

Resources Available through United Way December 2010

Board Connection - Board Connection is Boston's premier nonprofit board fair and draws hundreds of interested volunteers each April. Participate in this annual spring event and recruit new board members for your organization. **All agencies will receive an electronic invitation in early spring.** There is a small fee for agencies to have a table at this event.

BOSTnet - Family Engagement in Afterschool: BOSTnet provides two introductory workshops on Engaging Families to interested agencies, particularly those with targets in the family engagement measure. Additionally, BOSTnet provides approximately ten agencies with up to 15 hours of individual programmatic coaching to support implementing customized strategies and goals based on the training and their own self-assessment plans. **Promoting Positive Socio-Emotional Climates:** We heard from agencies that they are serving more and more challenging youth. 22 UWMBMV programs attended the "All Means All" Conference which laid an excellent foundation for additional work in this area. We also had a great response to the "Promoting Positive Behavior" mini-assessment survey which provided the basis for a capacity-building workplan in the following three areas: Working with children with emotional issues, learning disabilities, ADHD and Autism; Understanding and addressing causes and triggers of negative behavior; and crisis management and de-escalation. BOSTnet will offer a workshop on each of these topics. Additionally, up to 10 agencies will receive an additional 10 hours of customized program coaching. For additional information, contact Elise Scott at BOSTnet at scott@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x 240.

Commonwealth Workforce Coalition -strengthens the capacity of Massachusetts' community-based education, training, and employment systems to produce better employment and earnings outcomes for low income residents and low wage workers. CWC focuses on building the skills and knowledge of direct service and program management staff, supporting increased communication networks and connection among practitioners and other system stakeholders, and developing and strengthening leaders within the workforce development field. They deliver technical assistance, training, and professional development (including workshops and conferences), provide regular structured opportunities for networking, sharing of information, and collaboration, and develop organizational and program models for increasing and sustaining capacity. They also provide an online Resource Room to access materials and explore links related to workforce development. For more information contact <http://cwc.cedac.org/index.html>.

Community Issues Management - Community Issues Management (CIM) - Is a web-based system designed to help local and regional organizations frame, manage and take action on complex issues. With access to over 500 national data sets, the ability to upload local data and other tools, CIM makes it easier to inform decision making and visualize impact. Visit our CIM site at www.cim-network.org/uwmbmv.

Connected Beginnings Training Institute, an initiative of the United Way, is an infant and early childhood mental health training institute that promotes awareness of the central importance of relationships in the lives of infants and young children. Connected Beginnings provides trainings and technical assistance to early childhood practitioners. For more information go to <http://connectedbeginnings.org>.

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Connecting School and Afterschool: 15 Ways to Improve Partnership Activity cards. These cards are the result of an initiative where eight greater Boston-based afterschool programs examined how children positively benefited from strong partnerships between their schools and after schools. Each card outlines an activity with subsequent step-by-step action plans including helpful tips along the way for afterschool program directors. For additional information contact Lisa Pickard at lpickard@supportunitedway.org or 617-624-8124 or go to <http://supportunitedway.org/asset/connecting-schools-and-after-schools>.

Financial Education Toolkit - The Financial Education Toolkit is a web-based resource for community-based financial education providers, designed to meet the need for quality and consistency in financial education, and to give those working in the field a means to explore curricula, core competencies, behavioral economic measurement tools (English and Spanish), and key resources. Instructor training and volunteer opportunities for financial professionals will supplement this Toolkit. For more information, please visit <http://www.financialedtoolkit.org>.

Get Healthy Now - Get Healthy Now is designed for afterschool programs that seek to improve the nutrition and physical fitness of their students. It is more than a curriculum. In addition to activities to do with children, it provides background information, a glossary, family outreach materials, staff wellness suggestions, a program self-assessment tool and a resource list. For additional information, contact Karley Ausiello at kusiello@supportunitedway.org or 617-624-8146.

Gift-in-Kind Distribution Services (UWDS) United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley participates in a retail partnership through Gifts-in-Kind International (GIKI). United Way recognizes the value of Product Philanthropy as a direct service program of local United Way organizations. We created United Way Distribution Services (UWDS) to serve the Product Philanthropy needs of the United Way System. **There are many types of items available for Partner Agencies to use: office supplies, office furniture,** Partner agency non-profit organizations can participate in UWDS by becoming a member of the distribution service. For a single annual fee of \$100, any organization partnered with a local United Way. For more information, contact United Way Distribution Services at 508-870-0300 or visit www.uwds.org.

Mass 2-1-1 - Through United Way's free and confidential hotline, Mass 2-1-1, residents can access **food and utility assistance, health and human services, counseling and other basic needs available in their community.** Residents in need are urged to **dial 2-1-1 or 1-877-211-MASS for help.** 2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that places all support services into one centralized phone call. It is free, confidential, available 24 hours/7 days a week and multi-lingual. Contact www.mass211.org.

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Massachusetts Mentoring Partnership - United Way has contracted with Mass Mentoring to provide group training and individual technical assistance to UW-funded mentoring programs. This year's focus is on evaluation and mentor recruitment. For additional information, contact Karley Ausiello at kausiello@supportunitedway.org or 617-624-8146.

