Hats off to MARC, Inc’s Red Hat Society
Jeffrey Jones, courageous father
John Chu and Tina Eng share an interest in the community
2005 Tocqueville Society and Constitution Society listing of members
United Way of the Capital Area (UWCA) is a nonprofit organization that has been meeting human care needs in the 40 towns throughout north central Connecticut for more than 80 years. With its network of partner agencies, volunteers and community leaders, our United Way takes a leadership role in changing conditions to improve lives in the Greater Hartford region.

The annual United Way Community Campaign provides the opportunity for people in our community to support the causes important to them. Through United Way’s Community Investment donors’ contributions are invested in programs and initiatives to ensure success for children, strong and healthy families and a thriving community. Programs and initiatives funded through Community Investment are researched and monitored by knowledgeable, experienced volunteers to be certain they result in improved lives. Partner agencies must also meet management, governance, and fiscal accountability standards.

In this issue

1. STRIVING for Courage: Jeffrey Jones, 13th Annual Courage Award Winner
2. On The Road To Economic Success: Special Savings Program Assists VNA Employees
3. Clark Family Resource Center: A Wellspring of Family Support
4. Hats Off to MARC’s Amazing Red Caps
5. 2006 United Way Community Campaign: Going the Distance for Children, Families and Communities
6. Postcards and photos from Day of Caring XV
7. 2005 Tocqueville Society members
8. 2005 Constitution Society members
9. Tocqueville Society members John Chu and Tina Eng have a shared interest in community
10. The new IRA Charitable Rollover Provision
11. The Circle of Giving: Earl Schofield

For more information
To comment, please call (860) 493-6800 or visit our website at www.uwcact.org.

For volunteer opportunities, visit www.volunteersolutions.org/uwcact/volunteer

Cover: MARC, Inc. senior center participant and Red Hatter Josephine Dinatale and Day of Caring XV co-chair Paul Kuehn of Northeast Utilities System enjoy the festivities at a picnic on Day of Caring.
Jones grew up in Hartford, one of five children raised in a single family household headed by his mother, Olga Thompson, who, in 1975, became the first black woman elected to the Hartford City Council. According to Jones, his mother was an excellent role model. She worked a job and sold cosmetics and other products to make ends meet. At age 13, she encouraged him to hold two jobs delivering newspapers and later he worked at a restaurant. She sent him to parochial schools while she returned to school to earn her high school diploma, an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in social work.

Yet, despite all this, he succumbed to peer pressure on the streets of the city. He believes his story is an example of the critical need for fathers or other caring males in young people’s lives.

At the time when Jones’ life started down the wrong path, his mother was doing all the right things—working and going to school to improve their lives. He says his closest-in-age brother was nine years older and involved in his own life issues, so Jones did not have anyone with whom he could talk through the issues he was facing on the street.

Jones became a father for the first time in 1986. From the very beginning, he says he was both father and mother to his son. He had hopes of being a good parent. Ten years later, in 1996, he buried one of his brothers, his stepfather and his mother within a span of two months. He says that was the time his life spun out of control.

When Jones’s second son was born in 1998, once again he was both father and mother to his two children. He knew he had to take control of his life and take care of his boys. So in 1999, he accepted a plea deal to serve two years in prison. Jones says, “It was time to do something positive with my life. I decided to serve my time and start my life over again.”

While incarcerated, Jones participated in parenting and drug counseling programs. The state corrections department took note that he was a father who had custody of his children so work began on a plan for his release based on the children’s best interest. Despite these efforts, he lost custody of his sons while in prison.

He was released from prison in 2001 after serving 18 months but faced new problems. His sons were living in two different homes in Willimantic. He could find no programs that helped men get custody of their children but he did learn that he needed a job, secure housing and an established pattern of successful visitation with his sons before custody could be restored.

At this point, Jones entered the intensive STRIVE program at SAND, a United Way Community Investment supported agency. STRIVE provides three weeks of intensive instruction on how to find a job, what to do in a job interview, proper work-site behavior, introductory computer skills, time management and budgeting. These three weeks are followed by another three months of job search activities. Participants receive quarterly follow-up for two years.

STRIVE did all this and more for Jones. The boys could not visit him at the half-way house where he lived because they were under the age of 18, so STRIVE allowed visits at their offices.

