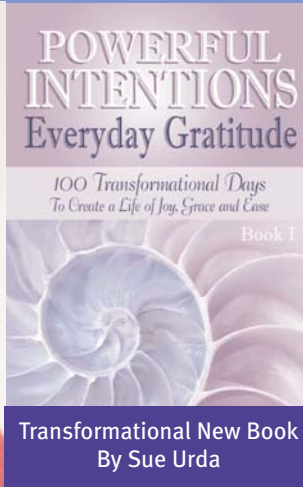


# Transformations

Spring 2009



network meetings, workshops and building relationships. Since the company's inception, it has grown to 40 chapters throughout the country, with almost 600 members. Sue Urda is also the author of the e-book, *Networking and You... Perfect Together* and has just published *Powerful Intentions~Everyday Gratitude*. For more information visit <http://powerfulyou.com/>

**Proceeds:**

Funds raised through the April 2008 breakfast supported eight projects that are impacting women's lives in meaningful and long-lasting ways. These projects included: health and nutrition education for women in early recovery from alcoholism and drug addiction; practical parenting training for homeless women with children; purchase of an EKG machine for use in serving medically underserved women; transportation to appointments for residents of domestic violence emergency safe house; support, mentoring, and community service program for at-risk girls; and short-term childcare subsidy for low-income working mothers.

**Participate in the Online Auction:** You don't need to attend the event to participate in the online auction. Check out the great items at: <http://SCUWWI.cmarket.com/> For more information, please contact Lynn Weckworth at (908) 253-6505 or via email [lynn.weckworth@scuw.org](mailto:lynn.weckworth@scuw.org).

Please join us on April 17th!  
 Somerset County United Way Women's Initiative Spring Breakfast

**The Transformational Power of Gratitude**  
**Special Guest and Speaker: Sue Urda**

**Event Details**

Friday, April 17, 2009

7:00 a.m. Silent Auction Opens  
 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. - Networking  
 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. - Full Breakfast and Program

Basking Ridge Country Club,  
 185 Madisonville Road, Basking Ridge, NJ

**Help us raise more funds this year to help more women in need!**

**Ways to Contribute:**

Attend the breakfast: **Deadline for ticket purchase is April 10, 2009.** Individuals may purchase tickets to the event (includes full breakfast) and have their name appear in the program at the following sponsorship levels:  
**Champion Level: \$250**  
**Benefactor Level: \$100**  
**Patron Level: \$50**

Secure online registration is available at:  
<http://www.scuw.org/NewsandEvents/WomensInitiative.aspx>

**About The Speaker:**

As co-founder of the successfully growing Powerful You! Women's Network, Sue's vision is to contribute to a global consciousness of women helping women succeed in business and in life. Sue's mission is to provide venues for women to create relationships and grow their businesses, build self-confidence and self-awareness, and to foster attitudes of empowerment, gratitude, courage and self-sufficiency. In 2005, Sue and Kathy Fyler launched Powerful You! Inc., a company designed to assist women to live balanced and powerful lives, and to grow both professionally and personally through

**Save the date!**  
**Saturday, May 9th**

Did you know the 17th Annual "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive is the nation's largest single-day food drive, is hosted by the National Association of Letter Carriers, and is co-sponsored by United Way?

