

CHAMBER HAPPENINGS

'Give Local' initiative a worthy cause for businesses

I'm pleased to report that additional members of the local business community have pledged matching funds for the Connecticut Community Foundation's "Give Local Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills" initiative.

This 36-hour charitable giving event will be held Nov. 12-13. To date, approximately \$100,000 in matching funds have been committed from the foundation and its funding partners for the initiative. All donations will be forwarded to your chosen organization as unrestricted funds.

The initiative is designed to spotlight the incredible



work of nonprofit organizations throughout the foundation's 21-town service area. It's also intended to inspire new donors to support local 501(c)(3) organizations during this 36-hour window. Anyone who wishes to participate can make a secure donation by credit card via the foundation's dedicated Give Local website —

<http://www.conncf.org/give-local> — between 7 a.m. Nov. 12 and 7 p.m. Nov. 13.

The foundation encourages the business community to partner by supporting the match pool — the larger the pool, the larger the incentive for nonprofits to participate, thereby motivating new and existing donors to give in a big way during the challenge. Businesses that contribute to the match pool will be listed as a sponsor throughout the challenge.

Chamber members Ion Bank Foundation, Crystal Rock and WATR-1320 AM are supporting companies for this new initiative.

"The Ion Bank Foundation is very supportive of the Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills event because it really encourages giving at the grassroots level," said Charles Boulter III, Ion Bank president and chief executive officer. "We look at our commitment to the matching funds as a great investment that will help leverage giving at this level, where it is truly needed in our community."

The Waterbury Regional Chamber is proud to have a number of organizations such as the Connecticut Community Foundation in our membership. The foundation

administers more than 380 charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations.

In addition, 132 nonprofit organizations — many of which are chamber members — have registered to participate in the initiative, including those in the following categories: community and economic development; women services; arts and culture; health; education and literacy; environment; social services and basic needs; animals; children and youth; and older adults.

The Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills event will culminate in the

foundation's 90th anniversary celebration Nov. 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Southbury.

The business community can support this initiative by contacting the foundation's Edwin Rodriguez at (203) 753-1315 or by email at erodriguez@conncf.org.

The chamber encourages you to support initiatives that enhance the quality of life in our community.

Lynn Ward is president and CEO of the Waterbury Regional Chamber. Contact her by email at lward@waterburychamber.com or by phone at 203-757-0701.