

GIVE.

ADVOCATE.

VOLUNTEER.

Cocktails with a Cause

Thursday, March 4th - 5:00 pm

Hibernia Irish Pub

Beat the winter blues by mingling with local young professionals at one of downtown's hot spots. Door prize, beer tasting and free appetizers.

Pearly Baker Band 25th Anniversary Concert & Fundraiser

Saturday, April 3rd - 7pm

Zeiterion Theatre

Join the Pearly Baker Band in celebrating their 25th anniversary by attending this amazing concert at the Zeiterion Theatre! All proceeds to benefit United Way's Hunger Commission of Southeastern MA.

WANT TO BE A SPONSOR? Sponsor this event and get top billing on all promotional materials! Levels range from \$100 - \$5000. Contact Caroline Cuccia @ United Way for more info. 508-994-9625 x15



Annual Awards Dinner Celebration

Tuesday, April 13th - 5:30 pm

White's of Westport

United Way is proud to honor the individuals and companies that have chosen to LIVE UNITED by supporting our efforts throughout the past year.

Youth Day of Caring

Friday, May 7th

Area high school students will volunteer at local nonprofits for a day, assisting with various projects such as painting, landscaping and stocking food pantries.

16th Annual Clambake Fundraiser

Friday, June 11th - 5-11 pm

Pier 3, New Bedford Waterfront

United Way's largest annual fundraiser, the Clambake brings nearly 1,000 people to the waterfront for a traditional New England Clambake, an incredible silent auction, and live music and dancing. **Contact us if you'd like to sponsor the event or donate a silent auction item!**



UPCOMING EVENTS

UNITED WAY PROVIDES HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS



United Way spent much of December working to help struggling families enjoy a memorable holiday season.

Once again partnering with the New Bedford Firefighters' Union for the 11th Annual Toy Drive,

United Way helped distribute an estimated 2,700 toys to families in need. Donations of new toys, books, and stuffed animals were collected throughout the city at all fire stations, as well as Ashley Ford, New Bedford Credit Union and Apponequet High School.

"We spend so much time working in the city and this was really a great opportunity to give back," says New Bedford Firefighter Jim Fortin.

Organizations that received toys from the drive include PACE, New Bedford Community Connections Coalition, HarbOur House, NorthStar Learning Center, Immigrants' Assistance Center, YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts, Greater New Bedford Women's Center, Schwartz Center for Children, Donovan House, South Central/ South First Street Neighborhood Association, and the Kennedy Donovan Center.

Additionally, United Way teamed up with Target stores in Dartmouth and Wareham to distribute free, decorated holiday trees to families in need through Target's national Share-A-Tree Program.

Four trees were distributed to deserving families in Greater New Bedford and Wareham through local agencies. One family received a tree through the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts after their Christmas tree and gifts were stolen when their house was broken into the week before the holiday. Another tree went to brighten Christmas for the seniors in New Bedford at the Brooklawn Senior Center.

Other Share-A-Tree recipients were the Gleason Family YMCA in Wareham and the Kennedy-Donovan Center.



THE 2010 MINI-GRANTS FUNDING CYCLE IS UNDERWAY - YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP MAY BE ELIGIBLE!

United Way's Community Building Mini-Grants Program is the only local program that supports volunteer groups by providing grants of \$500 - \$2,500 for projects that address local issues and concerns. Over the past 15 years, the Mini-Grants has funded a myriad of organizations with budgets that do not exceed \$25,000, such as neighborhood associations, advocacy groups, PTOs and sustainability groups. The program also offers ongoing networking opportunities and skill building workshops for grantees.

You or someone you know may be part of a group that is eligible to receive a Mini-Grant! To learn more about the program and types of groups and projects that are funded, visit www.unitedwayofgnb.org and click on "Advocate."

