

## Creating Opportunities For All

Live United. It's more than just a slogan. It's a message and a call to action.

What does it mean to Live United? It means creating long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. United Way of Seneca County (UWSC) works with several community partners to create opportunities for a better life for all. We do this by focusing our resources on programs centered around education, income and health.

None of this would be possible without you. Your decision to give to United Way DOES make an impact in Seneca County!

- You are the reason...why a senior citizen will be served a warm, nutritious meal at lunch today.
- You are the reason ...why our area food pantries remain stocked despite record-level use.
- You are the reason...why support groups are in place for those struggling with depression, autism, and domestic violence.

Our campaign goal is ambitious but with your help we can achieve it. Whether you can give a little or a lot, this is your opportunity to create your impact and take Seneca County one step closer to that goal: a community that is ready and able to meet the needs of its citizens.

Every donation we receive during our campaign stays right here in Seneca County, creating changes you can see, in your community. Whether you give, advocate or volunteer we thank you for your commitment to Seneca County.

### You can help by:

1. Making a pledge to the 2010 United Way campaign.
2. Holding a workplace campaign. These are fun, morale-building activities that provide your staff with an easy, affordable way to join the company in supporting the community. We'll help with ideas and provide all the materials and support you need.
3. Encouraging others to support the United Way, through posters and brochures, participation in events, or creating a team of volunteers to help out in our community.

For additional information, contact the United Way office or visit our website at [www.uwseneca.org](http://www.uwseneca.org).

We invite you to join the movement. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. That's what it means to Live United.



# Updates

## SURGE Presses Forward

Funding cuts from federal sources put a serious 'dent' in the availability of after school programs in Seneca County, but many community partners coming together managed to create similar opportunities for at least part of this school year. Seneca Falls Middle School under the direction of Mary Hryzak, has already opened program for grades 5-8, Monday through Thursday from 3-5pm. South Seneca Middle School, expects to open program on Oct. 20 for 3 days a week (Tues, Wed, and Thurs), from 3-5pm with a late bus run provided. Contact the schools for enrollment information.

Budgetary constraints for Romulus School have been a challenge, while Waterloo is still researching options. Meanwhile, as partners, we remain committed to providing quality after school programs that incorporate academic support, cultural enrichment and social interaction. Expect the United Way of Seneca County to re-apply for afterschool funding in the future!

## Board News

Without dedicated and skilled leaders, the success of the United Way of Seneca County would not be possible and we thank the following individuals

for their willingness to serve the community. Their commitment insures that our efforts have maximum impact as we work together toward common outcomes. Thank you to:

### **Bob Pagano** (3-yr term)

"As a life-long citizen of Seneca County and an executive for its largest industrial employer, I have witnessed firsthand the generosity of our ITT employees and the resulting impact their contributions have had funding worthwhile local charities and agencies. I want to lend my expertise and experience to making the United Way even more effective in their mission.

The United Way serves as an important safety net, supporting the overall wellbeing of the community. I hope, through my involvement, to help increase contributions, providing greater funds to share with our neighbors in need."

### **Elizabeth Catt – Romulus High School**

"Becoming a United Way board member gives me a tremendous opportunity to positively impact the lives of those around me. The United Way is an outstanding asset to our community and I am honored to a part of it."

### **Note:**

With regret, the board has accepted the resignation of Jenna Crandall (BonaDent) who finds her days are extremely busy with work responsibilities and their new son.

## VISTA at United Way

The United Way received funding from the Western New York AmeriCorps, Serve New York Program to host an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) from September 2009 - September 2010.

The VISTA, Jackie Case, has been assigned to the United Way to help coordinate the activities of the Seneca County Partners for Children, Family and Youth, a collaboration which works to improve the quality of life for all Seneca County residents. Jackie will also continue to engage and work with the Seneca County Youth Council in partnership with Workforce Development and the Youth Bureau.



