

NEWS RELEASE



West Central Connecticut

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way Presents Annual Community Builders' Awards

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 May 8, 2008. The event recognized and honored those who shared their time and resources with the United Way to help build a stronger, healthier, more compassionate community.

This year's theme was "*LIVE UNITED.*" United Way believes that underneath everything we are, underneath everything we do, we are all people... connected, interdependent, united. And when we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. That's what it means to *LIVE UNITED.*

During this special evening, United Way honored those who Live United by giving, advocating and volunteering: *Special Community Recognition Award* – ESPN; *Award for Excellence* – Farmington Savings Bank; *Special Initiative Award* – Young Professionals for United Way; *Lou Bachman Award* – Debbie Shapiro from the City of Bristol and *Spirit of Caring Award* – Theodore Scheidel, former First Selectman of Burlington.

Debra Shapiro received the Lou Bachman Award in recognition of her tireless work to help the United Way Community Campaign succeed during the last two years as a member of the City of Bristol campaign team. Shapiro's efforts have gone above and beyond any expectations and have helped to increase the participation of City Employees. When asked how she *LIVES UNITED*, Shapiro said, "By bringing some combination of my mind, energy, creativity, humor, and spirit of collaboration – sharing with others at work and play."

Theodore C. Scheidel Jr. received the Spirit of Caring Award recognizing his generous spirit of community volunteerism. The Former First Selectman of the Town of Burlington has been involved with United Way since the 1970s and has served in several capacities with the United Way. He has also been a member of other community-wide organizations, including the Burlington Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce. As Burlington's First Selectman for 26 years, Scheidel was heavily involved with making our community a better place to live and work and he plans to continue this work in his

new role as Administrative Aide to the Mayor of Plymouth. Scheidel stated, “Whether it has been administering to the Burlington Food Bank, or Fuel Assistance, or my personal donations and time to help those in more need than myself, I feel very fulfilled and satisfied that I helped people to the best of my ability.”

This year, United Way gave a Special Community Recognition Award to ESPN for its constant efforts to make our community a better place to live and work. From Team ESPN’s efforts to send hundreds of volunteers into the community, to their corporate giving generosity to countless organizations in the community including United Way, to their employees’ involvement on many boards and committees, ESPN is a perfect example of a company that *LIVES UNITED*.

The Special Initiative Award was presented to the Young Professionals for United Way for their energy and enthusiasm in increasing involvement from the younger members of our community. In just over a year since their formation, they have gone from two members to over thirty and have raised over \$3,000. The group was created because there is a shortage of volunteer opportunities for young professionals and United Way wanted to bring together a group of people who could offer fundraising, volunteering, and networking opportunities to other people their age.

The winner of this year’s Award for Excellence was Farmington Savings Bank in recognition of their long and valued tradition of annual corporate and employee support of the United Way community campaign. Bryan Bowerman, Chairman of the Board of Farmington Savings Bank said, “Farmington Savings Bank is very proud to be receiving the Award for Excellence. The bank has a long history of involvement with the United Way and the great work they do in our community. FSB has many employees who are directly involved with the United Way and we look forward to continuing our support. We are very honored to receive this award.”

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 22 independent United Ways in Connecticut and one of 1,350 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 85 years.