

Transformations

Summer 2009

Circles™ Update

The first group of Circle Leaders in Somerset County has started on their journey to move themselves and their families out of poverty. These seven heads of households are in the process of completing a fifteen-week training class: "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World." Through this process each Circle Leader will set individual goals in the following areas: income, budgeting, education or training, and friendships and supports. At the completion of this course, Circle Leaders are matched with two to four volunteers from the community (called Allies) to help them achieve these goals.

Volunteers are still needed to be Allies. For information contact Bruce Hayes at hayese@norwescap.org. The Circles™ Initiative in Somerset County is a partnership between Somerset County United Way and NORWESCAP.



Kohl's hosts a "Stuff The Bus" event at their Watchung location.



Stuff The Bus is here!

Somerset County United Way will once again coordinate the donation and distribution of new school supplies to students from struggling families in our community.

Children on the Free and Reduced Lunch Programs at local elementary and middle schools, and agencies throughout Somerset County serving low-income families, receive the supplies to better prepare them for academic success.

New school items such as backpacks, notebooks, calculators, crayons, pens, pencils, rulers, pocket folders, underwear for young children, personal hygiene products, shoe gift cards, etc. are collected by participating organizations and community members. In 2008, more than 40,500 items were collected and distributed to 51 local schools and agencies.

Children who receive supplies through this program have the tools they need to begin the school year ready to learn. For struggling parents, providing the necessary school supplies can be a financial hardship. When their children receive school supplies through this program, parents are better able to utilize their limited financial resources to pay for basic needs such as food, utilities, rent, etc. In addition, children have greater self-esteem when they have the school supplies they need, and the same school supplies as their peers.

New school items that are collected will need to be delivered to a Somerville area location on Monday, August 17, 2009. If you would like to donate new school supplies, or hold a drive at your location, please contact Irene Natale at (908) 253-6511 or via e-mail Irene.natale@scuw.org.



Thank You!

The 17th Annual "Stamp Out Hunger" residential food drive hosted in May was an amazing success! Thank you to the National Association of Letter Carriers for collecting the donations and delivering the donations to local food banks, shelters and churches.

Be An All-Star this Fall!

United Way is proud to partner with the NFL and we invite you to join us! Plan a "Community Touch Down" event at your company. Coordinators invite co-workers to participate by wearing their favorite team jersey and making a \$5 donation. Please contact Jackie Scott at 908-253-6536 or jackie.scott@scuw.org to learn more!



VOLUNTEER

Fall Season Of Caring is almost here!

The leaves are turning color, the air is crisp, the kids are back in school - autumn is the perfect time for volunteering! Whether you would like to volunteer as an individual or with a group of colleagues or friends, many opportunities are available as part of United Way's Season of Caring. Kickoff is Monday, September 14, 2009 and volunteer projects are available through mid-November. Focusing on opportunities in the areas of Life Readiness, Healthy Living and Financial Stability, Somerset County United Way invites individuals, families, corporate and group teams to volunteer to make a difference in our community and help Advance the Common Good. Projects will be available for sign up starting August 17, 2009. For more information, please contact Lisa Galonardo at 908-253-6503 or via e-mail at lisa.galonardo@scuw.org.

Volunteer Photos: 1. Women's Initiative volunteers plant flowers at an agency 2. Ortho Clinical Diagnostics volunteers plant a rock garden at a day care center 3. Ethicon volunteers staff an onsite "Live United" informational table during their workplace giving campaign 4. Citigroup volunteers maintain a diverse population of native plants in a local garden 5. Chubb Insurance volunteers paint colorful playrooms at a day care center.

Business Volunteer Council Planned for August 19th

Please join us on Wednesday, August 19, 2009, 8:30-10:30 a.m. for the Somerset County Business Volunteer Council meeting at the United Reformed Church, 100 West Main Street in Somerville. In addition to a roundtable discussion and networking opportunities, members of the Business Volunteer Council will participate in the Stuff the Bus program and help to organize donated school supplies for local elementary and middle school children in need. For more information, contact Lisa Galonardo at 908-253-6503 or via e-mail at lisa.galonardo@scuw.org.

Visit us at the 4-H Fair! Please visit our booth on August 12th, 13th and 14th!

C.A.\$.H. Tax Preparation Program a BIG Success!

April 15th marked the completion of the second successful year of the Somerset County Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (C.A.\$.H.) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. This year, 160 tax returns were completed for low and moderate income individuals and families, many of whom were eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Over \$110,000 was claimed by families for both the federal and state Earned Income Credit – a substantial increase over last year. In addition, program participants saved over \$34,000 in the cost of having their tax returns prepared. In total, the Tax Assistance Program benefited 265 adults and children and enabled them to obtain \$307,700 in total refunds and cost savings. These resources could then be put to good use paying off debts, purchasing necessities for their families or saving for future needs. For more information, please contact Lisa Galonardo at 908-253-6503 or via e-mail at lisa.galonardo@scuw.org.



