

County United Way campaign beginning with a thank-you

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The United Way of Sullivan County has moved to a new location in downtown Newport in order to better serve the community.

"We're doing a lot of work with county initiatives," UWSC executive director Kelly Murphy said. "We are now in the county seat and have better visibility."

For three and half years the UWSC was located at the Claremont Senior Center on Maple Avenue.

"With our new location we hope to help a lot of people and generate a lot of interest," UWSC resource development director Dawn Ranney said.

In conjunction with the move, Murphy said she will kick off the 2007 fundraising campaign with an annual coffee and donut giveaway.

"It's totally a thank you," Murphy said. "It's coffee and donuts to say 'good morning.'"

The event will begin on Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. in Charlestown where volunteers dressed in fluorescent-colored shirts will be standing on the yellow lines on Main Street in front of two locations—the Connecticut River Bank and the fire station.

About 350 bags will be distributed containing a Koffee Kup doughnut, a bag of Green Mountain Coffee, an NFL schedule, a prescription drug discount card and information about the United Way.

The event will continue Wednesday morning in Newport on Central and Main streets beginning at 6:30 a.m. with 350 bags.

On Thursday, the event will

conclude in Claremont beginning at 6:30 a.m. at the intersection of North and Washington streets where volunteers will hand out 500 bags.

According to Murphy, the goal of the event is merely to thank the community members who generously donate throughout the year.

About 43 people are volunteering during the event sponsored by Sugar River Savings Bank, MJ Harringtons, Koffee Kup Bakery, Hannafords, Green Mountain Coffee and Sunrise Graphics.

In addition to the bag distribution, volunteers will visit up to 75 unsuspecting businesses with free coffee and donuts.

Murphy also said that the new location will have a person available for people who need help with substance abuse.

"The Sullivan County substance abuse coordinator will be at our Newport location," Murphy said. "There's a lot of need in the county."

The United Way is a non-profit organization supported by donors and community members and works with 21 agencies that receive funding.

"It's a good starting point for people with problems such as domestic violence, no money for fuel, those facing eviction, medical and prescription needs or those in need of transportation," Murphy said. "We always have the coffee pot going in the morning."

The United Way of Sullivan County is located at 23 Main Street in Newport and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and can be reached by calling (603) 543-0121.

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