Jones secured a job with a landscaping company shortly after receiving the STRIVE training. This enabled him to get a room at the YMCA where his schedule of visits with the boys could continue.

In August of 2002, after establishing a reliable work history with the landscaping company where he still is employed today, Jones moved into an apartment in Bloomfield. Two months later, in November of 2002, he achieved his goal of regaining custody of his sons, Justin, now age 20, and Brandon, age 7. Jones says, “I’ve set my life on a new path. I feel good about being a role model for my sons, just as my mother was for me. I got a little off track but I’ve paid my debt to society and now I work hard to pay my bills. I’ve accepted responsibility for my sons and we’re very happy to be back together. We are great friends and they can talk to me about everything.”
One icon of personal and financial freedom in America is the automobile. According to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation statistics, over 80% of Connecticut workers use their own vehicle to commute to work. Beyond just the commute, workers such as home healthcare aides use cars as standard equipment for doing their job.

East Hartford resident Vinnett Murray knows this all too well. Murray works as a Personal Care Attendant (PCA) for VNA Healthcare, a United Way Community Investment-supported agency. VNA Healthcare is a home healthcare provider that services more than 60 towns in Connecticut. Until recently, Murray relied on a series of older, high-mileage vehicles to do a job for which most others in her profession own reliable transportation.

PCAs travel on their own to patients’ homes to help with personal hygiene, meal preparation, housekeeping and other day-to-day needs. A typical week’s work can require a PCA to visit as many as 25 patients at different times. VNA Healthcare currently employs 55 PCAs in the greater Hartford area.

Murray has worked for VNA Healthcare since August of 2004, but has been in the patient care field for more than ten years. When Co-Opportunity, a United Way Community Investment-supported agency, made a presentation about Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) at her workplace earlier this year, she jumped at the chance to begin saving to gain greater personal and financial freedom.

“I had a 1990 Toyota with 130,000 miles and then a 1996 Volvo with 110,000 miles,” says Murray. “I had lots of problems with both cars. Then one day I saw a flier at work about the IDA program.”

IDAs are matched savings accounts designed to help qualified families and individuals purchase assets that have long-term value. Typically, IDAs are used to buy homes, invest in education, or establish a small business; however, some IDA programs allow for the purchase of transportation needed for work.

United Way is committed to strengthening families by helping them increase their financial self-sufficiency. Recognizing an opportunity within the healthcare industry to assist home care workers who rely on their personal transportation for their livelihood, United Way connected Co-Opportunity with VNA Healthcare, and a partnership was formed.

According to Terence Floyd, Director of Housing & Community Development for Co-Opportunity, “Having secure transportation has a direct impact on the earning power of home healthcare workers. A better vehicle means more opportunities for employment, which means more money for the worker.”

Participants who open IDAs commit to a savings goal, take a personal finance course, and attend monthly savings club meetings to assist their savings efforts. Financial counselors from Co-Opportunity work with participants to identify a comfortable amount of money that can be withdrawn regularly from their paychecks to go toward savings. Once the participant’s goal is achieved, the money is then matched up to $3 for every $1 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
"The idea behind the IDA program is that people will be much more motivated to save money if they know it’s getting matched,” says Floyd. “With this particular program, a 3-1 match is a pretty good incentive to save.”

For Murray, her savings plan meant putting away $75 a week until she saved $1500. Much to her surprise and delight, when she called Co-Opportunity to share the news that she had reached her goal, she was presented with a check for the matched amount three days later. Trading in her ten-year-old car and combining the IDA with a loan from her credit union, Murray was able to purchase a low-mileage 1999 Nissan Pathfinder.

"The Pathfinder is much more reliable for getting to work," says a grateful Murray. "There were many days I couldn’t get the Volvo to start."

Murray agrees, and encourages others to learn more about the program. “Co-Opportunity really wants to help those who want to save money. I hope other PCAs will take advantage of the program, because it’s legit and real, and I am truly thankful for the help it gave me.”

VNA employees began enrolling in the program in 2006. The partnership is one that all of the parties involved would like to see grow. “This program has been a huge boost for us and especially our direct service staff because when you look at it, transportation is their main line for sustenance,” says Fred Lauria, spokesperson for VNA Healthcare. “Improving their transportation improves their livelihood.”

