

Celebrating your support

Date: December 2, 2010 **Section:** Community

The **Community Fund** of Darien hosted a reception last month for area businesses to express appreciation for their extraordinary support over the years. The **Community Fund** is celebrating 60 years of helping meet social service needs in Darien, Norwalk and Stamford.

In 1951, the **Community Fund** gave \$35,000 to eight agencies and this year, the **Community Fund** is distributing more than \$750,000 to over 30 agencies and support for several initiatives such as Aging in Place in Darien and Thriving Youth: Connected **Community**.

In the 60 years, the **Community Fund** has given over \$20 million to help people in need, including those who need food and shelter, mental health and crisis counseling, services for seniors and for people with special needs.

Local businesses have been a significant part of this history through financial contributions and volunteering.

Currently, the Business Campaign Committee includes Chairman Greg Palmer of Palmer's Market, Joe Viesta of Michael Joseph's Catering, Dan Anderson of Merrill Lynch, Jerry Nielsen of Nielsen and Company, John Hertz of Hertz Construction, Glen Moore of Rucci, Burnham, Carta, Carello LLP, PJ Jadhav of First County Bank, Chris McKiernan of Abercrombie, Burns, McKiernan & Company, and Sandy Nielsen of Nielsen's Florist.

Palmer follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, Joseph Palmer, who was an active leader of the **Community Fund** in the early 1950s. "I support The **Community Fund** of Darien because it is truly a local organization that works to meet the needs of Darien and the surrounding **communities**," Palmer said. "And the agencies that receive grants are critical to people who live and work in our **community**." More info: 203-655-8775, communityfunddarien.org

