

TEAM puts poverty in forefront

Fighting poverty in the Valley was the focus of Training, Education and Manpower Inc.'s annual meeting.

The event held on October 7, was attended by 130 people, from social service providers to educators and business leaders.

The theme of the community action agency's 43rd annual meeting was: "It Takes a Village ... To End Poverty."

TEAM President and CEO Richard J. Knoll acknowledged that given the current economic climate, "the timing is bad," to kick off a three-year strategic plan to reduce poverty. But he said the community "can do a better job" in cutting poverty. "We don't have to go to government to do it."

Knoll said it's a time to think about those people "who are not sharing in our success." TEAM, of Derby, is joining the state and 11 other agencies in Connecticut in the initiative.

Knoll also said the community needs to develop more creative ways to invest in its children. To that end, a community conversation will be held early in 2009.

Thomas R. Brooks, director of policy and research analysis for the Connecticut Commission on Children, was guest speaker.



"We're really on the brink of scary times," Brooks said, in terms of the economy in Connecticut.

He said as more services are needed, more cuts are being made.

He said the cost of poverty among children "is not just a social discussion," it also is an economic one. Brooks said society needs to "focus on the value of investment" in children.



The Lillian Chrostowski Award was presented to Joyce Barclay of Oxford by Richard Knoll, TEAM President/CEO. Joyce is manager of strategic initiatives at The WorkPlace in Bridgeport. The award is given to a social service professional “whose outstanding work has had a profound and positive effect on the community.”



Officer Sergio Deserado and Lt. Paul Satkowski of the Seymour Police Department and Seymour Super Stop & Shop received the 2008 Community Partnership Award for their support of TEAM's Valley Toys for Tots Program.



Diane and Tom Baklik of the Yankee Clipper Barbershop in Seymour received the 2008 Community Partnership Award from Diane Stroman, TEAM Vice President of Development for their support of TEAM's Valley Toys for Tots Program.



The Ansonia, Derby and Seymour Discovery initiatives were presented a 2008 Partnership Award by David Morgan, TEAM, Vice President of Early Education for their support of TEAM's Valley Family Resource Center.

Beth Collette & Laura Mutrie, Derby Discovery Chairpersons, Charlene

DeFillipo & Pat Banfe, Shelton Chairpersons and Michele Holovach & Sharon Kelley, Ansonia Discovery Chairpersons



The Chairman's Award was presented by Richard Feher, TEAM 2007 Board of Directors Chairman, to Carmen Siberon, representing David Nee, president of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund..

Mary Christy Fisher, an attorney for New Haven Legal Assistance, Griffin Hospital, Bill Powanda V. P. of Administration; and Dr. Ronald Linden, of White Hills Family Dentistry, received Heritage Awards for their work to establish the Hill Health Corp. Richard O. Belden Dental Clinic. The clinic was dedicated in June.