For more information
Co-Opportunity
www.co-opportunity.org
just want to be a positive role model for my kids,” says Janeika Lewis, mother of six-and-a-half-year-old Harmonee and four-year-old Jadyia.

Two years ago, when her daughters entered pre-kindergarten and kindergarten at Clark School in Hartford, Lewis was introduced to the Clark Family Resource Center, a program of The Village for Children and Families, Inc., a United Way Community Investment supported agency.

As a mother raising her daughters and struggling to make ends meet, Lewis found support for her many needs through the Family Resource Center. Harmonee was having difficulty staying focused in kindergarten class. While receiving tutoring during after-school care at the center, Harmonee was diagnosed with Attention Deficient/Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD). The center’s administrative specialist and parent educator, Paula Beninato, helped Lewis with the next step. “After the school evaluation came back borderline ADHD, they (school officials) said there was really nothing they could do for Harmonee. I went to Miss Paula for help and she helped me get an appointment at Wheeler Clinic (a United Way Community Investment supported agency). They verified the diagnosis and put Harmonee on a mild medication, which has made all the difference,” says Lewis.

Less than a year later, Harmonee excelled in first grade, receiving awards for most improved in reading and outstanding leadership. Today, she is excited about second grade and, as she speaks, it is clear that her verbal skills are far beyond the average second-grade student. Math and reading are her favorite subjects and when asked about her ‘future plans,’ Harmonee says, “I want to help people, maybe as a teacher or maybe as a lawyer or maybe as a nice police officer.”
In addition to the assistance she received for Harmonee, Lewis has been able to count on the Family Resource Center for other support as well. She has received clothes collected at clothes drives and food through the food backpack program. The backpack program is a cooperative program between Foodshare, a United Way Community Investment supported agency, the Village’s food pantry. The backpacks are donated by Village supporters. Lewis has also participated in parenting classes taught by the Village, and in addition to after school tutoring and care, she sends her daughters to the Family Resource Center’s summer programs.

Lewis feels the Family Resource Center really is a resource. “My girls got the support they needed and I got the resources I needed to help our family. I also was able to connect with other parents. Now I know that I’m not the only one going through these things and I’m not alone.”

Beninato is pleased Lewis actively seeks the assistance she needs. “Ms. Lewis and her girls have faced a lot of adversity. Many people would have let it get them down, but she has a strength that keeps her going – her kids. She is very, very involved with her daughters’ education and determined to give them every opportunity. Little by little I see her coming out of the adversity and getting to a better place.”

Lewis is working on the last part of her G.E.D. at Sawyer School and studying to be a medical assistant. Eventually, she hopes to attend college and work in the field of social work. “It makes me feel good to show my kids it is never too late to get an education and change your life. I want them to see what I have overcome and what I have accomplished and know they can overcome any odds,” says Lewis. Those are the words of a positive role model.

**Why Community Investment contributions matter most**

Often when someone seeks help in one area of his or her life, there are other areas of need that brought them to that point. That is why Community Investment dollars support multiple programs. Some address immediate needs and others provide long-term services with the goal of creating long-lasting change.

Janieka Lewis’ story is a great example of United Way Community Investment dollars at work. Lewis went to the Clark Family Resource Center looking for academic help for her daughter, Harmonee. The center is a program of The Village for Children and Families, a Community Investment supported agency. In an effort to find the reason for Harmonee’s lack of focus in class, the center arranged for Harmonee to be tested at Wheeler Clinic, another Community Investment supported agency.

The staff at the Family Resource Center made Lewis aware of other services she could use such as the center’s food backpack cooperative program with Foodshare, another Community Investment supported agency and clothing collected through clothes drives, including United Way’s annual coat drive. Most importantly, with the support of the center Lewis is working toward her GED and studying to become a medical assistant. The degree and the job skills training will help create long-lasting change for the entire family.

Community Investment dollars are providing Janieka Lewis and her daughters with immediate assistance and a path to future success, therein fulfilling United Way’s vision for Community Investment: ensuring children are successful, families are strong and healthy and community conditions are improving.

