

United Fund: Brings People Together In Effort to Fund Service Agencies

During the past year, the United Fund has established two initiatives designed to continue this successful tradition.

A Community Council was formed to bring together representatives of local organizations to discuss a more effective use of community resources. The Council will spearhead an effort to secure database information on all resources, from social service needs to recreational opportunities, available locally. The Council also plans to sponsor an annual symposium to identify ways to improve quality of life for Westfield residents.

Last spring, the United Fund formed a Youth Group whose charter members have worked at varied Fund events and have raised monies through sales of Westfield trays and placemats donated to the United Fund. In the near future, the work of the Youth Group will expand as the current members lead a drive to encourage other teenagers to become involved in community service work through a youth volunteer network.

Each year, the United Fund sponsors a month-long drive to raise monies distributed to 20 local service agencies. More than 20,000 town residents use the services of one or more of these agencies every year.

Next year, the campaign goal will be \$615,000. As was the case this year, the drive is expected to realize that objective.

To do so requires the hands-on work of the volunteer care. Scores of these individuals make phone calls to ask town residents to pledge donations to the annual campaign.

Other volunteers work on the Fund's Budget Review Committee that examines each agency's work before recommending specific allocations. Some volunteers assist with duties at the United Fund headquarters in the town's historic northside train station.

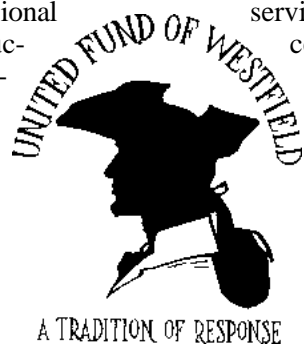
It's an all-volunteer effort—no paid telemarketing employees are involved—and it has worked. Making the goal translates to excitement for the volunteer corps.

The benefiting agencies use the United Fund dollars to continue their needed services for townspeople. So, if a senior citizen needs help with a legal matter or needs food delivered to his/her home, an agency is available to help.

Nursing services, recreational opportunities, and after-school programs fall under the jurisdiction of the United Fund agencies. In effect, the 20 United Fund agencies provide just about every service needed by senior citizens and others in the community.

The United Fund actually studies the needs of the town residents. An annual survey provides a listing of what donors believe are the services most sought after by the public. The United Fund, in turn, can respond to those needs through the respective allocations to the individual agencies.

The work of the United Fund may be evidenced in the extraordinary work of its volunteers and in the professional services offered by the agencies. But the best take on the success of the organization comes from a familiar sight to everyone in town: the blue thermometer. Anyone driving into the parking lot of the Westfield Train Station will see the United Fund thermometer. As monies flow into the annual campaign, the mercury rises to the percentage level at the time. And when the 100 percent mark is painted, the message is clear: the United Fund again has achieved the noteworthy feat of securing the monies needed to help agencies that help Westfielders.



THE FIRST VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD...The above picture was taken in October of 1951. Pictured, left to right, are: back row, Miller, Vanderbilt, Fletcher, Crow, Looney, Chief Linden (WFD), Capt. Haferbier (WFD), Arundale, Mayor Bailey, Councilman Lewis, Cardozo, Skillen, and, front row, Briggs, Heras, W. C. Smith, Eckert, Minogue, Mahoney, Davis and Brower.

Town Rescue Squad Marks 47th Year

An average of seven emergencies or transportations are handled by the Westfield Voluntary Squad each day, 365 days a year, to any patient.

The squad responds to calls such as motor vehicle accidents, childbirth, cardiac problems, orthopedic injuries, burns, sudden illnesses and psychiatric crises, etc.

The squad is totally funded by the tax-deductible contributions of Westfield residents.

The squad, now in its 47th year, receives no support from the town, state or federal governments. A separate fund drive is held annually in March.

The squad is always accepting applications for either Emergency Medical Technicians or telephone dispatchers. No prior experience in emergency first aid is necessary to apply for membership, only a willingness to learn and the desire to help others.

The only requirement is applicants must have a valid New Jersey driver's license. All training will be provided.

For more information on any of these services or membership information, please call the squad at its non-emergency number at (908) 233-2501.



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