

Transformations

Spring 2010



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Young Professionals Celebrate Community Spirit with Launch Party

The Somerset County Young Professionals recently celebrated their one year anniversary with a Launch Party Fundraiser at the Basking Ridge Country Club. The group highlighted their extensive 2009 volunteer projects such as the Prom Dress Drive, the Workforce Development Workshop, the Gift Wrapping Fundraiser, plus volunteering at a local teen home and a soup kitchen.

The Young Professionals are excited to be kicking off a new year of volunteer projects and welcome any new interested members. For more info please e-mail Liliana Barreiro at yp@scuw.org.

Photos left: 1. Elvin Colon, Ayco Company-Goldman Sachs and Tara Franklin from Johnson & Johnson Consumer Company welcome guests to the Young Professionals Launch Party. 2. United Way staff members Jodi Miciak, William M. Rodgers III (Somerset County United Way Board Chair), Liliana Barreiro and Jackie Scott break for a picture at the party. 3. Kenneth Kaplan, Kaplan Law, Kimberly Padlo and Sara Skov from Unum Insurance Agency preview the exciting auction items. 4. Amanda Heller, Becton Dickerson & Company, Heather Binda, Advanced Health Media, Isaac Lim, Target, Jessica Shelffo, Bristol Myers-Squibb and Pablo Garrita, Anderson & Associates enjoy a night of socializing and celebration.

Coming Soon! - Johnson & Johnson will be hosting a Somerset County Young Professionals networking function in the near future. For more information, please contact Liliana Barreiro at (908) 253-6528 or via email liliana.barreiro@scuw.org



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Somerset County United Way's Women's Initiative Spring Events

April 16, 2010

The Women's Initiative Annual Breakfast will feature Jenny Fisher, author of *The Feminine Side of Leadership*, who will be speaking on "Leading from the Heart."

The first 100 individual registrants will receive a copy of Jenny Fisher's book. More information and online registration is available at <http://www.scuw.org>

The online auction will run from March 1st to April 13th - See the items and bid at <http://www.biddingforgood.com/SCUWWI>.

June 10, 2010

Launch of the Women's Leadership Giving Circle featuring Elizabeth Ziemba, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Giving Back*.

Join us at Trump National Golf Course and learn how you can make a difference as a philanthropist, helping women achieve financial stability and independence.

For more information about the Women's Initiative Breakfast or the Leadership Giving Circle, please contact Lynn Weckworth at 908-253-6505 or lynn.weckworth@scuw.org.

April 28th- Baby Bundles

Help families give their babies a better start in life. Collect new baby supplies & drop them off in the Bridgewater area on April 28th. For more info, please contact irene.natale@scuw.org

May 10th - Stamp Out Hunger

Did you know the 18th Annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive is the nation's largest single-day food drive, hosted by the National Association of letter carriers, and is co-sponsored by the United Way? For more info, please contact jackie.scott@scuw.org

Stuff The Bus this summer!

Help children be better prepared for academic success. Collect school supplies and drop them off on August 23rd (location to be announced). For more info, please contact irene.natale@scuw.org



Volunteer Photo above : Scott Douglas (far left) President and CEO of Dancker, Sellow & Douglas (DS&D) and the DS&D volunteer team accept a "Thank You" plaque presented to DS&D by the Somerset County United Way in appreciation of their commitment to the 2009 Gifts of the Season program. In addition to hosting a gift drive , coat drive and providing volunteers to help count, sort, and prepare the gifts for distribution, DS&D provided trucks and truck drivers to deliver the gifts to local agencies and families facing financial hardship.

Helping People Put More Green in Their Pockets!

Somerset County United Way began its third year of the Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (C.A.\$H.) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, providing free tax preparation assistance to low and moderate income workers in Somerset County. The purpose of the program is to help get more money into the pockets of people eligible for the service.

Through the claiming of the Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as other credits that people are eligible for, plus the cost savings of having a tax return prepared for free, people are able to increase their incomes – sometimes significantly. Last year over \$300,000 in cost savings, tax credits and refunds were obtained by families and individuals in our community. We expect to increase this result this year.

In addition to our main tax preparation sites at Raritan Valley Community College, the Congregational Church of Bound Brook and the Somerset County United Way office, we have added locations at TD Bank , Financial Resources Federal Credit Union and the Bridgewater Commons Mall, have generously donated store space to host the program.

The program is also being brought to non-profit agencies whose clients and staff can benefit from the program. We anticipate over 200 tax returns will be completed in the 2009-10 tax season and want to reach as many people as possible who may be eligible for this service.

For more information, please contact Irene Natale at 908-253-6511 or via e-mail at Irene.natale@scuw.org.