Math, Science, and Technology initiative (MSTi) - United Way's MSTi supports hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs in afterschool for children and youth in grades K-12. Curricula, training, supplies, and technical assistance are made available for use year-round. Additionally, MSTi works to strengthen career awareness with site visits to local STEM companies and hospitals. For more information, contact Kristin Pineo at kristin.kpconsulting@gmail.com or 781-588-3784.

Road to Opportunity Sustainable Employment Best Practices Guide - is a concise overview of the workforce development field with practical examples, local and national, of promising best practices. United Way's Sustainable Employment Best Practices Guide, The Road to Opportunity, is available for download at www.supportunitedway.org/families.

Smart Choices for Taxpayers - Smart Choices offers tools and tips to help reach individual financial goals. It's available in English and Spanish and provides information about tax basics, resources to check (or repair) credit history, ways to save and a special section on self-employment. Smart Choices is offered to the general public in concert with the referral resource Mass 2-1-1 and can be found at mass211.org.

Success for Life: A Call for Collaborative Action: The framework is a statewide public-private collaborative action plan to change the odds of Massachusetts youth. It calls for leaders throughout the state to change the way we do business so that we can change community conditions and strength family and community supports that will lead to improved youth outcomes. Developed with input, advice and ideas from more than 100 citizens from across the state, as well as, the resources, studies and best practices of countless youth organizations and initiatives, this call for collaborative action is rich, relevant and responsive to the needs and challenges of individuals, communities and the Commonwealth. We hope the information and ideas advanced will serve as a universal blueprint for action providing anyone, anywhere with a glimpse of what is necessary and of what is possible. For additional information, contact Lisa Pickard at lpickard@supportunitedway.org or 617-624-8124.

Summer Experiences in Greater Lowell (SEGL) is a Lowell-based initiative that provides grants to that City's agencies that serve low-income, diverse Lowell youth between the ages of six and twenty-one. It provides opportunities to participate in summer programming that helps them develop leadership, social, and academic skills in a fun and enriching environment. For more information about SEGL, please contact Diane Franz at dfranz@supportunitedway.org or at 617-624-8185.

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The Catalyst Fund for Nonprofits is a five-year funder collaborative to support promising, voluntary nonprofit collaborative ventures in the Boston area. The Fund responds to ongoing inquiries made by local nonprofits to funders for support with proposed collaborative ventures and seeks to build an enduring resource infrastructure for collaboration in the sector. For more information, visit the Nonprofit Finance Fund website at www.nonprofitfinancefund.org.

The Marian L. Hoard Scholarship is intended to advance the next generation of leaders by promoting youth leadership development through positive adult relationships, education, and community involvement. This scholarship is created as a legacy in honor of Marian L. Hoard's retirement as president and chief executive officer of United Way of Massachusetts Bay, recognizing her contributions to the organization and commitment to fostering leadership in youth. It is open to those students intending to attend a two-year or four-year college for Fall 2011. For 2010-2011, up to 10 finalists will receive a one-time \$5,000 college scholarship to be used for tuition, fees, room and board, books, and associated expenses. More information will follow in early 2011.

Toolfind.org - Toolfind is an online tool to locate youth development outcome measurement tools. Go to www.toolfind.org.

United Way's Youth Venture Program inspires and invests in teams of young people, ages 12-18, to start social projects that create positive, lasting change in their communities. Youth participate in a "Dream It. Do It." training workshop. In this workshop they work in teams to develop an idea and learn how to write a business plan. Teams then present their plans to a selection panel and the strongest proposals are provided seed funding up to \$1,000, guidance, tools, and support from adult allies to successfully implement their plans. For more information please contact, Karley Ausiello at 617-624-8146 or kusiello@supportunitedway.org.

Walk a Mile Experience - The **United Way Walk A Mile Experience** provides participants (groups of at least 30) with an eye-opening experience - a week in the life of a family living at or near the poverty level in Massachusetts. The experience lasts two hours and includes an introduction and briefing, the actual exercise, and a debriefing period in which participants and volunteer staffers share their feelings and talk about what they have learned about the lives of people in poverty and what United Way is doing to create community impact. For additional information, contact Karley Ausiello at kusiello@supportunitedway.org or 617-624-8146.

Wheelock College Masters in Organizational Leadership Scholarship Program is a new partnership with United Way to provide training for mid-level managers and direct service staff identified as emerging leaders. Participants will be able to attain a Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership in two years of part-time study, while learning organizational leadership skills. Wheelock College and the United Way will each contribute 25% of total tuition for up to eight applicants, providing a full 50% scholarship for qualified applicants. For more information contact: Irwin Nesoff, DSW, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Leadership and Policy (617) 879-2170, www.wheelock.edu/leadership.

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Wilson College SAT Prep's Graph It Forward Today, Inc. (GIFT) Through WilsonDaily Prep and Graph It Forward, gently used test prep books, graphing calculators, and SAT/ACT tutoring is available at no charge for students at United Way affiliates. Test Prep Services and graphing calculators are invaluable tools for standardized testing, upper-level math, and science studies. Graph It Forward Today, Inc. (GIFT) is a non-profit organization committed to creating equal educational opportunities for high school students nationwide and eliminating racial, socio-economic, and cultural barriers to higher education. For more information contact Laura@wilsonprep.com or call 1-914-861-2085 or 1-800-888-0692.