



United Way of  
Chittenden County

## FACT SHEET

- United Way of Chittenden County Community Campaign History

% change vs. prior year

2008 Community Campaign Results \$4,060,000	
2007 Community Campaign Results \$4,100,000	1.0%
2006 Community Campaign Results \$4,060,000	1.5%
2005 Community Campaign Results \$4,010,000	3.5%
2004 Community Campaign Results \$3,875,000	3.3%
2003 Community Campaign Results \$3,750,000	1.4%
2002 Community Campaign Results \$3,700,000	-1.3%
2001 Community Campaign Results \$3,750,000	

- Employees sponsored local businesses for 3 months during the 2009 campaign
  - Andrea Arratoon
  - Sondra Behan
  - Steve Casey
  - Barbara Richardson

Sponsorships provided by Chittenden Bank, Green Mountain Power, IBM, KeyBank Merchants Bank and New England Federal Credit Union.

- In 2008
  - leadership gifts (those over \$1,000) increased by \$37,000.
  - In total, 84% of donations came from employees and individuals
  - nearly 100 volunteers helped make initial contact with CEO's
  - 270+ companies' keypersons organized workplace campaigns
  - 379 local businesses participated
  - 11,000 donors made contributions
  - Combined corporate/employee campaigns contributing \$100,000 or more
    - Dwight Asset Management
    - Fletcher Allen Health Care
    - General Dynamics & Employee Community Action Council
    - Green Mountain Power Corporation
    - IBM Employee Charitable Contributions Campaign and IBM Corp.
    - University of Vermont

- Dollars raised during the annual Community Campaign were invested in more than 60 local programs and initiatives, in collaboration with 31 member agencies and numerous community partners.

## Success Stories (Collaborative Programs)

**“Working Bridges Program”** The “Working Bridges” employer workgroup project continues to deliver “Bridges out of Poverty” training to area employers. The effort is part of our dedication to work on programs that help meet basic needs and build financial stability in Chittenden County. Initial support from United Way, Society of Human Resource Management and participating employers has leveraged additional grant support from VocRehab Vermont and Jane’s Trust. A goal of the project is to demonstrate the potential for business-community partnerships in maintaining stable employment and providing opportunities for advancement for lower wage workers. Several pilot programs sparked by the project are now underway:

- participating employers share an “on-site resource coordinator” to offer convenient, workplace-based assistance to employees who historically have had to leave work to seek necessary resources and services to meet their basic needs
- in partnership with financial institutions, emergency loan and savings plan offered to employees, helping them meet unexpected needs, build credit and become more financially stable.

In addition, outcomes are being measured:

- employee absence
- retention
- promotion

**Days of Caring:** IBM Corporation and the United Way of Chittenden County Volunteer Center collaborated with nine other businesses from Chittenden County to sponsor the 2009 Days of Caring. Volunteers from Chittenden Bank, Citizens Bank, Engelberth Construction Company, FairPoint Communications, Merchants Bank, New England Culinary Institute, New England Federal Credit Union, Northfield Savings Bank, and the Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center donated their time to complete 38 projects. All in all, 391 volunteers participated, donating 1,841 hours of their time, for an investment worth over \$32,715, based on the Vermont average hourly wage.

**Burlington Community Street Outreach Program:** United Way invested \$7,500 this year in the Burlington Community Street Outreach Program, which leveraged over \$200k in other funding to support the program. United Way also serves as a liaison and facilitator for the Street Outreach Advisory Committee which include program partners: HowardCenter, Fletcher Allen Health Care, the Vermont Agency of Human Services, City of Burlington, Church Street Marketplace, Burlington Business Association, Burlington Police Department, and other nonprofit providers. Incidents in the business district involving persons with unmet social and mental health needs have decreased, as have resulting calls to the police. In 2008, the 3.5 FTE outreach workers responded to 4,946 individuals who needed service and developed mutually trusting relationships with 499, providing behavioral assessments, monitoring behaviors/symptoms, linking them with services, and following up on progress, working with program sponsors to maintain a vibrant and safe social and economic climate in the downtown.

