county has a large number of unemployed and low-wage workers, lacks public transportation and is impacted by substance abuse. The results showed that the community also feels that these same three problems need the most urgent attention. Barriers to service include the lack of knowledge about existing services and the lack of transportation to attain services. Children and teens need activi-



ties on weekends and educational programs that will allow them to practice Internet and cell phone safety. The survey also determined that gang activity and personal safety must be addressed.

The survey findings will be utilized as our United Way moves forward with Community Impact funding. For more information or a copy of the survey, please contact our office.

United Way of Sullivan County, like many United Ways nationwide, is venturing in a new direction in regard to the funding of local programs and services. This new direction is based on both guidelines from United Way Worldwide, and the results

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of our Community Needs Assessment Survey. Going forward, programs funded by United Way will focus primarily on Education, Income and Health, which we believe are the building blocks for a good life. More specifically, beginning in 2011, funding will be directed toward areas identified by our Community Needs Assessment Survey, with special attention given to programs that fall within the three areas of primary focus. (See the blue box on the right.)

United Way of Sullivan County will entertain grant requests from organizations that are qualified as tax-exempt by the **IRS** under **Section 501(c)(3)**. Requests from any Health and Human Service Or-

2011 Impact Area:
Helping Children & Youth Succeed
 Keep youth actively engaged in physical and social activities
 Help youth avoid unsafe activities and behaviors

2012 Impact Area
Fostering Financial Stability & Self-Sufficiency
 Assist individuals and families as they move toward financial independence
 Help individuals and families improve their standard of living
 Help individuals and families build financial assets

2013 Impact Area
Health & Well-being
 Help secure health care coverage and promote disease prevention activities

ganizations within Sullivan County, New York, serving Sullivan County residents will be eligible provided they meet grant criteria. Organizations must have a paid Executive Director; community based Board of Directors; and agencies with an annual

budget more than \$100,000, must provide an audit prepared by an independent CPA. Please visit our website at **unitedwayofsullivan-county.org** for more information about applying for a community impact grant. In 2011

Project Care is about brightening the holidays for those in need..

PROJECT CARE: SULLIVAN COMMUNITY STEPS FORWARD TO MEET GROWING NEED

United Way of Sullivan County begins making preparations in early Fall each year to assure that families and children in need are not overlooked during the holiday season. In 2010, the troubled Sullivan County economy continued to challenge the mission and goals of Project Care. With collaboration from Monticello High School and several community businesses, we succeeded in distributing 241 food baskets for Thanksgiving.

The community collaboration continued through

the end of the year as we conducted our Dreidel and Snowman gift program. This year, the community effort succeeded in attracting the help of several new supporting partners, which helped United Way of Sullivan County distribute holiday gifts to more than 2,500 children.

An additional holiday effort, the Adopt-A-Family Program, provided 21 local families in crisis with holiday packages that included meals, family gifts and toys.

Bottom Right: Peter Ferraro of Stow Mini-Storage presents turkeys to United Way of Sullivan County for Project Care.



Above: volunteer: Maureen DeGroat prepares holiday gifts.



UNITED WAY SUPPORTS SULLIVAN COUNTY TRIAD TO HELP SENIORS

United Way of Sullivan County is a participating member of Sullivan County TRIAD, a partnership of senior representatives, law enforcement and senior advocates from more than twenty area agencies. TRIAD's mission is to prevent elder abuse and to work to maintain and improve the quality of life for Sullivan County senior citizens.

In 2010 United Way of Sullivan County provided

\$1,500 to fund the printing of more than 1200 LIFE FILES for distribution to Sullivan County seniors. The LIFE FILE assists seniors by organizing their important estate matters, summarizing their legal, financial and insurance information, and helping them plan ahead, as well as assisting their survivors by acting as a central place to find vital information.



Above: Sullivan County TRIAD presents flowers and a certificate of thanks to Kaytee Warren (left), Chief Professional Officer of United Way of Sullivan County. Center is Debbie Allen, director of Office for the Aging and Bonnie J. Lewis, RN (right) of the Caregiver Resource Center Coordinator at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan.