The pie chart below shows how Community Investment dollars raised in 2005 were distributed through United Way’s volunteer-managed process for programs and initiatives in 2006:

In addition, Community Health Charities of Connecticut received more than $3 million from the 2005 United Way Community Campaign.
Mention the words “red” and “hat” together in the MARC, Inc. Senior Center and the excitement builds immediately. Stories of ladies dressed head to toe in red and purple (the full red hat regalia), new friends and special treats quickly become the topics of enthusiastic conversation. “The Red Hats are coming!” one senior exclaims and the ladies of the MARC Amazing Red Caps Red Hat Society chapter can hardly wait.

What is the Red Hat Society? According to the official Red Hat website, it is the national “social organization where there is fun after 50 (and before) for women of all walks of life.” There is only one society rule: In order to be a Red Hatter, you must be a woman of 50 or over, (you are a Pink Hatter if you are under 50) and you must attend all Red Hat Society functions in full regalia, red hat and purple outfit (pink hat and lavender outfit for women under 50).

On January 31, 2006, the senior ladies of MARC held their premier tea and became the first official Red Hat Society chapter in the country for women with disabilities—the MARC Amazing Red Caps.

“It was a natural fit for us,” says Ken Charpentier, executive director of MARC, Inc. “We are always looking for opportunities to get our seniors into the community and to build relationships. The Red Hat Society is a group of ladies who like to have fun and look for fun events. Our ladies like to have fun and take part in fun events. It is a great match for everyone.”

Marion Porter, MARC’s Senior Center coordinator and “Queen” of their chapter, saw the socialization aspect of the Red Hat Society as a potentially great way to connect her senior ladies with their community. “The sky’s the limit. If they can think it, we can do it. We go all over the place, but it is not often that they get the chance to connect with people outside of their families and the staff here. The Red Hats give them the opportunity to build relationships with other women.”

Once a month, the MARC Amazing Red Caps get together with women from other area Red Hat chapters for a morning of good fun and excellent company. “To see the ladies from the other chapters talking and interacting with our ladies just like everyone else is a beautiful thing to watch,” says Porter. “It is as if the red hats are the common denominator, the equalizer. The ladies are able to make some amazing connections now that they have the opportunity to do so.”

MARC, Inc. is a United Way Community Investment funded agency that supports people with disabilities; empowering them to live, work and enjoy all their community has to offer. Hats off (or better yet, red hats on) to MARC for this innovative program!
This should be considered the starting point, not the finish line,” 2006 United Way Community Campaign chairman John Patrick said on Friday, September 8 as he unveiled $26.2 million as this year’s United Way Community Campaign goal.

Patrick, president and CEO of TD Banknorth Connecticut, ascended United Way’s three-story building in a Northeast Utilities System bucket truck to reveal the goal. He stood high above the audience as he said, “I believe that we can raise this much and more. And we need to do so because of the important work this campaign supports in the 40-town Capital Area.”

Patrick, an avid runner, pointed out the goal’s similarity to the length of a marathon (26.2 miles) and announced the 2006 campaign theme of “Going the Distance for Children, Families and Communities.” He spoke to a crowd of more than 150 campaign volunteers, agency representatives and community leaders. “I know that with your enthusiastic support, we can run a highly successful campaign and go the distance to help those in need in our community.”
Friday, September 8, 2006 marked the 15th annual Day of Caring. Nearly 4,000 employees representing 75 local companies lent a hand at more than 300 project sites for 150 nonprofit agencies throughout the 40-town capital region. Activities included preparing and serving food at soup kitchens, harvesting food for food banks and pantries, landscaping and painting group homes and reading with children. Day of Caring gives employees the chance to see firsthand how their gifts through the campaign change lives and improve conditions in the communities in which they live and work. These pages contain photos and postcards submitted by volunteers. To read more, please visit www.uwcact.org/2006postcards on the web.
Above: Employees from St. Paul Travelers, including Jessica Catricala (left) and Richard Johnston (right), volunteer at Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic.

Left: The Hartford Financial Services Group volunteer Barbara Dodd gardens at My Sister’s Place in Hartford.

Right: Tiffany Mack, a volunteer from Hartford Hospital, waters flowers in the gardens at Kinsella Magnet School in Hartford.

