

## Community Investment Report

May 2011

**HOW TO  
LIVE UNITED:  
JOIN HANDS.  
OPEN YOUR HEART.  
LEND YOUR MUSCLE.  
FIND YOUR VOICE.  
GIVE 10% GIVE 100%  
GIVE 110%  
GIVE AN HOUR.  
GIVE A SATURDAY.  
THINK OF WE BEFORE ME.  
REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND  
INFLUENCE  
THE CONDITION OF ALL.  
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
LIVE UNITED.**



### FINANCIAL COACHING PROGRAM

United Way of West Central Connecticut's free Financial Coaching Program can help individuals and families get control of their finances! We match clients with a trained volunteer who will help them develop a better understanding of their financial situation. In one-on-one sessions with their coach, clients will learn how to effectively manage their income, spending, debt and savings.

This program is designed to help low- to moderate-income individuals address common financial concerns. Volunteer Coaches work with clients to:

- ✓ Identify financial values
- ✓ Set fiscal goals for the household
- ✓ Formulate a plan to reach goals
- ✓ Focus on progress toward goals
- ✓ Address obstacles to success

Our coaches educate, guide and encourage households through one-on-one sessions at a mutually agreed upon location. Through this process, the coach helps the client to make smart money choices and improve their personal finances. Together, the client will create a spending plan that will fit their personal wants, needs and goals.

GIVE.

ADVOCATE.

VOLUNTEER.

The United Way of West Central Connecticut, serving the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville and Plymouth, is working to create opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on education, income and health.

Under the building block of Income, the Financial Coaching Program strives to help families become financially stable and independent. Our Income work is based upon the Pathway to Prosperity, pictured below. This model discusses the importance of building a solid foundation before moving along the “pathway” toward financial stability and sustained asset development.

Beginning first at the bottom of the pyramid with Economic & Family Supports, United Way started the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program locally to help individuals and families increase their income, through free tax preparation and promotion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Created in 1975, the EITC is a tax credit that helps offset Social Security taxes and provides an incentive for work. It is the federal government’s largest benefit and anti-poverty program for working families. Through our VITA program over the last two years, we were able to bring \$333,000 in refunds back to individuals and families in our community.

Once families have begun to increase their income, we can move them up this pyramid to Managing & Saving Money. United Way has been offering free financial education classes, on topics such as budgeting and debt and credit management to help with these steps.

In addition to our classes, we began offering the free Financial Coaching Program for those individuals who needed more one-on-one help to manage their money, learn about financial basics, and begin saving more. We feel that through this program we can have a significant impact on a family’s financial future and set them up for a long-term plan for success.

We are still accepting clients into this program, so if you or someone you know is interested, please call our office at (860) 582-9559.



**BRISTOL** ◆ **BURLINGTON** ◆ **PLAINVILLE** ◆ **PLYMOUTH/TERRYVILLE**

SAVE THE DATE

**37th Annual**

**United Way Golf Tournament**

*Thursday, September 8, 2011*

Chippanee Golf Club

For more information:

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