



# In the Community

Prepared by UI's Economic and Community and Development Department (203) 499-3777

## EMPLOYEE MAKES DECISION TO INVEST HER TIME HELPING OTHERS

During UI's 2007 Employee Giving Campaign, UI employee John Minardi encouraged Carol Labore, System Maintenance Lead Engineer, to contribute to an organization that he was involved with called STRIVE-New Haven. John was a member of their board, and shared many positive experiences. Carol decided to make a financial contribution to this organization that has served ex-offenders, single parents, and immigrants in the Greater New Haven community.

That year, she also made a decision to learn more about STRIVE-New Haven and the reason why her co-worker enjoyed being involved with the organization so much. She spent a couple of days volunteering and right away noticed a dramatic difference in the clients that attended a three week attitudinal course. After that, Carol decided this would be a good use of her time and has been involved with the organization ever since. She is currently a board member.

STRIVE-New Haven helps the unemployed and low-income under-employed, regardless of the cause of their situation, to make the necessary adjustments to get back to work. The mission of STRIVE-New Haven is to prepare, train, place and support Greater New Haven residents in securing employment, and to demonstrate the impact that attitudinal training and post-placement support have on successful long-term employment.

"It feels good helping people that haven't had the advantages that I've had in the work world. STRIVE-New Haven teaches them how to view themselves from an employer's perspective. Clients learn about resume writing, dress attire, positive attitude, work ethic and much more. This organization creates great dividends for the Greater New Haven community because it has a history of putting people to work" said Carol.

Indeed it does, statistics provided by the organization shows that within the last nine years over 1,300 clients have graduated from the program and 75% of them have been placed in jobs during this period. The retention of employment after two years is 72%.

Carol also stated, "Getting involved with an organization like this allows you to see the struggles individuals and families are having. Being a part of an effort to help someone better their lives is certainly a good way for me to give back to the community. It is a great organization and I love being a part of it."



Pictured above: UI & STRIVE-New Haven staff

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## Community Conversations Offering to the Community

UIL Holdings Corporation (NYSE: UIL) and its four operating companies — The United Illuminating Company, The Southern Connecticut Gas Company, Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation and The Berkshire Gas Company — have scheduled a series of community meetings to engage the public, provide information and answer customers' questions.

The Community Conversations will be covering a variety of topics including an introduction to UIL, conservation, energy efficiency, natural gas and electric safety, the environmental benefits of natural gas, storm response and much more.

"We learn a lot from our customers every time we reach out to them and listen," said Anthony J. Vallillo, UI's president and chief operating officer. "There are also a lot of exciting things going on at our companies right now, so it's important that we keep all of our stakeholders informed." Meetings are being scheduled for the convenience of customers of each of the four companies: UI, SCG, CNG and Berkshire. However, all UIL customers are invited to attend any meeting at a convenient time and location.

### Meeting Details

Tuesday, May 17 7:00pm	UI/SCG	Baldwin Center, 1000 W. Broad St., Stratford, CT	Storm Preparation & Infrastructure Planning, Environmental Benefits of Natural Gas, Safety
Tuesday, June 7 7:00pm	CNG	Greenwich Library, 101 West Putnam - 2nd Floor, Greenwich, CT	Environmental Benefits of Natural Gas, Safety
Tuesday, June 28 7:00pm	UI/SCG	High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Rd., Orange, CT	Conservation & Energy Efficiency, Smart Systems
Tuesday, July 19 7:00pm	UI/SCG	TBD*	Storm Response & Infrastructure Planning, Safety
Tuesday, August 16 7:00pm	UI/SCG	Miller Senior Center, 2901 Dixwell Ave., Hamden, CT	Power & Gas Procurement, Anatomy of Your Bill, Alternate Suppliers
Tuesday, September 13 7:00pm	CNG	West Hartford, CT	Environmental Benefits of Natural Gas, Winter Pricing Forecast, Payment Assistance Programs
Tuesday, October 11 7:00pm	Berkshire	Hampton Inn Community Room, 184 Shelburne Rd., Greenfield, MA	Environmental Benefits of Natural Gas, Winter Pricing Forecast, Payment Assistance Programs

### REQUEST A PRESENTATION

Are you interested in having a UI representative come to your place of business, school, club, or place of worship and give a presentation about the energy conservation and UI programs that are available to the public?

If so, visit us at [www.uinet.com](http://www.uinet.com) – go to **About Us – In the Community** and Click on Request a Presentation. Complete the form online and we will gladly come out to speak to your audience about energy use. Or simply make the request via telephone at **203-499-5953**.



The United Illuminating Company

**Phone Numbers  
You Should Know**



**UI Customer  
Service**

**1-800-722-5584**

**UI Credit &  
Collections**

**1-800-442-5004**

**Energy Efficiency  
Hotline**

**1-877-947-3873**

**Meter  
Tampering**

**1-800-891-2922**

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

## UI EMPLOYEES EDUCATE BRIDGEPORT ROTARIANS ON UI'S PROGRAMS RELATED TO ENERGY CONSERVATION



John Albini, a United Illuminating executive helped to educate Bridgeport Rotarians regarding UI's programs related to energy conservation.

John, an electrical engineer, described UI's programs as geared to both small business and residential customers. For small businesses which qualify, savings of up to 40% and zero interest loans are available for energy efficient retrofits, whereby inefficient old equipment or major rehabilitation can be undertaken. After purchase rebates are also available in some circumstances.

John noted that UI invoices have two components: regulated charges and generation costs. He stressed that if you are not using a 3rd party supplier for your electricity you are leaving money on the table. You can switch suppliers. Many people feel they should be loyal to UI, but UI will

remain your distributor. UI still provides service, and if you have a problem you still call UI.

UI will help you to make the decision as to choosing a 3rd party supplier. Call 1-800-7CALLUI. The important terms to consider are whether or not the rates offered are fixed or variable and whether you can switch to another supplier at any time. The informational [website is www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com) or you can Google "DPUC".

UI buys power in accordance with governmental requirements on a laddered basis. It's prices tend to be the most stable, but it makes sense to switch to a lower priced supplier and to keep track of prices so that you can change when it becomes price effective.

Asked about solar panels, John said that solar panels currently cost \$4 a kw, and that when the cost reaches \$1 a kw solar will be cost effective. If you use solar panels or other clean energy sources (such as wind or geothermal), excess energy generated goes back into the electrical system helping to supply power to others, and you are given periodic credits for the excess power you have supplied.

John then introduced Eileen Lopez-Cordone, who provided information about home energy solutions. First, you should call UI and request a home energy audit. For \$75 (now subsidized - the actual cost is \$300) your house will be audited for energy leaks, which will be sealed. Inefficient light bulbs will be replaced. You will receive a package containing rebates for purchases of energy efficient appliances and insulation.

Eileen commented that you should always call the utility company to find out about available rebates if you're making a major purchase. The Rotarians continued to talk with John and Eileen about potential energy savings.

**(Article compliments of Bridgeport Rotary)**

