

Thank you to the following Windham area organizations and their employees for helping to raise \$28,156,916 through workplace campaigns and corporate gifts in the 2008 United Way Community Campaign.

In addition to the dozens of workplaces that conducted campaigns in the Windham region, 56 individual donors, including three leadership contributors, helped the 2008 United Way Community Campaign achieve success. Your generosity is helping to change lives and improve conditions in our community.

Windham Region United Way Impact

Partners

Access Community Action Agency
 BJ's Wholesale Club of Willimantic, CT
 Camp Horizons
 Columbia Board of Education
 Columbia Town Departments
 Connecticut Legal Services
 Connecticut State Employees
 Covenant Soup Kitchen, Inc.
 Coventry Public Schools
 Eastconn
 Enterprise Rent-A-Car
 General Cable
 J.C. Penney – Willimantic
 Kohl's – Willimantic
 Landon's Tire, Inc.
 Law Offices of Sheldon A. Mossberg
 Lebanon Board of Education
 Liberty Bank
 Local Federal Employees
 Loch View, LLC/TWB Properties
 Mansfield Public Schools
 Mansfield Town Departments
 Natchaug Hospital
 Nutmeg Broadcasting Company
 Perception Programs, Inc.

Regional School District #19
 Salvation Army – Windham Region
 Sarazin General Contractors
 Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT, Inc.
 Shaw's
 Stop & Shop
 Sumner & Sumner, Inc.
 TJX Corporation
 Town of Coventry
 UConn Co-Op
 University of Connecticut Alumni Association
 VNA East
 Wal-Mart
 WINCOG
 Windham Area Interfaith Ministry
 Windham Chamber of Commerce
 Windham Community Memorial Hospital
 Windham Public Schools
 Windham Regional Community Council
 Windham Town Employees

United Way Staff

Susan B. Dunn
 President and CEO

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 Director,
 Planning and Assessment

Kimberley Russo
 Assistant Director,
 Community Investment

Mechelle Tovar Olórtegui
 Manager, Donor Relations

Susannah Hogendorn
 Manager, Communications

Windham Region United Way serves Ashford, Chaplin, Columbia, Coventry, Hampton, Lebanon, Mansfield/Storrs, Scotland, Willington, and Windham/Willimantic.

Address: 872 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226
Telephone: (860) 456-0188

Regional Advisory Board

2008–2009

Christine Paquette, Chair
 Robert Jennette, M.D., Vice Chair
 Lourdes Ardel
 Paul Bushey
 Matt Ellis
 Marisol Feliciano
 Joan Russoniello Goba
 Paul Heller, Esq.
 Doe Hentschel
 Angela LaTour
 Shawn Maynard
 Yolanda Negrón
 Rachelle Parenteau
 Geeta Pfau

Special thanks to these outgoing Windham Regional Advisory Board members for their dedicated service:

Paul Bushey
 Marisol Feliciano
 Joan Russoniello Goba
 Shawn Maynard



2008 HIGHLIGHTS



Paul Bushey, Windham Region United Way outgoing board chair, congratulates Lourdes Ardel on receiving the 2007 Maurice Heon, Sr., Volunteer of the Year Award at Windham Region United Way's 57th annual meeting.



Law Offices of Sheldon A. Mossberg, based in Willimantic, received the 2007 United Way Community Campaign Champion Award at Windham Region United Way's 57th annual meeting. Shown here are (front row) Attorney Sheldon Mossberg and Marjorie Golden-Mossberg, and (back row, from left) Kathleen Gomez, Jodi Lindsey, Dawn Bassett, and Helen Rice.



Matthew Bobair, a volunteer from Northeast Utilities, paints walls at Perception Programs, Inc., in Willimantic on United Way Day of Caring XVII, held September 5, 2008. (Photo By Rick Koehler.)

2008 Community Report

Dear Friends of United Way,

What an exciting year it has been for Windham Region United Way! We have completed our first year as a Regional Advisory Board of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and have continued to improve lives and change community conditions during very tough economic times.



In these pages you will get a glimpse of the amazing work accomplished by a dedicated group of local volunteers, nonprofit partners and other community stakeholders. You will read about United Way's partnership with the Windham Public Schools and The Village for Families and Children to help parents develop their parenting skills and become more involved in their children's education, which we know from research leads to increased academic success. You will also read about one of our board members who takes time out of her busy schedule to help working families claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. You'll also see highlights from some of the United Way events and celebrations that have brought us together as a community.

None of this could have been done without the tremendous spirit of community here in the Windham region. Even in these challenging economic times, local individuals, workplaces and organizations have demonstrated a willingness to work together to improve lives and change community conditions, by helping to raise \$28,156,916 in the 2008 United Way Community Campaign! We applaud and thank everyone who contributed.

I look forward to another year as Chair of the Regional Advisory Board and fostering further partnerships built on service excellence and a passion for advancing the common good. On behalf of Windham Region United Way, thank you and best wishes for 2009.

Christine W. Paquette

Christine Paquette
 Chair, Regional Advisory Board
 Windham Region United Way





Windham Region United Way volunteer Angela LaTour at the Access Community Action Agency, where she serves as a volunteer income tax preparer.

Windham Volunteers LIVE UNITED for Family Financial Stability

Windham Region United Way Regional Advisory Board member Angela LaTour has found the perfect way to LIVE UNITED: She puts her financial expertise as branch manager of Liberty Bank in Willimantic to work helping lower-income families across the Windham region achieve financial stability.