Application deadline is Friday, April 9th. All applicants, including past Mini-Grantees, are required to attend one of the following orientation sessions:

Tuesday, Feb. 23rd @ 10 am
CEDC Office
181 Hillman St., Bldg. 9 (2nd fl)
New Bedford

Wednesday, Feb. 24th @ 6 pm
United Way Office
105 William St., 3rd floor
New Bedford

Thursday, March. 4th @ 6 pm
Wareham Free Library
59 Marion Road (Rte. 6)
Wareham



Pre-registration is required for all sessions. Contact Claudia Kirk at 508-994-9625 x.13 or ckirk@unitedwayofgnb.org to register.

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UNITED WAY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE HONOR FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



Six individuals involved with United Way of Greater New Bedford were recently named as the "Top Young Professionals Under 40" in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island by The New England Business Bulletin.

Four members of the United Way staff, including **Michelle N. Hantman**, President; **Sarah Gonet**, Vice President of Resource Development; **Caroline Cuccia**, Director of Marketing & PR; and **Lisa Calvano**, Director of Finance & Administration, were awarded the honor.

Additionally, two of the organization's key volunteers – **Beth Sylvia Caldwell** of Sylvia & Company Insurance Agency, who serves as the Campaign Chair, and **Christopher Hodgson** of Coastal Financial Services, a United Way Board member – were also featured.

"The ongoing success of our organization is largely due to our talented staff and dedicated volunteers from the community, so we're thrilled to have so many of them recognized in this way," said Ms. Hantman.

United Way has hosted a number of events, such as Cocktails with a Cause and BE LOCAL, to engage young professionals and encourage them to give back to their community. The organization is planning to host another Cocktails with a Cause event in February 2010.



"There are already so many young adults who are engaged and involved in the community," added Ms. Hantman, "but we want to continue to tap into the pool of talents and skills that our area's young professionals have to offer."

Individuals interested in getting involved can visit United Way's website at www.unitedwayofgnb.org to learn more.

HUNGER COMMISSION HELPS THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

This past Thanksgiving, hundreds of families in need were able to enjoy a holiday meal thanks to United Way's Hunger Commission of Southeastern Massachusetts.

On November 23rd, the Hunger Commission distributed 1,300 turkeys to local food assistance programs, allowing them to provide individuals with a meal that they otherwise would not have been able to enjoy.

Turkeys were purchased in part with funding from the City of New Bedford Community Development Block Grant and several individual donors.

"The need this year was significantly higher than we've seen in past years, and the donors in our community came through with flying colors," said Bill Shell, Hunger Commission Program Director. "This program allows families that have been hit hard by the economy to enjoy the traditional Thanksgiving meal that most of us take for granted."



Additionally, in December the Hunger Commission teamed up with Acushnet Company to provide 14 deserving families with Christmas toys. The families were identified through the Home of Hope, a program of Seven Hills Behavioral Health.

Other local businesses stepped up to help the Hunger Commission during the holidays. Symmetry Medical and the Zeiter Theatre both conducted food drives, while employees from St. Luke's and Charlton Hospitals gave monetary donations. MAC/Alberox Products held a fundraiser and collected food and toys for those in need.

Should YOUR group be registered with Mass 2-1-1?

United Way is providing Greater New Bedford residents with round the clock access to free, confidential information for people seeking support services, such as child and elder care, emergency food and shelter and substance abuse treatment.



Any group that provides a service to individuals in the community - such as PTOs, church groups and senior centers, as well as health & human agencies - should register their programs. By dialing 2-1-1, individuals and families seeking services are connected with the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies.

In order for 2-1-1 to be most effective, we are asking that all local agencies submit their information! To sign up, follow the directions below:

1. Go to www.mass211help.org
2. Click on ProviderPortal in the "Take Me To..." box.
3. Once in the Provider Portal, click on the third option "Not yet listed in the Resource Library?"
4. Once the form is submitted, you will receive an e-mail with further instructions.

If your organization has not yet signed up, please take a moment to do so to assist us in efficiently directing individuals to the appropriate services.



- Clambake Silent Auction items
- 2 Flat screen computer monitors
- Store gift card for supplies
- Card table
- DVD player
- TV set

If you or your organization would like to donate any of the items on this list, please call the United Way office at [508-994-9625](tel:508-994-9625) or e-mail us at info@unitedwayofgnb.org.

Gently used items would be most appreciated. Thank you!