**Childcare Food Network:** In Vermont, one in eight households with infants is food insecure. The effects of early childhood undernourishment are long-term and significant. They include altered behavior and withdrawal from the environment; impaired immunity; growth deficits; and if chronic, can result in developmental and cognitive delays. Young children in food insecure households are also at a higher risk for being overweight. Approximately 38,000 children attend regulated childcare in Vermont. One-third of them are in care 8-9 hours a day. According to the ADA, these children need to meet one-half to two thirds of their nutritional requirements while in care.

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federally funded program that reimburses child care providers for serving meals and snacks, and provides nutrition training for providers and education materials for parents. United Way of Chittenden County is participating on the Chittenden County Hunger Council, a project of the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger. In addition to UWCC, several other local foundations who support child care programs are participating. UWCC took the lead on convening these funders to explore how our program investments in the child care centers and in the emergency food system in the community could influence increased participation in the CACFP.

Since October 2008, five centers serving approximately 173 children began offering CACFP using CCR as sponsor. As of August, \$17,436.36 in CACFP reimbursements was received by these centers, translating into annual reimbursements of over \$25,000 for the current meals being provided. If a center adds additional meals, that amount will increase. Participating centers received free, fresh gleaned produce for 15 weeks through the growing season from Healthy Cities at the Intervale.

**Chittenden County Truancy Project:** In the late 1990's, nearly 100 students *each year* were dropping out of high school in Burlington, almost 10% of the students grades 9-12. In 2002, the graduation rate (students who enter in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and graduate 4 years later) was just 71%. Many of the students who dropped out, or who were habitually truant, ended up on the streets or in the Corrections System.

In 2006, a county-wide attendance policy was adopted by all school districts in Chittenden County, as well as three other contiguous counties. And, the Burlington School District annual drop-out rate has fallen from 9.5% in 1998-99 to 3.0% in the '08-'09 school year. In 1999, the estimated graduation rate (4 year cohort) was just 67%. In the '06-'07 school year, that graduation rate had increased to 93% where it remains in 2009! Annually, approximately 60 more students are graduating today than did in 1999! Overall absences in Burlington School District decreased by 25% since 2000.

**Tax Preparation and Earned Income Tax Credit Program:** United Way joined the CASH Coalition (**Creating Assets, Savings and Hope**) to provide low-income families with information about the Earned Income Tax Credit and to offer free tax preparation services as one step toward a better life. Grants from United Way, Northfield Savings Bank, KeyBank, and Casey Family Services supported tax appointment schedulers to coordinate the appointments of almost 1,300 low-income individuals to receive free tax preparation, and for the second year, clients were able to dial Vermont 2-1-1 to be referred to the scheduler.

From January through April 2009, at all three VITA sites in Chittenden County (Chittenden Community Action, Casey Family Services and Burlington's CCAN), 50 volunteers (including college students from UVM, Champlain and St. Michael's College) processed tax returns, saving over \$200,000 in tax preparation fees for the low income individuals. Some statistics from 2009 are:

12/2/2009

- 1,130 Returns were processed (fewer than the 1200 in 2008)
  - \$1.32 million in Federal Refunded dollars (\$100,000 more than in 2008)
  - \$545,000 received in EITC (up from \$534,725 in 2008)
  - \$14,000 Average Adjusted Gross Income (same as 2008)
- (source: IRS Burlington Office)

**Vermont 2-1-1** (a program of the United Ways of Vermont): A public-private partnership that provides a single point of contact for access to community resources, Vermont 2-1-1 connects Vermonters with a trained information and referral specialist who evaluates the caller's situation or need and makes the connection to the appropriate community service. Since 2006, call volume has tripled from **8,346** to **25,095**, with the largest increase between 2006 and 2007 (8,346 to 15,532). It is anticipated that by the end of 2009, **over 36,000** people will be calling on an annual basis.