

## Spotlight On Success

In helping Ocean County's neediest residents, United Way encourages all of us to 'GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.' All three are important to United Way's mission. Here is a story that shows how a single volunteer can have an astounding impact on a person's life, and even inspire other acts of caring.

### A Caregiver in Need

Ruth was the sole caregiver for her husband, Ed, who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. With no relatives living nearby to help, the stress of being a daily caregiver was taking its toll. Ruth asked for assistance from the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program run by Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey, a United Way partner agency since 1997.

### Volunteering Makes an Impact

Ken was assigned to be their respite volunteer. While Ken has a busy schedule running his own computer company, he feels that it is important to give back to the community and makes time to volunteer. By this stage of his illness, Ed often was confused about time, and wandered around the house at night, disoriented. Ruth really looked forward to Ken's visits so she could rest without worrying about Ed wandering away. She often took a nap or a long walk around the neighborhood. Over the course of four years, Ken became extremely close to Ruth and Ed. He often spent time talking to Ruth about her burdens and listened to her without judgment. Ruth came to look upon Ken as the son she never had. When Ed passed away, Ken was chosen to be one of the pallbearers at his funeral, and he sat right by Ruth at the viewing and at the church service.

### The Circle of Caring Continues

After some time had passed, Ken was given his next volunteer assignment, and he thought Ruth might enjoy becoming involved. He thought it would be a great way for her to get out of the house and decrease some of her own feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Now when Ken volunteers, he picks up Ruth and they go together as a team. Ruth stays and talks with the wife who is the caregiver, and Ken takes the husband who has Alzheimer's for a walk or they sit and listen to music.

The relationship between Ken and Ruth has developed into a deep bond of trust and affection. Ruth has been given a new lease on life through volunteering with Ken and she gets a great deal of satisfaction from helping another caregiver in need.

Lynette Whiteman, executive director of Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey says, "Our agency truly thanks and appreciates the United Way for its support and loyalty to the senior citizens of Ocean County. It is wonderful to know that United Way recognizes both their needs and their ability to make a positive difference in our community."



Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey  
CARING FOR PEOPLE BY PEOPLE WHO CARE



## Spotlight on Homelessness

*When unmanageable medical bills led one family to a state of homelessness, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) caseworkers stepped in to expedite the search for a new home in time for the holidays.*

Following several hospital stays over a year's time, it became increasingly difficult for Francine to keep up with monthly bills for her and her two grandsons, whom she was raising. To make matters worse, in August the family's home was flooded and many of their belongings were destroyed. After yet another trip to the hospital, the family soon fell too far behind and was evicted from their home. The Board of Social Services placed them in a motel for a week; then they began staying with friends.

Immediately after the call for help just before Christmas, HPRP caseworkers Jackie and Tammy worked together to help this family as quickly as possible. The challenge was to find a new home that the family could afford, while trying to keep the youngest grandson in the school he had always attended. Jackie worked with the school's homelessness liaison to make sure the district would allow him to stay in school until Tammy could find them a suitable place to live. Within one week, she had found it! After an emotional lease signing, Francine picked up the boys and surprised them by driving them to their new home.



Local businesses warmed their hearts and ours, when they stepped in to help this family who had lost so much. Mr. Mattress of Toms River provided beds for their new home, and Costco of Manahawkin donated toiletries. Even the holidays were taken care of: Target of Toms River, donated a decorated Christmas tree and the family received gift certificates donated by Exelon through UWOC's Holiday Stars program.

Once they received the help they needed to catch up on their bills, the family was finally able to settle into a place they could call home. Francine speaks about her experience with the HPRP program with great thanks, saying "I can't show my appreciation and gratitude enough. It is so awesome to know there are still good people out there. Sometimes you just have to ask for help".



A heartfelt **THANK YOU** goes out to Eddie & Donna from **Mr. Mattress of Toms River** and Kyle & Carla from **Costco of Manahawkin** for their never-ending generosity towards our Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). Not only did they donate items to Francine and her grandsons, but they also have donated to many other needy families in Ocean County. We are truly grateful!



### You Can Help, Too!

You have the power to help turn extreme distress into hope for a neighbor in need. Please visit our website @ [www.uwocnj.org](http://www.uwocnj.org) and click on **GIVE**. Any donation helps greatly and your generosity could turn the life around for someone who needs it most. For questions about donating, please call 732-240-0311.

