

Transformations

Winter 2010

Somerset County United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Entering 3rd Year

For families and individuals who may be struggling to make ends meet, saving \$200 on the cost of having their tax return prepared could make the difference between being able to pay the heating bill or putting food on the table. For the 2009 tax year, Somerset County United Way is coordinating free tax return preparation assistance as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Families earning under \$55,000 per year and individuals earning \$25,000 or less are eligible to participate in our program. Last year, over \$300,000 in refunds and cost savings were returned to local residents who participated in the Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (C.A.S.H.) program. This year, we want to serve even more people. Tax appointments are available beginning January 25, 2010. Anyone interested in scheduling an appointment is encouraged to call 908-253-6511 beginning in early January. Appointments are available for daytime, evening and weekend hours and are held at convenient locations throughout Somerset County. Tax returns are prepared by IRS-trained and certified volunteers. The program adheres strictly to the IRS confidentiality requirements and no fee is charged.

How to give help: Volunteers are being sought to assist with all aspects of the C.A.S.H. program. We are looking for individuals who are interested in volunteering as greeters, translators, site coordinators, financial information coaches and tax preparers. Training is done locally and is free. If you are interested in learning more about how to have a significant impact in our community and volunteering with the C.A.S.H. Tax Assistance program, please contact Lisa Galonardo at 908-253-6503 or via e-mail at lisa.galonardo@scuw.org.



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2

Volunteer Photos - 1. A volunteer from Raritan Valley Community College reads to children at the Learning Gate **2.** Somerset County United Way CEO Phil Brown thanks Chris Croson at Borders for hosting multiple book drives and donating hundreds of new books to support our **READY to Learn** literacy initiative.

Save the Date:
March 2, 2010
Read Across America!

As part of our **READY to Learn** initiative, Somerset County United Way is coordinating an annual **Read Across America** event, where volunteers from the community will read to young children and participate in activities that promote literacy and a love of reading.

A national event, **Read Across America**, is held annually on Dr. Seuss's birthday to promote a love of reading.

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

For information, please contact Lisa Galonardo at 908-253-6503 or via e-mail at lisa.galonardo@scuw.org.



RU ready 4 TYKTWD 2010?
 April 22, 2010 is **Take Your Kids to Work Day**. Incorporate our "Stamp Out Hunger" project and other United Way volunteer activities into your program. For more info, please contact Jackie.Scott@scuw.org



Save the Date: April 16, 2010
 Women's Initiative
 Spring Fundraising Breakfast

SPEAKER: JENNY FISHER, author of *The Feminine Side of Leadership* speaking on the topic of "Leading from the Heart".

Somerset County United Way's Women's Initiative annual fundraising breakfast will take place on April 16, 2010. This event raises funds to support services that correspond to its mission: Women building community and empowering lives. Funds raised through last year's breakfast supported projects that are impacting women's lives in meaningful and long lasting ways. They include projects providing employment support, transportation, parenting education, and life skills to women and girls most in need in our community. This event is designed to heighten awareness of women's issues, raise money to address problems specific to women in our community and provide a networking opportunity for women engaged in improving the lives of their fellow citizens. Since the inception of this annual event in 2003, over \$140,000 has been raised and invested in services for women in need in our community.

This year's event will feature Jenny Fisher, author of *The Feminine Side of Leadership* speaking on "Leading from the Heart". Learn how to build performance, trust, and respect in your organization as you experience Jenny Fisher's inspiring speech and the networking event based on the principles in her book. Experience practical techniques and real-life business scenarios to apply both "strength" and "heart" to your personal leadership style to empower others and help people find joy in their job. Ms. Fisher will draw upon the leadership principles from her book and her personal experiences working in engineering, technology, and pharmaceutical industries to create a lively and informative event that will help you create a heart-felt organization while increasing your professional networking skills and personal connections. For more information on Jenny Fisher, visit: www.fsleadership.com.

For information on corporate sponsorship or individual registrations or to donate an item for the auction, contact Lynn Weckworth at 908-253-6505 or lynn.weckworth@scuw.org.

“Living United goes beyond a monetary contribution.”

It is about giving back to the community and making an impact on others by changing lives, or being a positive influence. It is about respecting others as you want to be respected, understanding different cultures without judging and demonstrating the right things by your actions, not just your words. It is about helping, caring, listening, supporting and being there when needed. That's Living United.



ADVOCATE

*Joseph N. Scarbaci
 President
 Complete Personnel
 Services, Inc.*

*United Way Board of
 Trustees Member*

CONTRIBUTION CARD

Somerset County United Way, P. O. Box 6835 ~ Bridgewater, NJ 08807
 You can also donate online by visiting www.scuw.org or calling 908-253-6515.

I. Contact Information

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER BIRTHDAY _____

II. Amount of My Gift

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
 \$1,000 \$1,500 Other \$ _____
 Check Credit Card
 (make payable to "SCUW") Please circle one:
 MasterCard AmEx
 Visa Discover

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE SIGNATURE _____

III. I am interested in supporting:

- Community Solutions Fund
- Financial Stability
C.A.S.H., Gifts of the Season
- Life Readiness
Circles, Workforce Development, Stuff the Bus
- Healthy Lifestyles
access to healthcare, strengthening families
- Women's Initiative
- Young Professionals
- 2-1-1 NJ Information and Referral
If you wish to learn more about any of our initiatives, please circle those of interest above.