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN EVENT HELPS RESIDENTS IN NEED



Scott Dorn (right), of Rock Hill, presents a check for \$610 to Kaytee Warren, Chief Professional Officer of United Way of Sullivan County. The check represents the proceeds of a Halloween event staged by Scott and his wife, Cheryl. Their

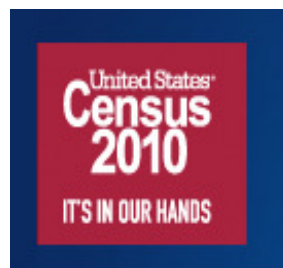
annual display, now in its sixth year, is undertaken both in the name of good clean fun and a genuine desire to help others. This year's event provided \$610 to United Way of Sullivan County's Urgent Assistance Fund to help local residents through tough times.

TRIAD's mission is to prevent elder abuse and improve the quality of life for Sullivan County seniors

EVERYONE COUNTS : UNITED WAY OF SULLIVAN COUNTY SERVES AS A CENSUS ASSISTANCE CENTER

From March 19 through April 19, United Way of Sullivan County served as a Questionnaire Assistance Center site for the 2010 United States Census. The walk-in center was made available to help those who had questions about the census or who needed language assistance or other help in filling out the ques-

tionnaire. For those who did not read or speak English well, centers were equipped with guides in 59 languages. Large-print questionnaires for the visually impaired and TTD for the hearing impaired were available upon request.



THE ANNUAL BRC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Bob Rosen Classic was held on August 13, 2010 and netted \$26,250 for the ongoing operations of United Way of Sullivan County. The tournament brings together business leaders, golf lovers and supporters for a wonderful day of golf, while raising funds to support United Way of Sullivan County. Equally important, the event honors the memory of the late Bob Rosen, who loved the game of golf and the Sullivan County community where he lived and worked.

the third year in a row and tied the course record, shooting a 64. The first place net winning team was John DeForest, Pro of Roundout Country Club, with amateurs Dennis Swauger, Mike Miller and Steve Cunnion. In addition to winning overall first place in the ProAm, John Stoltz also took first place gross with his team of Marvin Newberg, Gregg Semenetz, Jr. and Gregg Semenetz, Sr.



Photo Caption: Nathana Rosen presents first place winner John Stoltz, with the coveted bronze trophy, awarded in honor of her late husband. Julian Dawson, administrative assistant at United Way of Sullivan County looks on.

Golf professional, John Stoltz, from Kiamesha Lake, took first place for



KELLY MCNAMARA OF TRI-VALLEY SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE 1st ANNUAL BOB ROSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Above:: Jeremiah Rosen presents Kelly McNamara of Tri-Valley with the First Annual Bob Rosen Memorial Scholarship Award at the BRC Golf Classic at Villa Roma on August 13th.

Kelly McNamara, a graduate of Tri-Valley High School, at the Award's Party for its annual ProAm Golf Classic on Friday, August 13th at Villa Roma Country Club in Callicoon, NY. The five hundred dollar scholarship was open to graduating students in all Sullivan County school districts and was awarded on the basis of a combination of GPA, extracurricular activities, community service, athletic participation, character references and a 500-word essay.

attending Alfred University this fall to major in history and has also been recruited to play on their Women's Basketball Team. "Kelly embodies all of the characteristics we looked for in our scholarship recipient, and having met her, I'm confident that our committee made an excellent choice," said Nathana Rosen, United Way Board Member and wife of the late Bob Rosen.

United Way of Sullivan County presented its First Annual Bob Rosen Memorial Scholarship to

McNamara graduated Tri-Valley High School with honors and was named class Valedictorian. She will be



"If heaven doesn't have golf, I'm not going."

The late Bob Rosen

NOT ONE MORE! Help save the lives of teen drivers!

Car accidents are the leading cause of teen deaths. In view of this sobering fact, United Way of Sullivan County and Sullivan County BOCES began working with other interested partners to establish a Not One More Committee for Sullivan County. As part of the program, the group will be working to build awareness, develop a comprehensive curriculum and purchase driving simulators that can be shared by Sullivan County School Districts.

In 2010, United Way of Sullivan County established a fund to help purchase three driving simulators, which cost approximately \$11,000 each, including the required software. An initial United Way contribution started the fund off with \$2,800.

Driving simulators, similar to the one shown, create realistic driving scenarios that allow inexperienced drivers to practice handling hazardous situations in a safe and controlled

environment so they can develop good skills and habits.



WE GAVE A PARTY AND NOBODY CAME



Our Make Believe Tea Party was big hit and no one had to leave home

to support it..

