

United Way to establish fund for families facing emergencies

By PEG QUANN
STAFF WRITER

An Emergency Needs Fund is the latest way the United Way of Bucks County hopes to serve families facing financial difficulties, the organization's staff announced Friday morning at its "Bucksgiving Breakfast."

Marissa Christie, UWBC chief development officer, said the goal for the fund is to raise \$100,000 to help people "before they are in crisis" so that a one-time emergency like an unexpected hospital bill, a large auto repair or the need for a security deposit on an apartment doesn't put a family living paycheck to paycheck into a downward spiral that leads to real financial difficulties. "It puts them at risk of losing everything," she said. "It's a bold goal. With your help, it can happen," she told more than 300 contributors and volunteers who showed up for the sold-out breakfast at the Sheraton Bucks County in Falls. Christie said after the breakfast that all the details

of the emergency fund haven't been established yet. After donations start coming in, the funds most likely will be disbursed by "solution teams" the UWBC has set up to help people facing specific difficulties, she said. Whether the emergency donations would be grants or loans hasn't been determined, either.

The federal government also has emergency programs but the federal allocations for Bucks County can change dramatically from year to year, and the UWBC is looking to supplement them, Christie said.

The United Way would allow employees to designate the fund for their payroll deduction contributions, she added.

The United Way held the Bucksgiving breakfast to thank donors and volunteers for all they have done to help the umbrella organization that oversees donations from area workers to more than 100 other organizations and charities working in the county.

Vince Mandes, of Buckingham, chief financial officer for the American Board of Internal Medicine; Jean



Calkins Media Community Affairs Director Amy Gianficaro accepted the Founders' Award for the multimedia company.

Coyle, of Upper Makefield, president and CEO of Penn Community Bank, and Calkins Media, owners of the Bucks County Courier Times and The Intelligencer, received special recognition at the banquet for their community service over the past years.

Coyle praised the work of not only her bank employees but those of other banks throughout Bucks County that work to help their communities thrive. "We're a pretty collegial group — not only with donations, but time giving," she said, mentioning many of the banks



Vince Mandes, chief financial officer for the American Board of Internal Medicine, and Jean Coyle, president and CEO of Penn Community Bank, were honored by the United Way on Friday for their community service.

represented at the breakfast.

Calkins Media Community Affairs Director Amy Gianficaro accepted the Founders' Award for the multimedia company. The UWBC honor was given to the news organization for its work in publicizing the work of nonprofits and raising awareness about important issues affecting communities in Bucks County as well as its promotion of its annual Give-a-Christmas fund, the Buck Up Bucks fund for which it raised more than \$240,000 to support the Family Service Association and its Bucks



PHOTOS BY KIM WEIMER / PHOTOJOURNALIST

County Homeless Shelter in Bristol Township as well as the Advocates for the Homeless and Those in Need, and its ongoing support of the United Way's Bucks Knocks Out Hunger campaign. "We're happy to do it," Gianficaro said of Calkins' charitable work. The media company and its employees enjoy working with organizations that belong to the

United Way and are trying "to make Bucks County the best it can be."

Several other organizations were recognized for their work in the individual fields of education and health, as well as for promoting joint impacts to improve communities.

Also honored were several individuals whose personal efforts to support the United Way were noteworthy as well as donors from all economic categories who have given \$1,000 or more to the UWBC campaign.

Wegmans service manager Kelly Ducsik, who works at the Warrington store, was singled out for raising \$44,000 in contributions to the United Way and making sure that all of her store's employees returned their United Way pledge cards.

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Bristol Twp. holding two cleanup events

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP — Bristol Township officials are giving residents two chances this month to get rid of unwanted clutter from their residences.

Residents can bring small electronics, household appliances, carpets, old bikes, toys, textiles, plastic, glass and aluminum to the township municipal complex from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday and May 15. The complex is at 2501 Bath Road.

Items like tires and construction debris (drywall, tiles, shingles, bricks, etc.) will not be accepted, township recycling coordinator Scott Swichar said.

This event is open to township residents only, who are asked to show proof of residency, such as a driver's license.

Another cleanup event open to all Bucks County residents will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 28 at Harry S. Truman High School, 3001 Green Lane in the township. Household hazardous waste items like batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, turpentine, furniture stripper, household pesticides, drain and oven cleaners and swimming pool chemicals can be dropped off.

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