Right: Edward Burns from The Phoenix Companies paints at the Hispanic Health Council in Hartford.

Above: UTC Fire & Security volunteer Luiz Bacellar rakes the grounds at the Salvation Army of Greater Hartford.

Above: Employees from Pratt & Whitney, bags potatoes at the Foodshare Regional Market in Hartford.

Above: CIGNA volunteers, including Robert Gastia (foreground), pitch in at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford.

Left: Carrie King, a volunteer from Pratt & Whitney, bags potatoes at the Foodshare Regional Market in Hartford.

Above: CIGNA volunteers, including Robert Gastia (foreground), pitch in at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford.
Below: Alstom employee Jan LaForest-Roys harvests vegetables at Holcomb Farm in West Granby for Hartford Food System.

Top: Brad Drazen, Weekend News Anchor at NBC 30 and 2006 Campaign Cabinet member, emcees the 2006 Community Campaign Kickoff where this year’s goal was announced.

Above: Beth Stafford, executive director of Manchester Area Conference of Churches and Day of Caring XV co-chair thanks companies and volunteers for their participation.

Above: TD Banknorth volunteers (from left to right) Carol Gilbert, Bill Leonard and Jennifer Gabriel prepared to brighten the grounds at Intercommunity Mental Health Group in East Hartford.

Above: Hamilton Sundstrand volunteers, (from left to right) Doug Fisher and Jesse Moreuz, clean up the grounds at the American Lung Association in East Hartford.

Left: Todd Frodyma from MassMutual Financial Group paints the locker room at the Boys’ and Girls’ Club of New Britain.
Above: (from left to right) Rick Carterud, Mike Ambrosini, Bill Barbato and Pete Schulz from Hartford Steam Boiler garden and landscape in Hartford at a Knox Parks Foundation site.

Left: Aetna volunteer Marie Slattery assists a participant at MARC, Inc.’s Red Hat Society picnic in Manchester.

Below: MetLife volunteer Susan Libby works with students in a M.D. Fox Elementary School classroom.

Right: Carol Coppa of Northeast Utilities System sands a door frame at Interval House in Hartford.

Below: Steve Balcanoff of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center builds shelves to organize a storage room at VNA Health Care, Inc. in Hartford.
United Way Community Campaign

Tocqueville Society

“I must say that I have often seen Americans make great and real sacrifices to the public welfare; and I have noticed a hundred instances in which they hardly ever failed to lend faithful support to one another.”

Alexis de Tocqueville

Only 26 years old when he came to America in 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville traveled all over the young nation. Though he only spent nine months in the United States, he gleaned an insightful view of American society.

Perhaps his most important observation was that Americans helped each other in times of need. He recognized, applauded and immortalized the voluntary spirit that lives in America’s heart.

Members of the society are recognized for their gift of $10,000 or more in the local United Way Tocqueville Society and Constitution Society membership roster and in the annual United Way of America national registry. There are over 21,000 members of the United Way Tocqueville Society from nearly 400 communities nationwide. Their contributions total more than $400 million cumulative dollars.

For the Capital Area’s 2005 United Way Community Campaign, United Way Tocqueville Society members’ gifts totaled more than $4 million or 16 percent of all dollars raised through the annual campaign.

In 2005, under the leadership of Howard L. Carver and Thomas A. McEachin, many in our community became members of the United Way Tocqueville Society for the first time, bringing the total number of members to 267.

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*Constitution Society member for 5 or more years | **Constitution Society member for 10 or more years | ***Constitution Society member for 15 or more years | † Deceased
Through leadership giving, contributors invest their charitable dollars in programs and services that are making a positive change within our local community.

Members of the United Way Constitution Society are individuals who contribute $1,000 or more through the annual United Way Community Campaign. We are pleased to acknowledge the generous donors on the following pages for their outstanding commitment and dedication to our community.

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United Way's tenth annual Dr. Frederick G. Adams Award was presented to Peter's Retreat, a program of Center City Churches, during a reception and ceremony at United Way of the Capital Area on April 25, 2006. Peter's Retreat is a congregate home in downtown Hartford which provides a shared residence and support program for homeless adults with an HIV/AIDS diagnosis. As the recipient of this award, the program received for further program enhancement a grant of $5,000, generously provided this year by the MassMutual Community Fund in partnership with United Way of the Capital Area.