The invitation said it all:

No, we're not plotting a tax revolt in Boston Harbor. We're not setting the table for Alice and the Mad Hatter. And you won't need pearls or white gloves to attend. All you'll need is a genuine desire to help your neighbors in need.

It's been a tough year for many of our residents.

And the people who count on us are also counting on you!

There's no need to dress up and no place to drive.

Just use the enclosed tea bag to join us for tea as we welcome In the first day of summer.

The non-event raised \$1,250.

Car accidents are the #1 cause of teen deaths..

WARDROBES FOR WORK PRESENTS WORKSHOPS TO ASSIST JOB SEEKERS

In 2010, Wardrobes for Work, a joint venture of businesses and human service organizations, operating under the auspices of United Way of Sullivan County, continued to offer workshops at Sullivan Works OneStop Center in Monticello to help job seekers put their best foot forward on interviews and in the workplace.

Beverly Paige, of Sullivan

County Community College, showed participants how to look professional on a limited budget. "It's a fact of life," said Paige, "first impressions really do make a difference and appropriate attire on the job is a key factor to your success."

With assistance from the Wardrobes for Work staff, Paige takes participants through a typical week,

demonstrating how just a few basic pieces can be turned into a working wardrobe.

Since 2001, Wardrobes for Work, has been providing proper work attire to individuals seeking or maintaining employment. Until recently, individuals needed to

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WARDROBES FOR WORK continued from page 5

be enrolled in a county work program to qualify. In an effort to serve more people, Wardrobes for Work is now open one day a week to anyone needing proper business attire. Men and women who need clothing for work may come to Wardrobes for Work at 33 Lakewood Avenue in Monticello on Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to select clothing. There is no charge for the clothing, so indi-

viduals in need should not let the lack of appropriate attire stand between them and a successful employment experience.

The program welcomes donations of work attire for men and women that are clean, in good condition, and preferably on hangers. To make a donation, please call 845-794-1771. All sizes are needed, as are shoes, hosiery and accessories. Donations of dry cleaning and hairdressing services are also very

much needed and appreci-



Above: Beverly Paige (right) talks to job seekers at Sullivan Works OneStop Center about proper work attire. Patricia Reeds (left) assists.

ated.

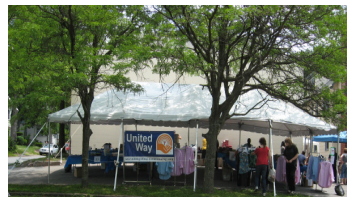
*Giant Spring
Flea Market & Garage Sale*

On June 5, 2010 United Way of Sullivan County held its first Giant Spring Flea Market and Garage Sale, offering new and like new house wares, furnishing, hardware, small appliances, sports equipment, clothing, shoes and more.

The sale gave many local residents the opportunity to

purchase needed items at a fraction of retail price and raised more than \$3,500 for local programs and services. The event was made possible by major sponsors, Kohl's Mamakating Distribution Center and WSUL & WVOS Radio, as well as many local businesses and individuals. Plans are in

the works to make the Flea Market and Garage Sale an annual event.



Above: Giant Spring Flea Market & Garage Sale

The lack of proper attire shouldn't stand between job seekers and a successful employment experience.

United Way Sponsors Financial Workshops



On September 20th, United Way of Sullivan County sponsored two workshops at BOCES St. John Street Education Center in Monticello to help low and moderate-income residents bet-

ter understand their personal finances and handle the challenges of a declining economy. The classes, Money Management & Making Ends Meet, were presented by Sean Welsh of Cornell Cooperative Extension. They were well received and attended by 35

individuals, who received \$10 Shoprite gift cards, compliments of United Way.

ONGOING SERVICES

In addition to taking on new initiatives designed to address community needs, much of our work in 2010 continued to be dedicated to ongoing services that assisted local residents day to day and raised funds to continue our operations, programs and services. United Way of Sullivan County conducts an **annual fundraising campaign** to solicit corporate and individual gifts, as well as employee payroll contributions. We continue to participate in the governance and support of **Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1**, and the annual facilitation of **Project Care** and the **National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive**. In addition, we attend to the daily management of the **Wardrobes For Work Program** and the **United Way Clothing Closets**.

