



**Wilton Rotary Drummer**  
Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980  
[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)



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**Editor: Laila Khouri**

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**Announcements:**

- President Carol announced that November is Foundation month. There are envelopes included in the November Rotarian magazine that can be used to send donations. Carol encouraged us all to think of the value these donations bring to future generations. Our donations bring to life important projects that enrich the lives of people around the globe.
- Bud Boucher indicated that the Veterans Day parade was well attended and thanked the club for all their contributions.
- There will be a Board meeting on Tuesday Nov 18, all are encouraged to attend.
- The list for the Thanksgiving baskets are with Pat Russo, please email him if you need to be reminded of what to bring.

**Program: Cathy DeCesare, Chief Strategic Officer and Lead for Community Impact for United Way of Coastal Fairfield County**

**Stephen Vavrek, First Selectman of Monroe and board of director's member**

Cathy gave us a presentation on the impact the United Way has in our towns; the UWCFC covers 12 towns stretching from Darien to Stratford and serves about half a million residents. It generated \$7.2 Million dollars in revenue last year out of which \$6.2 million was invested back in the communities it serves.

The United Way has changed its thinking recently so that there is a focus on understanding the issues and work on solving problems in the communities to make things better for all residents. Cathy emphasized that the United Way is uniquely positioned because it's the only organization that has the ability to bring people and community leaders' together to solve the issues they're facing.

The United Way is focused on "Changing the odds for Children" by reaching the following goals in our communities:

- All children ready for school with the language, physical, mental, behavioral, emotional and developmental health they need.
- All children have a quality preschool experience, positive enrichment opportunities during out of school time, and the mentoring and resources to graduate on time, prepared for life.
- Families engaged in their children's development, reinforcing literacy skills and learning in the home
- Families with adequate housing and the ability to build income and assets to secure their financial future.
- Children and families with access to health care, eating nutritious food, and being active physically

Steve spoke to the group about the homelessness problem that exists in our communities and the impact the United Way can have on solving this issue through the Neighbors helping neighbors program

***NEXT MEETING – Friday, November 21 at Marly's***