



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way Honors Those Who “Live United”

BRISTOL, CONN – The United Way of West Central Connecticut, serving the communities of Bristol, Burlington, Plainville and Plymouth, held its annual Community Builders’ Reception on April 8, 2010 at the Aqua Turf Club. The event recognized and honored those who share their time and resources with the United Way to advance the common good by creating lasting changes to improve lives in our communities.

During this special evening, United Way honored those who Live United by giving, advocating and volunteering: *Award for Excellence* – Thomaston Savings Bank; *Special Initiative Award* – United Way Allocation Committee; *Lou Bachman Award* – Susan Everett from Bristol Public Schools and *Spirit of Caring Award* – Shirley Osle from the Town of Plainville.

The theme of this year’s event was “*Don’t just wear the shirt, Live it!*” The evening honored people who are deeply connected to United Way and have left their mark on the community. United Way demonstrated how the passion of the award winners has transformed their organization and pushed them to grow. Through a program and videos, United Way highlighted those who give, advocate and volunteer – from their youngest volunteers through to senior citizens.

Shirley Osle received the Spirit of Caring Award recognizing her generous spirit of community volunteerism. Osle, who serves as the Assistant Town Manager of the Town of Plainville, has served on the United Way Board of Directors & Allocation Committee for the last eight years. She also serves as President of the Plainville Rotary Club, an associate member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Chair of the Community Human Services Committee, and a Member of St. Mary’s Women’s Guild. Osle humbly accepted her award, saying that her inspiration was all of the other volunteers in the room, who also give so much time and energy.

Susan Everett, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board of Education, received the Lou Bachman Award in recognition of her tireless work to help the United Way Community Campaign succeed during the last six years within the Bristol Public Schools. Due to her efforts, this campaign increased 13% this past year! Everett gave credit to the 1,200 Bristol Public School employees that all Live United through their work with United Way. She also thanked the 22 school campaign managers for their assistance and hard work.

The Special Initiative Award was presented to the United Way Allocation Committee. This committee of individuals from our four communities worked tirelessly to streamline United Way's funding process and thus, ensure that all of their partners were addressing key outcomes under the United Way building blocks of Education, Income and Health. In doing so, United Way believes they are now having the greatest impact possible. Accepting the award on behalf of the committee, Wilma Hart and Patricia Morgan said that it was a difficult process but a worthwhile one.

The winner of this year's Award for Excellence was Thomaston Savings Bank in recognition of their strong commitment and support of the United Way Community Campaign. This past year they had a 43% increase in employee giving! They also support United Way with a corporate gift, as sponsors of all of their special events, and with their valuable employees as volunteers. In addition, they are involved with United Way's initiative work and contribute to many other community endeavors. Steve Lewis, President & CEO, said that during these tough economic times, it was important to support his employees in their involvement with United Way and the community.

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About United Way of West Central Connecticut

The United Way of West Central Connecticut originated as the Community Chest of Bristol, Conn. in 1922 and later expanded into the towns of Burlington and Plymouth. The United Way of Bristol, Burlington and Plymouth merged with the United Way of Plainville in 1996 to form the United Way of West Central Connecticut, which is one of 17 independent United Ways in Connecticut and one of nearly 1,300 national and worldwide agencies. The United Way of West Central Connecticut has been in partnership with individuals, business and organizations working to improve community life for over 85 years.