**Circle Award Application**  
**due by May 11th**

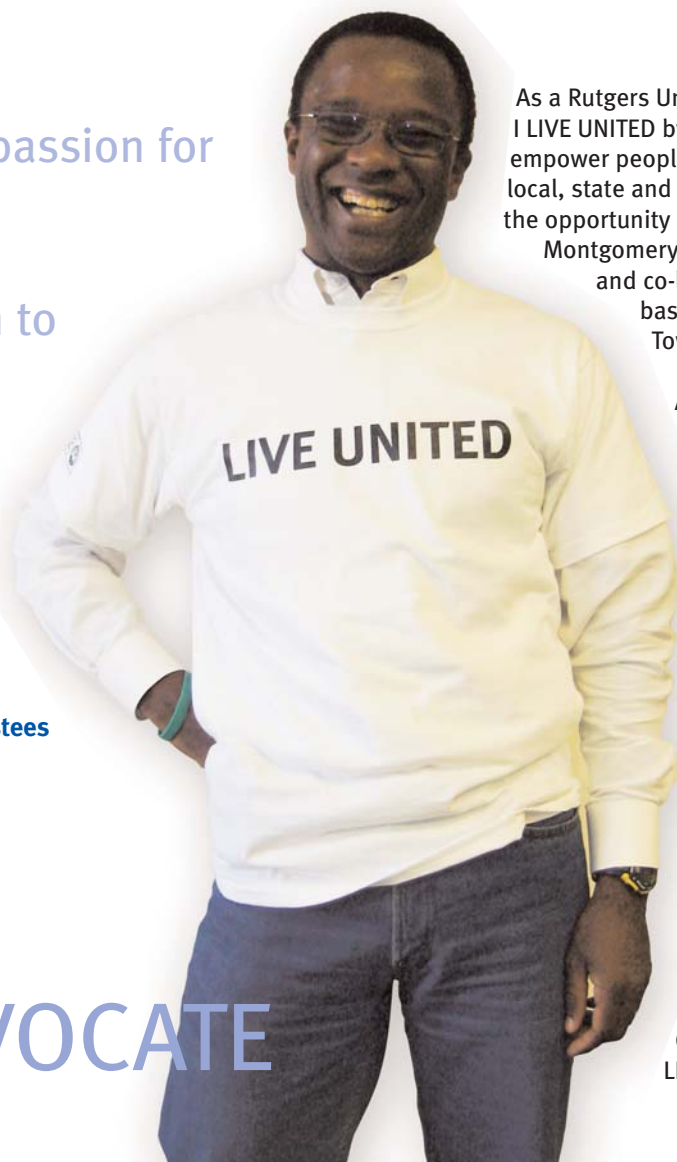
Was 2008 an outstanding year for your volunteer program? Did your campaign reach new heights due to outstanding employee participation? We offer your company an opportunity to gain recognition for exceptional work at our June Community Celebration event. Apply online [www.scuw.org](http://www.scuw.org)

**Help invest your donation!**

Volunteers are needed to review programs applying for funding . For more information, please contact Monica Conover at (908)-253-6529 or via email [monica.conover@scuw.org](mailto:monica.conover@scuw.org)

“What drives my passion for LIVING UNITED? Simply put, it is providing a return to the investment that my parents and society made in me.”

**William M. Rodgers III, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Public Policy,  
Rutgers University  
United Way Chair, Board of Trustees



As a Rutgers University professor of public policy, I LIVE UNITED by using economics and public policy to empower people, communities, and organizations at the local, state and national level. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve my community as Vice Chair of the Montgomery Township Planning Board, serve as a coach and co-league director for the Township's youth baseball league, and coach several of the Township's youth soccer teams.

At the county level, I volunteer for our local United Way, helping shape the focus and mission of our organization and participating in regional and national committees to improve United Way efficiency across the region and country. Within NJ government, I have assisted Governors Corzine and Cody on a variety of issues. At the national level, most recently I served on President Obama's Department of Labor Transition team.

Whether it is volunteering with my family or my 9 year old's soccer team at the United Way Gifts of the Season program, developing statistical narratives for the United Ways in Somerset, Union, Middlesex, Morris, and Mercer Counties, teaching undergraduates, directing doctoral dissertations, or advising Mayors, Governors, and Presidents, I strive to LIVE UNITED each day.

## ADVOCATE

How do you LIVE UNITED? We want to hear from you! Send your stories to [jackie.scott@scuw.org](mailto:jackie.scott@scuw.org)

### Hot Summer projects are almost here! Stuff the Bus!

Are you seeking a fun volunteer project scheduled for June, July and August?

Hold a drive this summer to help children be better prepared for the upcoming school year. Collect new school supplies including backpacks, pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, personal hygiene products, underwear for young children, etc. Drop off donated supplies on August 17, 2009. Drop off site for donations will be announced in July.

For more information, please contact Irene Natale at (908) 253-6511 or via email [irene.natale@scuw.org](mailto:irene.natale@scuw.org).

### We invite you to join our Young Professionals Group!

*Photo right: United Way Young Professionals hold their first volunteer project at a soup kitchen.*

Somerset County United Way has recently begun a Young Professionals group that brings together a young generation of individuals that are eager to give back to the community through volunteerism. Currently the group is comprised of individuals from a diverse cross-section of industries here in Somerset County bringing with them varying skills and expertise from their chosen fields.



As a United Way Young Professional you will have the chance to create positive change in your community, learn new skills, network and socialize with other volunteers and community leaders who share similar interests and values. We invite you to join us! For more information, please contact Liliana Barreiro at (908)253-6528 or via email [liliana.barreiro@scuw.org](mailto:liliana.barreiro@scuw.org).

