

GIVE.

ADVOCATE.

VOLUNTEER.

Campaign Update

While the New Year brings with it renewed hope for the future, so far 2009 has also brought significant challenges to the United Way campaign.

It is anticipated that the 2008/09 campaign, which includes employee payroll, corporate and individual giving, will experience a significant loss, resulting in decreased program funding.

"Just because the economy is bad, doesn't mean we can slow down our fundraising efforts," said Beth Sylvia Caldwell, Campaign Chair and Vice President of the Sylvia Group of Insurance Agencies.

"If anything, United Way programs are needed now more than ever. Every gift makes a difference."

With the highest unemployment rate in the Commonwealth, New Bedford, along with the surrounding communities, will need to come together to address the needs of those who are struggling. With an increasing demand and decreasing resources, the crisis is very real.

"More and more seniors and working families are finding themselves in need of help," said Sarah Gonet, VP of Resource Development.

"A lot of people are turning to local health and human service programs for the first time."

While there have been bright spots in this year's campaign, including increases in United Way campaigns at Morgan Advanced Ceramics/Alberox, the Kennedy Donovan Center and Community Nurse & Hospice Care, as well as first time campaigns at Symmetry Medical and Rosenfield Raymon Pielech PC, the losses due to layoffs and closings far outweigh any gains.

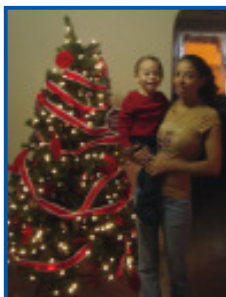
And while it's too early to tell what the final number will be, the support of the community is more important than ever. With layoffs continuing to plague many industries, United Way is focusing on the future.

United Way has sent out additional appeals to individual givers and has plans for a phone-a-thon in the next month.



United Way Collaborates with Local Businesses to Help Community

In an effort to address escalating community needs and stretched resources, United Way is partnering with local businesses to help those in need.



In December, United Way and Target stores in Dartmouth and Wareham worked together to distribute free, decorated holiday trees to families in need through Target's national [Share-A-Tree program](#). Deserving families received trees through the Kennedy-Donovan Center, The Women's Center, and New Bedford Community Connections Coalition.



One of the donated trees brightened the holidays for two New Bedford residents and their children. Marilda and her two-year old son, Philip, and Marilda's sister Christen and her one-year old daughter, Daniella, live together in New Bedford. Both of their children attend the Kennedy-Donovan Center, which provides services to developmentally delayed children and their families.

"We are so happy and thankful for this gift," said Marilda. "This made our Christmas so much better."



The New Bedford Whaling Museum has also partnered with United Way for the [Kids for Cans Food Drive](#) to support emergency food programs.

From now until May 31st, each child who donates at least one nonperishable food item on Wednesdays and Sundays will be admitted free to the Whaling Museum, a \$6 value. The goal of the food drive is to benefit United Way's Hunger Commission for distribution to local food kitchen and pantries, as well as to teach young people about the importance of helping others.

The Whaling Museum requests that families donate at least one food item per child at the time of admission on the designated days. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. The offer does not apply to group rates.

"These partnerships are great examples of how United Way does more than fundraise and distribute dollars," said President Michelle N. Hantman. "We can also serve as a convener by which organizations can come together on a project, pool their resources, and make the most impact on the community."

United Way encourages all businesses and organizations to work together to address our community's most pressing needs. If you or your organization would like to collaborate on a project, please contact us at 508-994-9625.



Join our Cause on

facebook

United Way of Greater New Bedford is on Facebook!

Facebook is a free social networking site that allows users to keep in touch with friends, share photos and connect with their favorite organizations.

By joining the United Way cause, you can find out about upcoming events, check out our latest photos, and even make a donation. Plus, it's a simple way to LIVE UNITED by showing your support!

To sign up, visit <http://apps.facebook.com/causes> then type "United Way of Greater New Bedford" in the Search Causes box.

Don't forget to invite your friends!

Mini-Grants Accepting Applications from Local Volunteer Groups

The 2009 funding cycle for United Way's **Community Building Mini-Grants Program** is now underway!

By providing grants of \$500 to \$2,500 to volunteer-run groups for projects such as community gardens, neighborhood outreach, health and safety awareness and environmental education, Mini-Grants brings people together to address issues and concerns affecting all of us. It is the only local program to support all-volunteer based organizations with budgets under \$25,000. The program also offers networking opportunities and skill building workshops. Over the past decade United Way's Mini-Grants have helped senior and youth initiatives, literacy, multi-cultural events, social justice, autism and disability concerns and a host of other valuable community improvement projects become reality!

Applications are due by **Thursday, April 30th**. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the following orientation sessions:

New Bedford:

Tuesday, 3/10 at 10:00 am and **Wednesday, 3/11 at 6:00 pm**
CEDC Office, 181 Hillman St., Bldg. 9 (2nd fl).

Wareham:

Wednesday, 3/25 at 6:00 pm
Wareham Free Library, 59 Marion Road (Rte. 6).

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



GNB Garden Club & Pride on Purchase St. Committee

Upcoming Events

BE LOCAL

Thursday, March 26th • 5:00 pm • Rose Alley Ale Pub

If you liked *Cocktails with a Cause*, you'll love this! United Way, in partnership with BCC, YWCA and Child & Family Services, invites you to this free event to meet and network with local young professionals at the area's newest downtown hot spot.



Annual Awards Dinner Celebration

Wednesday, April 8th • 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 8th

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

15th Annual Clambake Fundraiser with Lobster

Friday, June 12th • 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 donate a silent auction item!**



New Bedford Bay Sox United Way Day

Sunday, July 26th • 6 pm • Paul Walsh Field

Bring the family to cheer on New Bedford's first ever NECBL team and support your community! Half of all ticket proceeds to benefit United Way.

Mass 2-1-1:

Local Agencies Asked to Participate



United Way is now 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. 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, local agencies are asked to submit their information. To sign up, follow the directions below:

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

• Clambake Silent Auction items

• DVD player

• TV set

• Card table

• High back office chair

• Store gift card for supplies (such as Wal-Mart, Target, etc.)



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 or e-mail us at info@unitedwayofgnb.org.

Gently used items would be most appreciated. Thank you!

For more info, contact United Way or visit www.unitedwayofgnb.org