

# Bristol Community Chest: 1922-1947

1922



The Bristol Chamber of Commerce initiated a meeting on March 20, 1922, to discuss forming a Community Chest. Presidents from six leading charitable organizations in Bristol were invited (Boys Club, Boy Scouts, Bristol Hospital, Red Cross, Health Protection League and VNA).

1922



The Bristol Community Chest incorporated on May 12, 1922, with Morton C. Treadway, Sr. appointed President of the Board of Directors.

1929

\$75,000 was raised, and the first part-time "Executive" was hired.

1930



The Community Chest began appeals through church collections, Salvation Army kettles, and event ticket sales.

1937

The first "Get-to-Gether" of about 65 Industrial workers was held, which perhaps was the first campaign kick-off.



1941



Two paid solicitors were hired to help call on 800+ contributors. The USO arrived, and a separate drive was conducted by them. A Community Chest Council was reestablished that included 18 community representatives, and E. Bartlett Barnes was elected President.

1944

A new office location at 249 Main Street combined the Chamber of Commerce and Community Chest offices in Bristol.

1947



Labor and economic issues, including the very high cost of housing, affected the campaign. The year before saw a 32% decrease. A "Citizens Committee" was established to review agency funding requests. A new concept was adopted, which promoted \$10/week giving through payroll deduction.

# Community Chest/United Fund: 1947-1972



## 1949

A nationwide survey was conducted of 58 cities with similar sized population. Agency funding levels and campaign methodologies were reviewed, and recognition of local efforts and positive comparisons were made.



## 1950

A national search resulted in full-time Executive Director, Dwight Hoffman, being hired at \$6,000/year.

## 1951

Fundraising increased 24% over the last year and 45% in the last two years to \$152,747. The Bristol Community Chest was 1st in CT and 3rd nationally regarding increases.



## 1952

The Plainville Community Fund incorporated on June 2, 1952, with Herman A. Papenfoth appointed President of the Board.



## 1954

A "uniform system of reporting" monthly and annual budgets by agencies was adopted. "Overlapping and duplication" of agency services was reviewed. An Auto Depreciation Fund was established.



## 1955

The Community Chest played a part in the local "Flood Relief Fund", working with the Red Cross Appeal (a hurricane and two floods). Moved offices to Bristol Federal Savings and Loan with monthly rent of \$75.

## 1958

The board held discussions about including Terryville or helping them form their own Community Chest. Changed from Community Chest to United Fund to create "one drive for all."



## 1972

Computer services were obtained to assist the general campaign. Bristol joined the newly established United Way of Connecticut. It was the first time the new name "United Way" was used locally.

# United Way: 1972-1997

1976



Jack Brooks was hired as Executive Director and served until 1984. United Way held its first Golf Tournament and began contracting with the City of Bristol's data-processing center.

1977



United Way started the Voluntary Action Center for volunteer recruitment and assignments.

1979

United Way administered the Rich Moran Campership Fund, which continues to provide camperships for local youth.

1983



United Way placed a computer terminal in the office to tie into the City of Bristol's computer for campaign accounting and reporting.

1984

Marty Milkovic was hired as Executive Director and served until 1995.



1989



Donations from the Community Campaign exceeded \$1 million for the first time! Pledges totaled \$1,000,064 to support local programs.

1992

The first Day of Caring was held with 30-40 volunteers. Thirty years later, Day of Caring averages more than 600 volunteers, including nearly 200 youth.



1996



United Way of Bristol, Plymouth and Burlington merged with United Way of Plainville after several years of cooperation to form United Way of West Central Connecticut.

# United Way of West Central Connecticut: 1997-2022

1997



Cary Dupont was hired as President and Chief Professional Officer and served until 2008.

1998



Plainville Superintendent of Schools Max Riley worked with students from the six high schools in United Way's region to start the United Way Youth Board.

2005

Kids in the Middle (KIM) was launched. KIM helps middle school youth successfully transition to high school and young adulthood by connecting them to the community.

2008



Donna Osuch was hired as President and Chief Professional Officer.

2010

United Way brought the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to the community. Volunteers prepare taxes and connect residents to needed services - all for free!



2017

The Walsh Summer Work Experience Program moved under United Way's leadership. The program offers a paid work experience combined with career readiness skills, and has served 127 youth since 2017.



2020

United Ways throughout the state raised funds to distribute \$200 gift cards to thousands of people impacted by COVID-19. Locally, United Way supported nonprofits and individuals during the pandemic.

2021

United Way coordinated 27 Farmers to Families food distribution events with the City of Bristol, beginning in 2020 during the pandemic. United Way volunteers gave away 35,505 boxes of food weighing 1,107,900 pounds, with an estimated value of \$1,455,480.