The Dr. Frederick G. Adams Award was established in 1996 to honor the memory, spirit and contributions of Dr. Adams, a longtime United Way board member and community volunteer. The award recognizes innovative and effective programs at local health and human service agencies in a different service area each year, reflecting the diverse community interests of Dr. Adams. The focus of this year's award was on improving conditions in our community. Because of Dr. Adams' legacy of volunteerism, United Way presents the award during National Volunteer Week each April.

Editor's Note: Shown above are presenters and recipients of the 2005 Fred Adams Award, including George Bahamonde (far right). Bahamonde, president and CEO of United Way of the Capital Area, passed away in July of 2006.
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Michael & Sall Magoilo*
Jim Magogoni*
Richard & Cheryl Maguire*
Tom & Flora Mahara*
Raje Maharaj
David J. Mahon*
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Richard & Sylvia Mangini*
Eileen & Douglas Marnion*
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Andre J. Mann
John, Andrea & Owen M ann
Ned Mann & Mary Art*
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Allan & Brenda Manning*
Neil & Deborah Manning
Paula M. Manteau*
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Peter Marchessault*
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Ted W. Marcisz**
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Alexander Marek
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Sarahbeth Markham
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Marlowe
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Raul Matamoros
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Nakia R. McCullah
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M'Cormott*
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E. M erritt M'Donough
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Kate M cGah
Craig R. McGarrah*
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Shelia Gaziosi
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Raymond M cGrane*
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Joe & Barbara Mclayth
Mark & Joanne Mchins
Richard & Kathleen Mchtosh*
Randle Mckee
Patrick & Karen Mckenna*
In M emory of Sally &
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Anthony & Tina M cKinney
Cyndi Mckimmon*
Linda Mcknight*
Jeffrey & Jodi-Ann Mclane
Earl M'callan & Dina Rapier
M'call & Elizabeth M'callon*
The M calon family
Starlene M calow
Sue Mcllilen
Mr. & Mrs. Sean M calurray
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Larry & M ary Mckee
Christopher &
Marianne M'cNell*
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William J. M cVey*
The Daniel M eade Family
Mr. & Mrs. William Meneay
Tammy L. Mendenon & Family*
Omar & Pat M eguid
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Richard Messner
Tony & Mala Meshenko*
Liz & Bob Mclvyn*
The M endel Family
Katherine G. M estus
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David C. M erli
Susan & Dwight M erlman*
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Mary & Harry Moyer*
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Karen A. M ichaud
Janet A. M ichel
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Keith & Susieann Middlet
Marianne C. Miller
Michael M idley
Thomas Miele
Charlie & Dee-dee Mihalak
Michael & Stacy Mike*
Edward G. Millaia*
Lawrence E. M illan*
Richard & Kendel Milburn*
Robert & Marilyn Miden
John M latti & Kathleen Tierney
Steve Milks
Melissa M ilian
Mary Beth Miller

On May 13, 2006, during the National Association of Letter Carriers’ (NALC) annual food drive, *Stamp Out Hunger*, residents in our 40-town area delivered on the call for food. Over 189 tons of food were picked up by letter carriers and delivered to Foodshare, enough to provide more than 17 days of food assistance to local families in need.

Foodshare, a United Way partner agency, is the regional food bank for Hartford and Tolland counties. It distributes more than 11 tons of food each day to 350 local food programs. Foodshare provides food to pantries, community kitchens, shelters and other social service organizations in every town in the greater Hartford area. These programs serve children, families and seniors and provide over a quarter of a million meals each month.

In Greater Hartford, the food drive is coordinated by local NALC Merged Branch #86 in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, AFL-CIO, United Way of the Capital Area, Foodshare, America’s Second Harvest and national sponsor Campbell’s Soup Company.

The NALC food drive is the largest single day food collection event in the nation. In 2006, 70.5 million pounds of food were collected nationwide to help area food banks offset the increased need they face in the summer when children are home from school. Each year, United Way helps to promote the food drive and asks organizations that participate in the Community Campaign to promote it as well.