2010 Business Volunteer Council Meeting hosted by Dolce Basking Ridge, February 1st at 9am Seats are limited - RSVP by January 18th

The Somerset County Business Volunteer Council will be holding its annual winter meeting with a breakfast event sponsored by Dolce Basking Ridge. Individuals, corporate volunteer coordinators and business leaders interested in developing an employee volunteer program or finding out about the latest trends and best practices in corporate or business volunteerism are invited to attend. The meeting will feature a presentation on the value and benefits of skill-based volunteering, one of the hottest current trends in corporate volunteerism, as well as a round-table discussion on skill-based volunteering focused on increasing financial stability in our community during difficult economic times. In addition, the meeting will offer networking opportunities with colleagues from all corporate and business sectors, sharing best practices for employee volunteer engagement, and learning about the latest skill-development and team-building volunteer opportunities in the community. To request additional information or to reserve your place at this event, please contact Rochelle Ostenfeld at volunteercenter@scuw.org.

AT&T Lives United!

AT&T Bedminster HQ location (as part of their Fall United Way Giving Campaign) conducted numerous employee events that expanded awareness of United Way's mission globally, nationally and locally.

AT&T's senior management including CEO, Randall Stephenson, Business Unit Presidents Ron Spears and John Stankey, Senior Vice Presidents John Potter, Rick Resnick, Dan Fete and Paul Rosenbaum, along with Executive Vice President Kevin Peters, and Vice Presidents Kathleen Larkin and Alicia Dietsch, all gave of their time to champion United Way's mission. Kevin Peters, Rick Resnick and Dan Fete hosted a United Way "leadership givers" meeting that kicked off the festivities.

Kathleen Larkin and Alicia Dietsch hosted two separate AT&T "all employee" sessions focused on highlighting Somerset County United Way (SCUW) programs and outcomes. Paul Rosenbaum hosted the 3rd annual United Way Fair managed by AT&T's United Way giving campaign coordinator, Audrey Melnick. The Fair which included a silent auction was a huge success. Dan Fete and his finance organization included and recognized SCUW by conducting three distinct events: a picnic which included a softball game (photo 4 below left), a game show and a 5K on-site run. John Potter hosted an ice cream social in the cafeteria where AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson and Business Unit President Ron Spears spooned sundae toppings on ice cream scooped by SCUW CEO Phil Brown and account manager Tom Daley (photo 5 below right). SCUW deeply appreciates the management and employees of AT&T for their ongoing support and commitment to LIVE UNITED!

Volunteer Photos: 1. Ann Isom, Senior Director, U.S. Philanthropy & Relationship Management, sanofi-aventis, US participates in the festivities by playing the bongos, helping set the ambiance for the Prescription for Giving kickoff. 2. Jerry Perkins, Senior Vice President & General Manager, Henkel Industrial Adhesives (in superman outfit) and the Henkel Bridgewater leadership team help kick off the 2009 Halloween themed United Way Campaign. 3. Meg LaChance President, Phillips Van Heusen Retail kicks off the annual PVH Cares Campaign. 4. Dan Fete, Senior Vice President Finance for AT&T awards the softball trophy to the winning team. 5. Left to right, Somerset County United Way Account Manager Tom Daley; AT&T Business Unit President Ron Spears; AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson and Somerset County United Way CEO Phil Brown prepare for the AT&T ice cream social.



Dear Friends,

Somerset County United Way recently completed its funding process for 2010. Seventy community volunteers reviewed applications, visited programs, met with agency staff and volunteers, and recommended twenty-nine programs in twenty agencies for investment of United Way funds. Somerset County United Way's vision is that "All Somerset County residents possess a living income." Financial stability, life readiness and healthy lifestyles support the achievement of that vision so the majority of funding was provided to programs in local agencies in those areas.

Achieving Financial Stability and Independence - *Vision: Individuals and families in Somerset County are able to live independently and productively.*

Funded programs include those that provide individuals and families with the education, services and skills to avoid homelessness, manage their finances, and build assets.

Achieving Life Readiness - *Vision: Children and Adults are prepared for life, education, and work.*

Funded programs include those that ensure that children are developmentally on track and successfully complete grades K-12 and programs for adolescents and adults that provide life skills and job training.

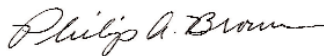
Living a Healthy Life - *Vision: Individuals and families will lead physically and emotionally healthy lives that enable them to achieve a living income.*

Funded programs include those that provide needed physical and mental health care services, improve health care access, link people with needed services, prevent illness and promote wellness.

Safety Net - Finally, recognizing the importance of making sure that vulnerable populations have their basic needs met, Somerset County United Way provided funding for foodbanks and other crisis services.

Many thanks to the volunteers whose hard work, thoughtful decision making and strong sense of community caring ensured that United Way funds were invested in services that will create lasting changes that improve people's lives.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Brown, III
President and CEO, Somerset County United Way

20th Annual Gifts Of The Season program Wraps Up!

Somerset County United Way has completed its 20th annual Gifts of the Season program to provide holiday gifts to local families facing financial hardship. The partnership between Somerset County United Way, the Food Bank Network of Somerset County and the Somerset County Board of Social Services offers an opportunity for people to provide gifts for local individuals and families in need during the holiday season. Thank you to our donors, volunteers, gift drive coordinators, local businesses and the local media for supporting our program. We would also like to thank UnitedHealthcare for sponsoring this year's program with a generous financial contribution.

From left to right, William M. Rodgers III, Somerset County United Way Board Chair; Philip A. Brown III, Chief Executive Officer of Somerset County United Way; Kurt R. Padavano, Chief Operating Officer of Advance Realty; John Van Decker, property manager of Advance Realty attend the "Gifts of the Season" VIP tour at the Advance Realty donated warehouse space.



Please visit us online www.scuw.org

Need help?
Start here.

2-1-1

With just one call to 2-1-1 you'll connect with a caring professional who knows the resources that are available in your area. Or, please go online at www.NJ211.org.

Somerset County United Way
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Bridgewater, NJ 08807

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