



# WAIMnews

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: BILL THORNE

Bill came to us through a mentoring program at E.O. Smith High School in Storrs. For two days each week during the Spring semester, Bill cleaned out donated computers to ready them for families that needed them. Bill also worked on a project that explored the correlation between homelessness and an increase in clients at WAIM. Assistant Director, Evelyn Solla, said it was a pleasure working with Bill and she wishes him much success in his senior year. It's great to have young people share their special talents with us.



BILL THORNE AT OUR RECENT  
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

**“This ride is awesome! Perfect route... perfect ride!”**  
—2010 Rider

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

# STEEPLE CHASE


## BIKE TOUR

**8.13.11 - 7AM**

**20, 35, 50, 62.5 & 100**  
mile routes through scenic  
Northern Connecticut

**ECSU Athletic Complex**  
69 Mansfield City Rd, Mansfield

**In honor of Ed Austin**  
Sponsored by WAIM & Perception Programs



**860.450.7122**  
perceptionprograms.org  
active.com - bikereg.com  
Find us on Facebook!

Created by: Celia Poizier

On August 13, 2011, WAIM and Perception Programs, Inc., will host the 20th Annual Steeple Chase Bike Tour in honor of Ed Austin, a long time WAIM volunteer. Ed is one of the founding organizers of this annual event which is a major fundraiser for both organizations. Last year, our community sponsors and 335 riders raised approximately \$63,000 which was equally divided between Perception Programs, Inc. and Windham Area Interfaith Ministry and is used to fill gaps in existing services for people in need in Northeastern Connecticut.

The 2011 tour will be held in Ed's honor to recognize the major contribution he has made to this effort over the past twenty years – from organizing the rest stops, sag wagons, and other volunteer efforts to chalking the routes. The tour will have a new home this year - the Eastern CT State University Athletic Complex, Mansfield City Road, across from Meadowbrook Lane in Mansfield, CT.

The Steeple Chase is one of the most beautiful bike tours in Eastern Connecticut, and one of the most unique as riders visit rest stops at historic churches with all kinds of food prepared by WAIM's faith communities. Other freebies include food, beverages and snacks after the ride for all participants and Steeple Chase T-shirts to all individual riders.

## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

On any given day, clients come through our doors in need of anything from clothing to financial assistance. Each client is unique with their own compelling story. The following is one of those stories.

In her own words, Jane is a 28 year old female that got out of a bad situation. “I moved out on my own so I can raise my 14 yr. old brother who is disabled and asthmatic. I have custody of him. I want him to be able to have a nice life and a good house to live in with no problems.”

Jane’s weekly income of \$250 did not go very far in meeting all of her expenses. She needed \$464.00 to pay off an electric bill that had built up over time. WAIM provided her with the funds and helped her get on the NUSStart program so she can budget her electricity expenses more reliably the future.

Jane’s assistance was possible thanks to our Energy Fund, which we will be raising money to replenish during this year’s Walk for Warmth.

### ART AT WAIM

We are thrilled to have local artist, Ben Keller, join the ranks as a WAIM volunteer. Ben has been working on several artistic projects with us including a mural painting that will help spruce up the back of our building. He will be spending a portion of the summer painting the mural with local school-aged children. If you’d like to see the progress of the project, be sure to take a ride down Riverside Drive. Also, keep an eye out for the WAIM truck. He’ll be adding his artistic flair to that as well.



Photo by: Al Malpa/The Chronicle

### GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scouts from Troop 65091 in Hebron spent several Saturdays at WAIM designing and painting a mural in our entrance way. What a treat it is to walk in every morning and see their handiwork !

### WALK FOR WARMTH 2011

November 20th will mark the 20th year of our Walk for Warmth fundraiser. This year St. Joseph’s Church in Willimantic will host the annual event that raises money for WAIM’S Energy Assistance Program. Be sure to line up your group of walkers now. We’ll see you in November!