## Interested in serving as a VISTA again?

The UWSC received funding for a VISTA that has already served one year. If you or someone you know is interested in serving again, please contact Karen Beals at 539-1135 or [uwseneca@rochester.rr.com](mailto:uwseneca@rochester.rr.com).

VISTA is a 40-year-old national service program dedicated to helping eligible communities resolve identified needs.

# Quick Takes

## Education

### *Advancing the Common Good*

Your investment in United Way of Seneca County is a way to take action and make a difference, and it's important at two levels... some actions can be implemented immediately and others are complex, taking a longer time.

### **School Readiness**

- Early Care & Education– working to increase quality and access to care for working parents; strengthening community partnerships around young children
- Born Learning Campaign– helping parents/caregivers use songs, games and turn ordinary routines of each day to learning opportunities,
- Early Literacy– putting more books in the hands of young children

### **Middle School Transition**

- Afterschool– modified programs offered at Mynderse and South Seneca middle schools provide academic supports; help students avoid risky behaviors
- Opportunities to 'give back' to the community

### **Ready By 21 (for Work or School)**

- Working together in partnership, we help young people birth to age 21, have opportunities and supports to become successful young adults with good health, positive relationships, and marketable skills to enter the workforce or higher education.

## Health

### *Bringing About Healthy Changes*

Health, defined by the World Health Organization, is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. From our perspective, whether it is a neighbor without health insurance, a senior who needs meals delivered at home, a victim of abuse, or someone struggling with mental illness or addiction, UWSC is working to ensure that children and adults gain access to needed health care and health services designed to help prevent or manage chronic health conditions.

We do this by working with partners on Community Health assessments, Workplace Wellness initiatives, lead poisoning prevention, or increasing community awareness of resources to turn to for assistance. With your help, we keep our children on track in school, adults productive at work and allow individuals to live in safe environments with independence and dignity.

## Income

### *Moving toward financial stability*

Community and family issues that stem from the economic and financial pressures facing individuals and families are growing more complex. Our work takes many forms such as bringing stakeholders together to promote greater cooperation, address the lack of affordable

housing, or for outreach to homeowners, foreclosure counseling, and legal intervention.

Partnership with local Workforce Development helps enhance job skills, while community members provide legislative advocacy to protect 2-1-1 service, child health care and food stamps. Trained volunteers assist with VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and increase utilization of the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credits. With your help, we continue to address the inherent relationship between family financial stability and the future success of our county.

**VITA volunteers needed to assist eligible families with income tax preparation. Call 539-1135 for details.**

## Special Thanks!

**Give, Advocate, Volunteer, that's what LIVE UNITED is all about. Thank you to the following organizations for supporting our efforts.**

### **Tellier Studios**

[www.tellierstudios.com](http://www.tellierstudios.com)

Taste of Spring photographers.

### **Timberland Outlet**

For providing volunteers each year to help at our chicken barbecue.



## You Can Live United™

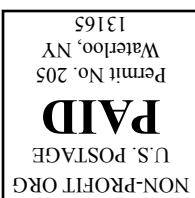
**Give...** We all win when a child succeeds in school, when a family becomes financially stable and when people have good health. Join the 14 million people throughout the country that are a part of this dynamic movement. Give now.

**Advocate...** Raise your voice about social conditions that can be improved. Whether you're speaking out to improve education, income and health, communicating with elected officials to use their influence for needed change, or wearing the LIVE UNITED shirt to show your support, you can help inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.

**Volunteer...** Give an hour. Give a Saturday. Give your best. We all have special talents. Things we can do to help. When we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. Whether it's reading to children, or leading financial literacy classes for hard-working families, or delivering meals to home-bound seniors, there are hundreds of volunteer options available every day.

**Not sure where to start?** Visit our website at [www.uwseneca.org](http://www.uwseneca.org) or give us a call at 315-539-1135. We're here to help.

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United Way of Seneca County  
P.O. Box 623  
Suite 215, Main Street Shops  
Waterloo, NY 13165