# \$1.2 MILLION! NO JOKE!

In January, dozens of supporters attended our annual Campaign Kick-Off breakfast at the View Restaurant in Lakewood. Led by Board President Deb Mathis, presenters demonstrated how the United Way mission statement "to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities" influences every step the organization takes.

Attendees gained insight into the fundraising process and the 2011 goal of \$1.2 million. They were further enlightened with the details of how funds are allocated to Ocean County agencies.

A description of the plan for an expanded volunteer network was outlined along with a brief history of the originators of the United Way organization – a priest, a rabbi, and 2 ministers – No Joke!

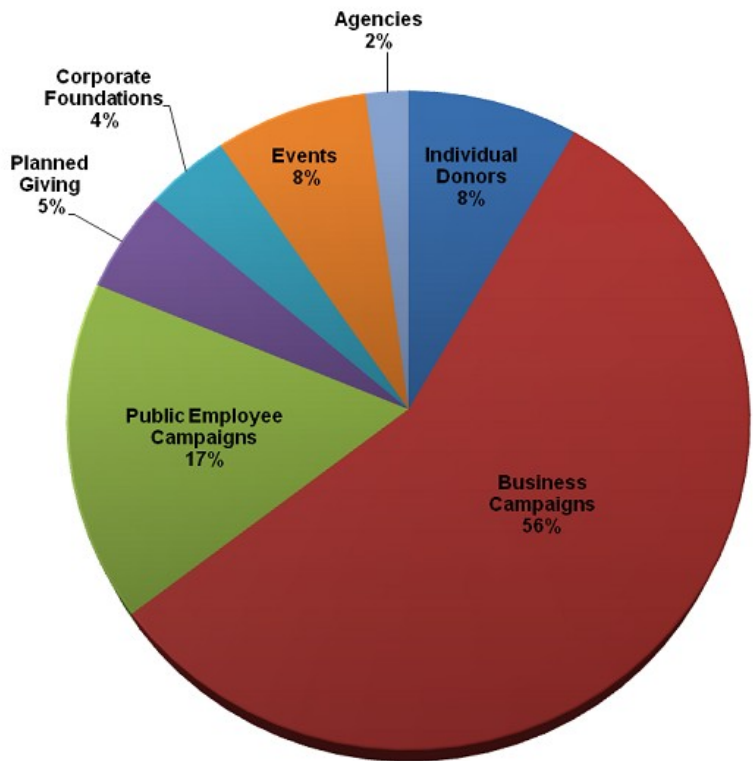


Sid Colvin (left), Executive Director of Ocean's Harbor House and Teri Broo, Director of Ocean Mental Health Services, relayed dramatic client success stories to illustrate how United Way dollars are put to work at their agencies. Both expressed their appreciation to United Way of Ocean County and our donors for helping the less fortunate in our community.

Teri Broo, (r) Director of Ocean Mental Health Services with Dr. Kenn Kerr



United Way of Ocean County Campaign Goal 2011 - \$1,200,000




The chart above shows the breakdown of funding goals for 2011.



The United Way staff takes a break to smile for the camera!

## United Way to be Honored with Humanitarian Award



**30<sup>th</sup>**  
*Rosebud Gala*  
*Dinner Dance*  
*March 12, 2011*  
*Sheraton Eatontown Hotel*

In recognition of its longstanding support of helping people with disabilities, United Way of Ocean County will receive LADACIN Network's Humanitarian Award at the agency's 30<sup>th</sup> annual Rosebud Gala Dinner Dance, March 12th at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel.

LADACIN is a United Way certified agency whose mission is to provide education, therapeutic, social, residential and support services for infants, children, and adults with cerebral palsy and other multiple physical and developmental disabilities.

"LADACIN has had a relationship with United Way for decades," said Executive Director Patricia Carlesimo. "We thank United Way for providing critical funding throughout the years, most recently allowing our residential clients to live in the community independently with dignity and respect."

With music by Tim McLoone & the Shirleys, this will be a wonderful evening. Join in the fun and help honor United Way! Tickets are \$225 and may be purchased through March 7<sup>th</sup> by calling 732-493-5900 X 263, or emailing [communityrelations@ladacin.org](mailto:communityrelations@ladacin.org).