Save the date! Sunday, June 27,2010

The annual Party in the Park/Somerset County Day of Action will take place on Sunday, June 27,2010. Enjoy a free concert at Duke Island Park and get involved with some family friendly volunteer activities. The fun begins at 5:00pm.

For more information, please contact Irene Natale at 908-253-6511 or via e-mail at Irene.natale@scuw.org.

VOLUNTEER

Somerset County Business Volunteer Council Hosts Educational Session

The Somerset County Business Volunteer Council, sponsored by the Somerset County United Way, began 2010 with an event sponsored by Dolce Basking Ridge on February 1, 2010.

Approximately forty people from a number of local businesses attended the event to discuss and learn about the value of skill-based Volunteerism and Employee Volunteer Programs. Attendees represented the following companies: AZ Electronic Materials, Base Camp Outfitters, Chase Bank, Costco, Dolce Basking Ridge, Dancker Sellow & Douglas, Ethicon, Express Employment Professionals, Financial Resources Federal Credit Union, Magyar Bank, Mauro Savo Camerino and Grant Law Firm, Merrill Lynch, Skylands Community Bank, Somerset Hills Bank, TD Bank, and United Health Care.

Meeting semi-annually, the Business Volunteer Council was created in 2007 to offer businesses of all sizes an opportunity to benchmark and learn from each other, share best practices in corporate volunteering, develop skills to enhance employee Volunteer Programs, and coordinate volunteer and philanthropic efforts within the community.

Special features of the February 1st meeting included a presentation by Sue Wetzel of Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, who discussed effective use of skill based volunteering as a leadership development tool.

For more information or to find out how to become a member of the Somerset County Business Volunteer Council, please contact Lisa Galonardo at (908)-253-6503 or via e-mail lisa.galonardo@scuw.org.

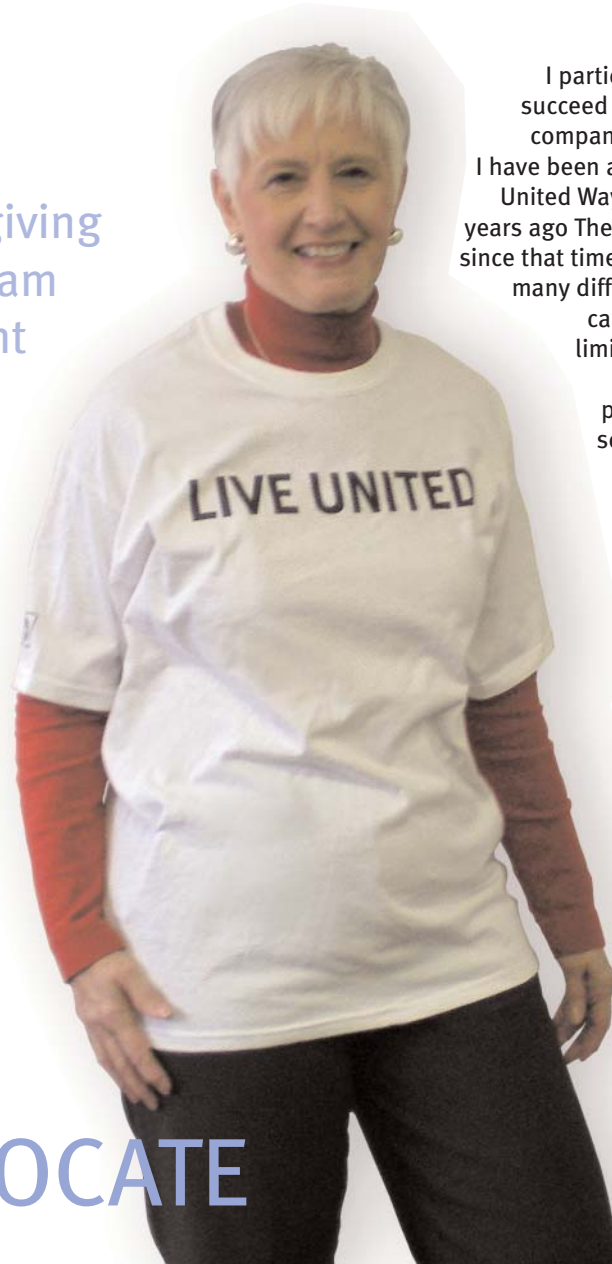
Photo below : Presentation by Sue Wetzel, Worldwide Vice President of Business Services, Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems, Inc.



“I always believe in giving back because I feel I am very blessed and want to help others.”