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Building upon the sanofi-aventis worldwide humanitarian philosophies, U.S. Philanthropy works to enhance the quality of life and independence of citizens with the most significant needs, strengthening the communities in which we do business and where our employees live. We fulfill this commitment through multiple charitable approaches, including financial contributions, in-kind and product donations and employee volunteerism. In addition, we augment individual employee giving with corporate Annual Giving and Matching Gifts programs. Through these varied approaches, we strive to make a significant, positive, long-term and sustainable impact on health, access to healthcare, and education primarily for children, and improving the possibilities of self-sufficiency for the most vulnerable within our society.

ADVOCATE



This is how the sanofi-aventis U.S. Philanthropy Team LIVES UNITED.

**Amy Dupuis, left
Phillip St James, center
Ann Isom, right**

How do you LIVE UNITED? We want to hear from you! Send your stories to jackie.scott@scuw.org

Somerset County United Way Pledge Form - Summer is perfect for sharing time with family and friends. For many it is also a time for sharing with others through charitable gifts. A small contribution today can make a large difference in the lives of those in need. As always, thank you for your support! For more information on giving, advocating or volunteering please visit our website www.scuw.org

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
 Address: _____ Email: _____
 This is my billing address (if paying by credit card) **Check or Credit Card** (Please make check payable to "Somerset County United Way")
 Please circle one: Am Ex Master Card Visa/Discover Credit Card # _____
 Expiration Date: _____ Signature _____

I would like to invest in my community through the Somerest County United Way. Please accept my donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$1500* Other \$ _____ **Thank you for your generous gift!**

* As a \$1,500 donor, you will be recognized as a Leadership Giver.

I have been giving through the United Way for: _____ under 10 years _____ 10-20 years _____ more than 20 years
 If you have already donated to United Way at the workplace, we thank you for your gift and apologize for approaching you more than once.

**Please sign and return completed pledge form to:
Somerset County United Way
P. O. Box 6835
Bridgewater, NJ 08807**

Your gift may be tax deductible. SCUW does not provide goods or services in exchange for contributions. Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling 973-504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

GIVE

A Message from the President & CEO of Somerset County United Way

Dear Friends,

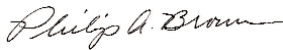
As many of you may already know from reading our newsletters either on paper or electronically, or by following our website, or because you are already an engaged volunteer and/or donor with us, the work of the Somerset County United Way is mirroring that of the United Way movement across our country, indeed, across the globe. That is, we are sharpening our focus on increasing the financial stability, life readiness, and healthy lifestyles of our residents as we know that the essential building blocks of a good life – a quality education, a self sustaining and stable income, and good health – are increasingly beyond the reach of too many individuals and families.

In order to advance the common good and eliminate the underlying causes preventing individuals, families, and communities from having a chance at a good life, the United Way movement nationally has set three bold goals for where our nation should be by 2018:

- cut by half the number of young people who drop out of high school
- cut by half the number of working families that lack financial stability
- increase by one-third the percentage of healthy young people and adults

To help us locally do our part to achieve these goals, I am asking that you join our United Way by giving financially, by advocating for the systemic changes that are necessary, and by volunteering in some way to “move the needle” on eliminating the underlying causes preventing so many from having the opportunity to create a good life for themselves and their families. By all of us coming together we can create the necessary changes in our communities that will impact lives. Indeed, by reaching out a hand to one we will affect the condition of all. Please join us in LIVING UNITED.

Sincerely,



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

Please visit us online www.scuw.org

Need help?
Start here.



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.

2008 - 2009 Community Celebration Awards

Thank you to all the companies and volunteers who support our United Way throughout the year. We would like to congratulate the following individuals and local businesses who were recognized at our recent Community Celebration event.

The 2009 Christian T. Nielsen
Unsung Hero Award
John Arroyo

The 2009 Carlyle G. Caldwell Award
C. Edward Foerster, Jr.

The 2009 Donald H. Bowers
Board Leadership Award
Louise Wilson

The 2009 Joseph M. Lee
Leadership Award
Michael I. Fenster

The 2008-09 National Starch and Chemical
Company Summit Award
**Ortho Clinical Diagnostics,
a Johnson & Johnson Company**

The 2008-09 First Time Campaign Award
Henkel Adhesive Technologies

The 2008-09 Employee Campaign Team
of the Year Award
UPS

The 2008-09 Small Business
of the Year Award
DeMuro Associates

A complete listing of all 2008-2009 award recipients, including “Circle Of Honor” and “100 Club” may be found on our website.

Please visit us online www.scuw.org

Somerset County United Way
P. O. Box 6835
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

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