During tax season, LaTour provides free tax preparation for lower income working adults at the Access Community Action Agency in Willimantic. She and other volunteers helped Windham residents receive more than \$481,000 in tax refunds in 2008, including almost \$218,000 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds, which provide much-needed relief to local workers who earn \$42,000 or less each year. United Way supports EITC outreach in the Windham region with generous assistance from Bank of America, Fox 61, and the Wal-Mart Foundation.

LaTour's employer, Liberty Bank, also promotes financial stability in Windham through its support of the community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. In addition, Liberty Bank was a founding partner with United Way when the Youth Individual Development Account initiative was established with Access Community Action Agency. The effort helps youth start on the right

path by participating in a financial education and matched savings program to enable them to save for items to support their education, such as a computer.

LaTour's first experience as a United Way volunteer was at Windham Area Interfaith Ministries on United Way *Day of Caring XVII*, September 5, 2008. It remains a strong memory for her. "So often, we take for granted what nonprofit leaders and volunteers do," she said. "*Day of Caring* opened my eyes and inspired me to do more... United Way seemed like an obvious choice because it touches so many lives."

After United Way *Day of Caring*, Windham Region United Way Regional Advisory Board Chair Christine Paquette invited LaTour not only to join the advisory board but also to assume leadership as chair in 2010. "Chris drives a hard bargain," LaTour joked.

Angela LaTour joins an impressive list of committed volunteers who are helping to change conditions and improve lives in the Windham region through United Way. For more information on the work of the Windham Region United Way and opportunities to become involved, please call Kimberley Russo at (860) 456-0188.

RIGHT, (from left): Windham Region United Way Advisory Board members Angela LaTour, Rachelle Parenteau, and Christine Paquette volunteer with Howard Drescher of LIMRA and Mary Audette of The Hartford at Windham Area Interfaith Ministries on United Way *Day of Caring XVII*, September 5, 2008. (Photo by Rick Koehler.)



"I LIVE UNITED by serving on the Windham Region United Way Regional Advisory Board, by volunteering on United Way Day of Caring, and by serving as a Community Investment volunteer. It feels good to help improve lives in Windham."

Rachelle Parenteau, accounting manager, Nathan Hale Inn and Conference Center, Storrs

Common Sense Parenting: Learning Starts at Home



Bill Stover (left), director of No Child Left Behind/Supplemental Education Services for the Windham Public Schools, and Mabel Rosado, parent of Windham school students, participate in the *Common Sense Parenting* program supported by United Way.

Many of us are familiar with the African adage, "It takes a village to raise a child." *Common Sense Parenting (CSP)*, a parenting skills program offered through the Windham Public Schools, is helping to do just that. The program—developed by Boys Town in Nebraska and brought to Windham by a partnership including Windham Region United Way, The Village for Families and Children, and the Windham Parent Network—gives local parents the tools they need to more effectively manage their children's behavior. That translates into better classroom behavior, increasing kids' chances for school success.

Through the CSP partnership, Windham Public Schools staff and parents are trained to provide parenting classes in English and Spanish. In turn, parents who complete the classes learn effective praise and preventive and corrective teaching. They also learn how to stay calm, practice self-control, identify "teachable moments," and prioritize behavior change.

Bill Stover, director of No Child Left Behind/Supplemental Education Services in the Windham Public Schools, is a volunteer member of the partnership who recruited 18 parents to be trained to help other parents learn the CSP techniques.

"We know children change all the time," said Stover. "The CSP course taught us practical skills that we can use to elicit better communication with our kids."

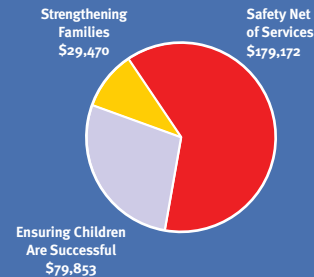
Mabel Rosado, the parent of two Windham students ages six and nine, attended CSP and agreed with Stover.

"It was really interesting," said Rosado. "We learned that how we say things to our children affects how they respond to us... I've used the techniques such as praising them when they do something well," she said. "Now my kids actually make their own snacks for school versus me having to make them for them."

"The solutions in this program can benefit any parent," added Stover.

Stover and Rosado hope to team-teach *Common Sense Parenting*, modeling the desired school-home partnership. Ultimately, with a strengthened relationship between school staff and parents and improved parenting skills, children will enjoy a higher level of success in school...it's just common sense.

Total Community Investment dollars for fiscal year 2008-2009: \$288,494



The graphic to the left reflects how United Way *Community Investment* dollars from the 2007 United Way Community Campaign were disbursed in the fiscal year starting July 1, 2008. For a complete list of Windham area nonprofit organizations that received United Way *Community Investment* funds from the 2007 United Way Community Campaign, please visit www.unitedwayinc.org/WindhamCI.aspx.

Ensuring Children Are Successful — Helps children enter kindergarten ready to learn, meet age-appropriate goals for success by the fourth grade, and develop skills needed to become financially stable adults.

Strengthening Families — Helps adults and families improve their financial stability by developing skills needed to get a job, increase and maximize income, and gain savings and assets.

Safety Net of Services — Helps provide a network of basic services for those most vulnerable or those faced with emergency needs.