**The 2-1-1 Helpline will take tens of thousands of calls from Ocean County residents in distress.**



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Communicating with our supporters *electronically* means more dollars available for our needy neighbors. Please stay informed about how your support helps keep our County healthy, enlightened and safe. Visit us @ [www.uwocnj.org](http://www.uwocnj.org) to sign up to receive your newsletters online.

**GIVE securely online: [www.uwocnj.org](http://www.uwocnj.org)**

United Way of Ocean County  
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Dear Friends,

I am so proud and excited to formally announce to the community my start as the new Executive Director of United Way of Ocean County. I have had the pleasure of working with many of you over the years, and to you I extend a warm hello. For others, I want to take a moment to introduce myself, and share a bit about the journey that led me to this amazing role.

To do this I must go back a bit...as my first contact with United Way occurred in 1984...when I attended my first United Way rally.

I still remember it very clearly. I was only 20 years old. I had recently completed my bachelor's degree and was working as a counselor in a children's shelter in Gloucester County. The agency was funded by United Way and I was asked to speak at a local business rally about how my program utilized our funds. Although it was early in the morning, and the meeting room was extremely cold, I can still recall the United Way staff member...standing tall and speaking passionately about the mission of United Way, about how it raised local dollars for local solutions, and how it funded a critical safety net for people in need.



Over the next 13 years, I would continue to work in Gloucester County for runaway, abused and abandoned children. I would also become a United Way donor and would attend many more campaign rallies.

In 1997, my commitment to work with vulnerable children led me to Ocean County and a new role as the executive director of Ocean's Harbor House. Here I found another amazing organization dedicated to the health, safety and welfare of children and families. Over the next 13 years, I worked tenaciously with many county leaders to enhance services for children in need. And on a personal note, I used this time to complete my master's degree in psychological counseling.

As many of you know, Ocean's Harbor House is also a long standing partner agency of the United Way of Ocean County. Thus, as I was working with Harbor House, I continued my work with United Way – as a donor, an agency leader and a rally speaker. In this role, I shared the voices and stories of the teens we served, and how United Way of Ocean County contributions helped to improve their lives.

Now, as I stand at the beginning of a new stage in my United Way journey, I am thankful that I can bring this rich history to my new leadership role. And I am hopeful that I can also share a vision of the future where our communities are stronger, our services come together in common purpose, and our most vulnerable citizens receive the care that they so desperately need.

I know that this vision will take much more than one person's history and hope. And to this end I am thankful that I will get to do this work in an organization and a county that are filled with so many amazing leaders and local heroes.

And so our new journey begins...

Warm Regards,  
*Linda Gyimoty*

## What's All the YAPping About?

...The second annual YAP Awards, that's what! On March 10th, United Way of Ocean County will host the YAP (Young Altruistic Professional) Awards at Hemingways in Seaside Heights. Thirty nominees age 40 or younger have been chosen for their commitment to making our community a better place. Five winners will be announced the night of March 10th and will be honored for making a difference through volunteering and philanthropy.

Come join us and support this year's nominees and the United Way of Ocean County. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by cash or check at the door or in advance by calling 732-240-0311. Enjoy a beer and wine open bar from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. and delicious Hemingway's hors d'oeuvres. You can also enter to win the 50/50 raffle or participate in the Gift Auction.



*Last year's YAPPIES stand proud with their award.*



### Congratulations to the 2011 YAP Nominees...



Elisabeth Bahr  
 Ryan Blumenthal  
 Stacie Brustman  
 Natalie Cortale  
 Daniel DeYoung  
 Jeffrey Farrell  
 Kelly Filler  
 Angela Gengaro-Secul  
 Jamal Goodson  
 Elizabeth Harris Weber  
 Darcie King  
 Anne Kraljic  
 Todd Lamison  
 Michelle Leonard  
 Kenneth J. Malagiere

Giselle Martinez  
 Kelly McGraw  
 Kenneth Munroe, Jr.  
 Mike Neff  
 David Nicola  
 Nick Pagano  
 Jonathan Petro  
 Mike Ritacco  
 Santiago Rivera, Jr.  
 Jim Scarponi  
 Michael J. Schwartz  
 Adam Servodio  
 Shaunna Smith  
 Kelly Vandenberg  
 Stephanie Villari



# Young Altruistic Professionals

# LIVE UNITED