*Alina V. Klein
Assistant Vice President
Financial Advisor
Merrill Lynch*

*United Way Women's Initiative
Steering Committee Member*



I particularly wanted to help other women succeed in some way. Through the different companies that I worked for over the years, I have been a regular financial contributor to the United Way but I wanted to do a bit more. Ten years ago The Women's Initiative was started and since that time I have been involved with SCUW in many different ways. What I really like is you can find ways to help even if you have limited time to volunteer. You can help by collecting goods, sorting coats, planting flowers, painting, collecting school supplies or by participating in the Gifts of the Season program.

Being on the Steering Committee for the Women's Initiative has opened my eyes to all the wonderful non-profit groups in our area that help people. Helping with the fundraising events and then seeing how the funds are used and how these organizations make their funds stretch has been inspirational.

The staff at the United Way are dedicated and hardworking. For my part, I intend to continue to find ways to help them achieve their goals and thereby giving back to my community.

That's Living United.

ADVOCATE

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

Sponsor Our Work!

Sponsorship opportunities are available to support the work of the Somerset County United Way. Corporations and individuals may support our affinity group activities, current programs such as CA\$H and Stuff The Bus. They may also choose to sponsor our events such as Party In The Park, and our participation in the annual 4H Fair.

If you are interested in supporting a special initiative, event, or program, please contact Jackie Scott at (908) 253-6536 or via email jackie.scott@scuw.org

TD Bank sponsored March 8th Non-Profit Symposium

The Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, Somerset County Business Partnership, United Ways of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, and the Somerset and Hunterdon County Departments of Human Services recently hosted the TD Bank Non-Profit Symposium at Raritan Valley Community College.

The symposium facilitated a forward thinking discussion with non-profit leaders dedicated to strengthening organizational missions, stimulating strategic thinking and garnering the cross-discipline dialog that improves management practices and makes a difference in the internal experience of business performance and external impact on service delivery.



Photo from left to right: Christopher Phelan, Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, James Burke, Somerset County Business Partnership, Deborah Stout, TD Bank, Bonnie Duncan, United Way of Hunterdon County, Rebecca Abbate, Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, Patricia Nydick, TD Bank, Mildred Gaupp, Somerset County Department of Human Services, Peter Wright, Somerset County Business Partnership and Philip Brown, Somerset County United Way.

GIVE

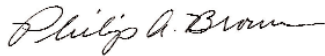
Dear Friends,

As we approach the beginning of spring and soon the season of graduations, it seems an appropriate time to recognize and express our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who make the work of the Somerset County United Way (SCUW) possible. Thank you! Thousands of volunteers in our community have and do provide their time, energy, commitment, and hard work to truly Live United.

Whether volunteering to advocate for the United Way's mission by leading an employee giving campaign at a worksite or helping to distribute gift tags for the Gifts of the Season program at your place of worship, it is the human dimension of reaching out a hand to one that makes it possible to affect the condition of all. Some volunteers work with us on a year-round basis taking on many different roles (e.g. serving as a community investment volunteer, on a planning committee, being trained as a tax preparer, and/or sorting school supplies at a church in Somerville, etc.) while others only have the time for a one-time engagement with our United Way (e.g. buying baby supplies, writing an article for our website, serving on a committee, or helping to recruit other volunteers, etc.), but collectively the power of this immense and dedicated group of citizens from our community cannot be measured. Volunteers also give of their treasure to help Somerset County United Way to lead a caring community to create solutions that truly transform people's lives and make it possible for our United Way to insure we can achieve our vision that all Somerset County residents possess a living income.

Our volunteers make it possible for Somerset County United Way to exist in this community. Further, it is the volunteers who make visible and tangible that the United Way is of this community, for this community, and it accomplishes its work by the very people of our community. I want to thank all our volunteers and donors who continue to nurture, build, and sustain this wonderful community in which we live and work.

Most appreciatively,



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

**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.

How much is too much?

Think about it. Many of us worry our kids have too much. Are they eating too much junk food? Do they watch too much TV? Do they stay up late too much?

Has the thought ever crossed your mind that you've given too much to charity? Probably not, since charitable giving is usually one of the last things people consider when managing a budget or planning for future expenses. How much would you have to donate that would make you stop and say wow, that's too much! More folks than you might think right here in Somerset County (\$10,000 families – \$30,000 moms, dads & kids) are struggling without basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter. The overall need is much greater than the amount of donations SCUW is currently receiving. Limited funds limit our ability to deliver the level of valuable human services programs required in YOUR community.

Some of your friends and neighbors are depending on you writing a check to Somerset County United Way that is too much! PLEASE do so.

For more information or to schedule a VIP tour of the Somerset County United Way, please contact Tom Daley on (908) 253-6524 or via email thomas.daley@scuw.org

Please visit us online www.scuw.org

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