**Constitution Society member for 5 or more years | | *Constitution Society member for 10 or more years | | **Constitution Society member for 15 or more years | | 1 Deceased

Impact Summer/Fall 06
21
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<th>United Way Community Campaign</th>
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<td><strong>Leadership Giving in Corporations &amp; Organizations</strong></td>
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<td>United Way Community Campaign gratefully acknowledges Union support from Pratt &amp; Whitney, Hamilton Sundstrand and UTC Power. Union leadership donors are included in the company numbers above.</td>
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com·mu·ni·ty: A group of people having common interests – American Heritage Dictionary

During a joint interview at their home, John Chu and Tina Eng exhibit a commonality of thinking that comes after more than a decade of marriage. There's that ease of completing your spouse's sentence or thought and almost with one voice they speak of the importance of supporting children, family and community through gifts of time and money.

Tina grew up in New York City, the sister of two older brothers. Her parents, who still live in the house she grew up in, encouraged their children to be well-rounded. In addition to pursuing strong academics in school with a particular interest in math and business, Tina also participated in community-based arts and sports programs. “I played tennis on community courts and participated in Girl Scouts and other programs at the parks and community centers,” she says. “My family was always aware of programs that were going on in the parks. Even now my parents send me information about events that are taking place in the city.”

John grew up on the other coast—in Los Angeles. He is the youngest of two brothers and a sister. “My parents were very academically focused,” he says. “But I was able to go to community playgrounds and centers like the Boys and Girls Club to play sports. I channeled a great deal of my energy into sports, especially basketball. I think these types of programs go a long way toward helping to keep young people out of trouble.”

John and Tina met in graduate school. They both received MBAs from the New York University Stern School of Business. Tina holds an undergraduate degree in marketing and finance from Boston College. John has an undergraduate degree in economics from UCLA.

After marriage and graduation, the couple moved to Dallas where John worked for PepsiCo and Tina worked for Frito-Lay. Three years later, they moved to Hong Kong where John worked for Lehman Brothers and Tina worked for ESPN. Next, they moved to San Francisco where John worked for Tillinghast Tower Perrin and Tina worked for Apple and Basic American Foods. In 1999, they came back to the east coast. John is Senior Vice President for eBusiness & Technology at The Hartford Financial Service Group and Tina is a marketing consultant working at nonprofits. They live in West Hartford with their sons Tanner, age 9, Kyle, age 7 and daughter Jetta, age 5.

“Here you can participate and see an almost immediate impact...
When asked whether one or the other influences support for United Way more, the consensus is "no, our individual levels of support for United Way and the programs and services are really very equal," says Tina. "It dates back to our first jobs at PepsiCo and Frito-Lay," John adds. "I think the fact that both of us grew up in modest households in large cities where we were able to utilize community programs supported by public giving affords us a personal understanding of the benefit of similar programs supported by United Way."

Tina continues, "Giving was a part of our lives growing up. Even though our families were of modest means, we always gave to the Salvation Army or other agencies that provided programs and services for our home community."

With their leadership contribution, John and Tina support Community Investment, the arts, education and health. "The Tocqueville Society is a nice way to aggregate our giving," says John. "When you add up your charitable giving throughout the year, it makes sense to take that amount continued on page 28
Facts about the new IRA Charitable Rollover Provision

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows people who are at least 70-1/2 years old to make an annual tax-free charitable contribution of up to $100,000. When you distribute funds from your traditional IRA, your gift to United Way of the Capital Area will be used to support programs and initiatives that are doing the most to help those in need.

Provision highlights:
- The Provision applies only to transfers made before December 31, 2007.
- Gifts must be transferred directly to one or more public charities. Contributions cannot be used to fund supporting organizations or donor advised funds.
- Because no income will be reported on your tax return, you will not receive a charitable income tax deduction for the contribution.

Benefits to you:
- Any qualified charitable distribution that you make will “count” toward your minimum required distribution.
- An IRA charitable rollover will not affect your other charitable gifts to which deduction limitations apply.
- You can make the gift right now and witness the benefits of your generosity.

By taking advantage of this special opportunity, you will help ensure children are successful, families are healthy and strong and community conditions are improving. To learn more about how you can make an IRA donation to United Way of the Capital Area, please contact Brooke Penders at 860.493.6849 or bpenders@uwcact.org.

and give it through United Way which allows your contributions to touch the same programs and even more.”