### THE ANNEX at WAIM

Over the last 8 months, a portion of the 4th floor of our building on Main Street has played host to artists’ gatherings, the United Way, the Windham Region Chamber of Commerce, a WRCC youth program, and more. It has been exciting to have so much activity upstairs. What’s even more exciting is that each of these events helps fund our programs. The 4th floor space, known as the Annex, had been an area converted by our former tenants, Windham Arts, for use as an art gallery/community space. WAIM now rents the space as an additional source of income. If you’re interested in renting the Annex please feel free to contact us.



HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT? WE DO, TOO! WE’VE STARTED A FAN PAGE TO HELP PROMOTE WAIM’S EFFORTS IN OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE BE SURE TO “LIKE” US. WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WAIMONFB

Many thanks to the congregations, organizations and individuals who donate to WAIM on a regular basis and are the heart and soul of our mission. The following donors have made at least one financial contribution during the past fiscal year, July 1 2010 through June 30, 2011. Hundreds more – too many to list – have donated clothing, furniture, household items or their time. We are grateful for every gift and truly appreciate your generosity.

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 Lynne Steeves  
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 Phyllis Stensland  
 Norman & Nora Stevens  
 Douglas & Susan Stewart  
 Laura Lee Stewart  
 Gregory & Elizabeth Stillman  
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 Donald & Barbara Stitts  
 David & Deborah Stoloff  
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 Bill Stover & Leslie Poulos  
 William L. & William K Strand  
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 Victoria Straub  
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 Toby & Jennie Talbot  
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 Tom & Lee Terry  
 Mary Thatcher  
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 Anne Turcotte  
 Richard & Cheryl Urban  
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 David & Julianne Veschi  
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 Orwin Watson  
 Edmund & Mary Wehrle  
 Martha, MaryBeth, & Bonnie Weigel  
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 Jeffrey & Nancy Weisenburger  
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 Elaine Werboff  
 Donald & Diana Wetherell  
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 Charito Whitaker  
 Shirley White  
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 Michael & Anne Willenborg  
 Jean Williams  
 James & Bette Williams  
 George & Gerry Williams

Priscilla Williamson  
 Marilyn Wilson  
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 Jeffrey & Mary Withey  
 Jasmine Wolf  
 Andrew Woodcock & Lynne Ide  
 Eileen Woodward  
 Charles & Frances Woody  
 Diane Wright  
 Loretta Wrobel  
 Alex Wu & Lisa Finkelman  
 Robert & Dianne Wyss  
 Terry & Dana Yanaway  
 David & Suzanne Yeo  
 Peter & Dorothy Yeomans  
 Lyle & Joanne Yorks  
 Mary Lou Yourconis  
 David & Martha Yutzey  
 David W Yutzey & Lisa Pane  
 Ellen Zahl  
 Helen Zeni  
 Kathleen Ryan & William Zenko  
 William & Marcia Zimmer  
 Joseph & Susan Ziobrowski  
 Douglas & Deborah Zlatin

#### IN CELEBRATION OF

Sandra and Bruce Stave  
 Bill & Joan Russioniello Goba  
 Carole Fish Birthday  
 Charles and Frances Davita  
 Silfen Glasberg  
 Howard Mayer  
 John Moran  
 Mary Phelps  
 Nancy Mathis  
 Paul R. Caron  
 Pesach... "cover the naked"  
 Purim... "and they sent portions to  
 the poor"

