



United Way
of Broome County

United Way of Broome County, Inc.
PO Box 550
Binghamton, NY 13902-0550
(607) 240-2000

For more information:
Bruce Dudley, Communications Director
Office: 240-2005
Home: 770-7696

June 9, 2011

United Way and Howland Foundation Award More Than \$66,000 in Program Grants

(Vestal, NY)— United Way of Broome County and the Helen T. Howland Foundation have agreed to provide Venture and Special Assistance Grants, totaling \$66,621, to nine programs at not-for-profit agencies in Broome County. Recipient programs are either innovative, new human service programs in the community or special one-time purchases and projects that demonstrate a high level of need and also fit within focus areas defined within United Way's Community Investment Strategy Report.

At the heart of the United Way's Community Investment Strategy is commitment to mobilizing the caring power of Broome County to advance the common good. United Way believes the betterment of the community can be achieved by focusing on three basic building blocks for a good quality of life: education, income, and health. Grants awarded as part of the 2012 Venture and Special Assistance Grant Program address at least one of these three building blocks.

The following nine programs will be funded by the grants:

-more-

PROGRAM GRANTS

- Grant to **ACCORD, a Center for Dispute Resolution** for a Family Treatment Court Expansion Project. This grant would support the hiring of a CASA Expansion. Project Supervisor to interface with the court. **(\$6,130)**
- Grant to **Broome County YMCA**, to provide Minority Free Swim Lessons. This is a pilot program: it will be a learn-to-swim program for at-risk youths at no cost to the them. **(\$8,032)**
- Grant to **Handicapped Children's Association**, to establish an Early Nutrition Program. The grant will allow HCA to partner with Cornell Cooperative Extension in promoting good nutrition and healthy diet both at school and at home. This project will be available to both students and their families. **(\$3,000)**
- Grant to **Johnson City Senior Center** for a Wholesome Cooking Nutrition Program. This program will teach older adults about the nutritional value of foods and also teach them the skills to prepare the foods on their own and assist them with making healthy choices. Plans are for two sessions of four weeks each beginning in May, 2012. Each session would be opened to 20 participants. The grant will be used to pay the nutritionist, the coordinator, the food that will be cooked, and the extra equipment needed. **(\$3,927)**
- Grant to **Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network** for the "Working Moms Need Healthy Babies, Too" program. In 2010, the Affordable Care Act required most employers to provide a workplace area for nursing women to express their milk in private, clean areas. This grant will be used to help 28 local area businesses to implement a dedicated space for breastfeeding employees by providing education and assistance. **(\$8,122)**

-more-

- Grant to **Rural Health Network, South Central New York**, for the Healthy Community: Northern Broome project. The grant will be used to establish an evidence-based community health assessment process that provides a framework for community planning. **(\$10,098)**

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

- Grant to **Binghamton Neighborhood Project** to Facilitate the Facilitators of the Binghamton Neighborhood Projects Design Your Own Park competition. The Design Your Own Park competition is in collaboration between Binghamton University, Binghamton Neighborhood Project, the City of Binghamton, and United Way of Broome County. It works with the city to take vacant lots and neglected spaces and create a dream park. This grant will be used to support the facilitators that will be assigned to each neighborhood group. The facilitators could be a Binghamton University student or a member of the neighborhood. **(\$12,000)**
- Grant to **The Danielle House** for new guest suite furniture. The Danielle House has been operating at 96 percent occupancy. The grant will allow it to convert an existing detached garage into two guest suites. This will increase the number of guest rooms to nine. **(\$2,663)**
- Grant to **Family Enrichment Network**, for Project SafeStart. This grant will provide safe cribs and education to the local child care community. It will also reinforce best practices and safe sleeping environments. **(\$12,649)**

-more-

“The Venture and Special Assistance Program provides support to new and innovative programs in our community, so that they can address the need currently in Broome County. Each of the projects receiving a grant today represents an opportunity to improve the lives of community members and to create lasting changes. These opportunities would not exist without the funding made possible through the United Way and the Howland Foundation,” said Ann McNichols, chair of United Way’s Community Impact Cabinet.

The Venture Grant Program of United Way of Broome County was permanently established in 1990 when its Board of Directors earmarked up to one percent of the allocable funds from each year’s annual fund-raising campaign to be set aside for such grants. United Way of Broome County later expanded the program to cover special assistance grants as well.

In 1993, the Helen T. Howland Foundation arranged for United Way of Broome County to provide recommendations to the foundation for a portion of its funding decisions. United Way agreed to use its Venture Grant process to develop these recommendations. The foundation is named after Helen Thomas Howland, who was born in Binghamton and resided in Ithaca for much of her life. A trust was established under her will in order to benefit the community. M&T Bank manages the Helen T. Howland Foundation.

At the beginning of March, United Way of Broome County mailed Venture and Special Assistance Grant Request for Proposals to a comprehensive list of human service providers in Broome County. Completed applications were due in mid-April. The Venture and Special Assistance Grant Selection Committee met in April and May to evaluate the proposals and develop a list of funding recommendations. The committee’s recommendations were submitted for review to the United Way’s Community Impact Cabinet in May and then forwarded for final approval by the United Way Board of Directors and Howland Foundation Board of Trustees. This year 20 proposals for grant funding were received.

###