

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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United Way of Coastal Fairfield County Announces Round One Funding of Community Response Small Grant Program

ADAP- Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program of Weston-Receives \$2,500 to Expand Program

Weston, CT. – March 23, 2010. United Way of Coastal Fairfield County announced today the distribution of funds for the Round One Funding of its Community Response Small Grants Program. A total of \$70,000 was awarded to 22 organizations that applied for funding toward an innovative program or expansion of a successful program that focused on one of United Way's seven target issues. In the area of Education, the target issues of United Way of Coastal Fairfield County are "Readiness to Achieve in School" and "Academic Achievement". In the area of Income, United Way is focusing on "Achieving Greater Financial Stability", "Increasing Affordable Housing and Reducing Homelessness", and "Providing Basic Needs". In the work around Health, the target issues are "Healthy Youth and Resilient Families" and "Healthy Older Adults".

ADAP, the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program of Weston received a \$2,500 Community Response Grant for its Pre-Prom Education and Parent Forum, which addresses United Way's healthy youth and resilient families target issue. ADAP seeks to address substance abuse problems in Weston through awareness and education. The funding received will be used to support one school-based and one community-based education program. ADAP has held a pre-prom event annually for several years. This program, held during the school day, is attended by 100% of the 810 high school students. The student-parent forum was started last year to increase awareness about substance abuse, and to facilitate communication within families and within the community. This program reaches 3,700 parents and students with the goal of discouraging risky behaviors and promoting smart and healthy choices.

The ADAP program complements the other positive youth development work invested in by United Way in Westport, Wilton, Norwalk, Monroe and Darien. While each program has its own characteristics, they are all focused on providing engagement of youth and parents in a dialogue and awareness around avoiding risky behaviors.

The second round of applications is due April 1, 2010. Grant applications should be in the range of \$3,000 to \$7,000. Those interested in reading more about the Community Response Small Grants Program or who would like to apply for funding, should visit <http://www.unitedwaycfc.org/about-us> and click on the Community Response Small Grants Program link. Applications with instructions can be downloaded from the website.

United Way of Coastal Fairfield County's mission is: "Together, we mobilize our communities to improve people's lives". Our vision is to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Working with many partners, United Way is focused on the building blocks that we need for a good life: a quality education that leads to a stable job, income that can support a family through retirement, and good health. United Way of Coastal Fairfield County serves the towns of Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Westport, Trumbull, Easton, Monroe, Weston, Norwalk, Wilton, Darien and New Canaan. Find out more at our website, www.unitedwaycfc.org.

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