## Somerset County Business Volunteer Council Kicks Off 2009 with event hosted by Dolce Basking Ridge

The Somerset County Business Volunteer Council, sponsored by the Somerset County United Way, began 2009 with an event sponsored by Dolce Basking Ridge on February 6, 2009. Approximately forty people from a number of local businesses attended the event to discuss and learn about the value of Corporate Volunteerism and Employee Volunteer Programs. Attendees represented the following companies: HSBC, sanofi-aventis, the Somerset County Bar Association/Foundation, Magyar Bank, at&t, TD Bank, Dolce Basking Ridge, Akzo Nobel Corporation, Brother International Corporation, Roche Molecular Systems, Somerset Hills Bank, United Health Care, Ortho McNeil Janssen, Mauro Savo Camerino and Grant Law Firm, Bridgewater Marriott, Chubb Corporation, Financial Resources Federal Credit Union and the Somerset County Business Partnership.

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 6th meeting included a presentation by Amy Dupuis of sanofi-aventis, who discussed effective use of volunteer activities during tough times to bolster employee morale and create a team atmosphere. In addition, an overview of corporate/business volunteer programs and their benefits to individual volunteers, companies, and the community were presented. Finally, ideas were shared for engaging children who participate in Bring Your Child to Work Day in volunteer efforts within the workplace. Ideas focusing on Education, Income and Health were presented, along with do-it-yourself kits for people to use within their own workplace.

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](mailto:lisa.galonardo@scuw.org).

*Volunteer Photos: 1. Business Volunteer Council members pose with corporate and community leaders for group photo. 2. Presentation by Amy Dupuis of sanofi-aventis on the benefits of volunteering during tough times.*



Save the Date!  
Thursday, April 23rd  
Bring Your Child  
To Work Day

Project plans  
are available online:  
[www.scuw.org](http://www.scuw.org)



## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Yields Help for Homeless in Somerset County

In celebration of the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Somerset County United Way coordinated a special day of service project to assist homeless individuals and families in our community.

A special food and personal care items drive was coordinated throughout the community with the help of caring and committed volunteers. Many individuals and families volunteered to coordinate collection drives in their neighborhoods, places of employment and faith organizations, resulting in hundreds of pounds of non-perishable food

items and personal care items being donated. Special thanks to the following people who helped make this event so successful: Debi Bass, Michael Pratt, Roger Boone, Bonnie Rowan and the Women's Alliance of the First Unitarian Church of Plainfield, among other caring individuals and families.

The donated items were used to assist homeless and severely disadvantaged individuals and families through the Point in Time Homeless Count effort coordinated each year by the Somerset County Community Development Office.

For more information about the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, please contact Lisa Galonardo at 908-253-6503 or via e-mail [lisa.galonardo@scuw.org](mailto:lisa.galonardo@scuw.org).

Save the date!  
Sunday, June 28th

The annual Party in the Park/Somerset County United Way Day of Action will take place on Sunday, June 28, 2009.

Enjoy a free concert at Duke Island Park and get involved with some family-friendly volunteer activities.

The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit [www.scuw.org](http://www.scuw.org).

FAMILY FUN!

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

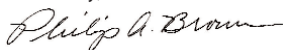
Hello Friends,

I want to be sure you heard of a major national public policy victory in which United Way played a key role. You may be aware that one of the United Way movement's 10-year-goals is to increase by one-third the number of youth and adults who are healthy and avoid risky behavior. A key indicator for that goal is the number of children under the age of 18 who are uninsured.

Currently, nine million children in the U.S. do not have health insurance. The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) is a proven jointly financed State/Federal program for dramatically decreasing the number of uninsured children. Yet, while millions of uninsured children are eligible for SCHIP coverage, there has simply not been sufficient funding appropriated to enroll them. Clearly, SCHIP has been one of United Way's top public policy priorities. United Way of America has been urging Congress to significantly expand the SCHIP program for more than three years.

In February, President Obama signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. In addition to reauthorizing SCHIP, Congress increased the funding by \$32.8 billion over the next 4 1/2 years. This will cover an additional 4.1 million uninsured children. United Way of America's public policy team has worked tirelessly (and closely with our partners such as First Focus) to ensure our nation's children have access to affordable, quality health care. However, without the efforts of our local and vocal volunteers, and the many calls and letters to Congressional offices by local United Ways, this public policy victory may never have occurred. Thank you for your important contribution to this dramatic step towards meeting our movement's goals.

Sincerely,



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

**Helping People Put More Green in Their Pockets!**

Somerset County United Way began its second year of the Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (C.A.S.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. In addition to our main tax preparation sites at Raritan Valley Community College, the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, the Congregational Church of Bound Brook and the Somerset County United Way office, we have added locations at Walmart in Watchung, BJ's in Watchung and the Bridgewater Commons Mall, which generously donated store space to our 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 2008-09 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](mailto:Irene.natale@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](http://www.NJ211.org).

Please visit us online [www.scuw.org](http://www.scuw.org)

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

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