John and Tina also support this community with their time. John serves on a city of Hartford task force on young children that is seeking ways to increase participation in pre-school. Tina has worked with organizations to address the large number of children who do not own one single book. She also volunteers as a tutor of English.

John says, “In large cities like Los Angeles, New York, Dallas, Hong Kong and San Francisco it is sometimes difficult to feel part of the community. Here you can participate and see an almost immediate impact. Compared to other places we’ve lived, I feel the greatest sense of community here in the Capital Area.”

During the 2006 United Way Community Campaign, John shared his thoughts on United Way leadership giving with others at the Hartford saying “We are leaders of one of the largest companies in this area. That makes us accountable, to some degree, for the health of the community in which we work, live and play. We must all give time and money to help improve this area and make it vibrant. When we are successful, we will have access to a highly talented workforce which will create a healthy economy and we will have a heightened sense of pride because we will have made something good happen.”

Some of Tina’s community involvement is through the children’s schools and other activities. She is pleased that they too are learning to support others in the community through food, coat and toy drives and other programs. She spoke of a recent conversation with her son Tanner that she turned into a teaching moment on benevolence. “He asked me if math is the most important thing in life,” she said, “I told him that math is an important thing in life but it also is important to be a good person who is generous to others.”

A shared interest in community is touching the next generation in John and Tina’s household.
The United Way logo which incorporates a hand holding a person quite possibly could also symbolize Earl Schofield’s work as the Senior Union EAP (Employee Assistance Program) coordinator for District 26, the Machinist’s union at Pratt & Whitney and Hamilton Sundstrand. “I’m here for workers when they need help,” says Schofield, “and I know what needing help means.”

Nearly 20 years ago, Schofield’s heavy drinking endangered his chance of keeping his job and he was referred to EAP. “I didn’t really put my heart and mind into it the first time I went to rehab,” he says, “but the union and company gave me a second chance. I stopped drinking in 1990 after my second trip to rehab.”

Schofield held several union leadership positions including shop and senior steward and vice president and assistant recording secretary of the Greater Hartford Labor Council. He became a CEAP (Certified EAP) in 2000 and in 2003 earned SAP (Substance Abuse Professional) certification which requires knowledge of drug and alcohol testing and treatment procedures. He can evaluate what, if anything, an employee needs to resolve substance abuse problems, can recommend rehabilitation programs, determine needed follow-ups and decide when the client can return to work duties.

“Although I specialize in drug and alcohol counseling, I provide help with many issues. Sometime there are underlying causes and consequences of the behavior that must be dealt with. That’s when I might turn to United Way supported programs and services to help them.”

Schofield says that when employees have financial problems he refers them to food pantries, many of which receive food from Foodshare, a United Way Community Investment supported partner agency. Those needing domestic abuse counseling or shelter, childcare referrals, help coping with illness or financial literacy skills also can find help through United Way supported programs.

Schofield learned much of his knowledge about these programs as a United Way volunteer. He has served on the United Way of the Capital Area’s board of directors from 1994 to the present. He has been co-chairman of the Pratt & Whitney campaign since 2002 and on the United Way Community Campaign cabinet as labor representative in 2005 and 2006. “I really enjoy the cabinet meetings and tours held at the agencies because they are so informative,” he says. “It is such an eye-opener to learn about the programs and resources available for those in need of these services. I’m happy to volunteer in a position that continues to help me learn new ways that I can help people in my job.”

Born and raised in the Frog Hollow section of Hartford, Schofield remembers participating in an after-school woodworking program at Burns School and attending Camp Courant. He is pleased that United Way continues to see the value of out-of-school time programs for today’s youth. “These are programs that have always given young people exposure to various trades or skills while keeping them safe and off the streets,” he says. “If we’re going to be committed to giving kids a successful future, we have to be committed to providing them the programs and skills needed to get there.”
Above: Volunteers from Otis Elevator Company (from left to right) Curtis St. Brice, Lisa Bongiovi and Michael Thomann organize the storage room at the American Red Cross - Charter Oak Chapter in Farmington on Day of Caring XV.

"A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Jackie Robinson