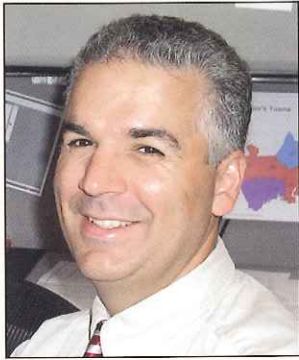


Volunteering Makes a Difference

Volunteering is good for everyone. The world is not a perfect place, and many people, animals, places, and communities need help. Governments and professionals try to meet everyone's needs, but it's impossible for them to do it all. This is why people become volunteers: because they can make a difference where someone or something needs help. When we volunteer our time, money, or talents, we help make our planet a better, happier home where people work together to make life easier for all.

JOHN MINARDI, Customer Field Technician, got involved in STRIVE-New Haven while working as a New Haven Police Officer eight years ago. STRIVE-New Haven, Inc. is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for unemployed and underemployed job seekers in Greater New Haven and prepares them for the workforce. STRIVE serves anyone with employment needs, teaching soft skills (good work attitude, customer relation skills and interview skills) while partnering with agencies such as Gateway Community College to teach hard skills (automotive repair, short order cook, clerical skills, etc).



"When convicts were placed on probation or parole, a meeting would take place with the Police Dept., probation officers, and social service providers, including STRIVE-New Haven. Convicts

were given a choice to move forward on their own or let the social service agencies, such as STRIVE help change their life." said John, "I was very impressed with the success this organization has made in building the participants confidence and helping them regain their independence." John currently serves on the Board of Directors of STRIVE assisting in fund raising activities and public speaking.

CAROL LABORE, System Maintenance Lead Engineer, recently joined the Board of Directors of STRIVE. After joining UI three years ago, she was looking for opportunities to involve herself in community betterment. John Minardi introduced her to STRIVE - New Haven. "As a new volunteer I was given a chance to attend some of their training, and to witness the incredible progress they were making in turning people's lives around. I couldn't believe the difference in how the graduates presented themselves compared to the very first day they walked into the class!" said Carol.



Carol saw the need for women's clothing ("business attire") to help the female graduates be more presentable when marketing themselves at interviews.

STRIVE has been able to receive donations of suits, ties and shirts for its male job seekers on a regular basis, however, it's been a more difficult challenge to obtain clothing for its women. She has organized the clothing drive at UI as a starting point to address this issue, and also to raise awareness for the effective work this organization does to support people as they rethink and rebuild their lives.

Women's business attire clothes drive (April 20 – June 1, 2009)

How can you help?

STRIVE needs new or gently used women's professional clothing. Accessories such as jewelry or unopened packages of pantyhose are also welcome.

Drop off your suit, skirt, blouse, dress, jacket or pants to the UI sites listed below.

There will be a box in these locations for you to put your donations. Contact person for the site is also listed.

UITC: Café area - JoEllen Burt

ESWC: Main Lobby - Beth Jansson

Armstrong: Cafe area - Rose Gellatly

CFC: 6th Flr. Conf. Rm. 619 - Eileen Lopez-Cordone

Middletown Ave, East Shore & Gilbert: Carol Labore

Your donation is greatly appreciated! If you would like a receipt of your donation or have any questions, please contact Carol Labore at ext. 4656.