United Way of Sullivan County administers the local **Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program**. With input from our local Emergency Food and Shelter Board, the

funds are distributed to local agencies, churches and synagogues that provide assistance to those in need. In 2010, \$61,000 of Emergency Food and Shelter assistance was distributed in Sullivan County.

The organization also acts as the Fiscal Agent for the **CCSI Fund** for Sullivan County. CCSI is a program designed to reduce the number of unnecessary residential placements of children with serious emotional and/or behavioral problems.

Since 2009, United Way of Sullivan County has also taken on the role of fiscal agent for the **R4 Patient Fund**, which assists those battling Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hoedgkin's disease and Myeloma by helping to pay uncovered medical expenses.

The organization administers the SEFA (State Employees Federated Appeal) Campaign for Ulster and Sullivan Counties, which

raised more than \$148,000 in 2010 for not-for-profit agencies in both counties.

The organization continues to provide low-cost rental space to five other not-for-profit organizations at our building in Monticello. We also provides free use of our Gymnastics Building to the Monticello Gymnastics Club, which serves more than 130 local young people, providing both recreation and training.

United Way of Sullivan County is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and operates solely on what the organization raises through its campaign and special events. It is not supported by government funding or by United Way of New York State or United Way Worldwide. United Way of Sullivan County is, however, a dues paying member of both the state and worldwide organizations.

*In 2010, the local
Emergency Food and
Shelter Board
distributed \$61,000 to
help residents of
Sullivan County.*

CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT MOVING AHEAD

United Way of Sullivan County has been working with the Dormitory Authority of New York State for the past two years to secure \$125,000 in grant funding to make needed capital improvements to our buildings in Monticello. At the end of 2010, we learned that the approval process was in the final phase and it appears

that approval will be received shortly.

Renovation plans include several interior and exterior projects, electrical work, the installation of a high-tech security system, parking lot renovations, the installation of galvanized chain link fencing around the perimeter of the rear parking lot.

The process has taken a long time, but the Building Committee is anxious to begin making improvements that will provide the safest and most comfortable environment for our tenants and visitors. The organization is grateful to assemblywoman Aileen Gunther for her assistance in securing this funding.

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Visit our website at
www.unitedwayofsullivancounty.org

And follow us on Facebook.



United Way helps county residents save \$52,965 on prescription drugs.

United Way of Sullivan County continues to work with the FamilyWise organization to help distribute free Prescription Drug Discount Cards, which are estimated to save \$1 million per month on the cost of medicine nationwide. There is no enrollment and anyone without prescription coverage is eligible. The cards are available at participating pharmacies, Office for the Aging and at the United Way office. Additional information about the cards is available at www.familywise.org. As of December 31, 2010, 3,650 people in Sullivan County had used the cards and saved a total of \$52,965. On average Sullivan County customers saved \$14.43 per use.



Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 perseveres through severe funding cuts

In a collaborative effort, the United Ways of Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester-Putnam developed, and continue to maintain, Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 to provide callers throughout seven counties with comprehensive information and referral for a wide variety of health and human service needs. An essential tool in times of crisis, 2-1-1 connects people to services 24 hours a day, year round including holidays. It's free, confidential, and available in a variety of languages. Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 is supported by state funding, supplemented by funding from local governments, United Ways, foundations and numerous in-kind sup-

porters. This year, harsh cuts in state funding put additional strains on our regional call center. The stakeholders responded by reaching out to legislators and government officials at every level for support of this vital service. In addition, Hudson Valley 2-1-1 has pursued private funding sources and taken on additional contract services to help keep the service operational. Currently callers can reach live call specialists from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and at other times are directed to the website or emergency services. A quick return to live 24/7 call specialist service is a current goal, which the group is working to achieve.



HELP FOR HAITI

Monticello Rotary and United Way of Sullivan County joined together after the devastating January

earthquake in Haiti to raise funds to assist the victims. Interact Club, the youth branch of Rotary, and Monticello High School student volunteers also assisted in the joint fundraising effort. Delaware Valley Job Corp later joined the effort, adding the proceeds of their fundraising to the coffers. Funds were turned over to Hands of Mary, a not-for-profit working directly with

a parish in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince. Father Mullally, of Milford, Pennsylvania, a founding member of Hands of Mary, travels to Haiti with physicians from Bon Secours Hospital in Port Jervis and has witnessed the aftermath of the earthquake firsthand. He advised that this much needed support will be put to good use purchasing medical supplies and food for the next visit.