#### IN HONOR OF

Aidin De Ricco's Bar Mitzvah  
 Anna and Peter Crawford  
 Bruce and Hanna Clements  
 Cathy Mozzicato  
 Cheryl Patera  
 Christopher M. Sheehan  
 David and Diana Blanchard  
 David A. and Martha R. Yutzey  
 David W. Yutzey and Lisa Pane  
 Dick and Jane Wadsworth  
 Dick Grillo  
 Dr. Jay Turbush  
 Eric Goldberg  
 Erin Klein and Henry Coppola  
 Eugene and Mary Alassi  
 Georgina Hendrick  
 Gerald and Marie Liskom  
 Gerry Zeni  
 Gregory Bailey  
 Hannah Kaplan, Bat Mitzvah  
 Howard Mayer  
 Jessica Giordano  
 John and Helen Mulhern  
 John and Nell Mulhern  
 John Lord  
 Joshua Horowitz-Benoit, Bar Mitzvah  
 Judy and David McChesney  
 Kara Grillo  
 Lenny Patera (many times!)  
 Linda Zaccarro  
 Lucy DeLuca  
 Major Michael A. Goba  
 Marie Russioniello Mead's  
 Margie Kalliangis & Wil Tomlinson  
 Mary and Tim Weinland  
 Mary W. Beardsley  
 Mary & Tim Weinland  
 Mary Willenborg  
 Matthew Liskom  
 Michael and Linda Gardner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Jendrowski  
 Kate May  
 Olivia Baker  
 OSD at UConn-HR Staff  
 Paula Dixon  
 Peggy Davis  
 Phil and Lena Barry  
 Richard Schimmelpfeng  
 Sally Muir's sister  
 Seana McLaughlin  
 Sharry L. Goldman  
 Stephen and Katy Sheehan  
 Steve & Lisa Lombardi  
 Steve Merlino  
 Tad Lord and Gail Humphrey  
 The Daughters of the Holy Spirit  
 The many volunteers  
 Tina Underwood-Robinson  
 Victoria Nimirovski  
 Virginia Fulton

Jennifer Smith  
WAIM Volunteers and Staff

### IN MEMORY OF

Adah Ruth and Frank Ballard  
Alan Rand  
Alfred Morgan  
Alice B. Fowler  
Amelia Phelan  
Arlene M. Seaforth  
Baron and Elinor Bray  
Bernadette DeSorcy  
Bernadette Ellis WAIM Volunteer  
Bess Hochberg  
Bill Brazziel  
Blanche Brauneck  
Bridget Harold  
Carl Smith Sr.  
Charles J. Corcoran  
Charlotte and Herbert McChesney  
David Roth  
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Dottie Lackman  
Dr. Nelly Nepumucino  
Edmond F. Woodward  
Edna Chowanec  
Edward Borowski  
Eleanor & Joseph Mulroy  
Elisabeth Millette  
Eric J Kalber  
Esther E. Kibbe from Ceci Hanycky  
Eveline Cote  
Father Edward Frigault  
Florence Vernon Dawson  
Fr. Ed Poulin  
Frances Curry Coleman  
Frances Jansen  
Francis W. Hayes  
Fred Gifford  
Gary B Gallup  
George, Rose and Frances Freeman  
Germaine Hall  
Harry E. Armstrong  
Helen and Marian Narkawicz  
Helen Dawson

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Jinny Stephens  
John Doherty  
Joan Kelly  
Jody Newmyer  
John F. Cignoni,  
John N. Plank  
John Sevi  
Joseph F. Corcoran  
Joseph Kuronya Jr.  
Kathleen Sanelli  
Kathryn L. Wagner  
Kim John  
Leo and Aurora Harbec  
Lyman Rivers  
Lynette H. Doeg  
Marie and John Keleher  
Marjorie Myers Ginn  
Mary Ann Jansen  
Mary Ellen Strand  
Mary J. Jacobs  
Mary Pivarnik  
Mary Rogers Beckett  
Mary Starkney Jefferson  
Melvin D. Strickler  
Meredith Beck  
Merle Risley  
Michael Mariano  
Milton Kinstler  
Mozell Kiett and Lula Williams  
Natalie and Perry Monty  
Olive Dunstan Peters  
Patricia Winkel  
Paul John Sciremammano  
Paul Maciuka  
Paul Caron  
Paul R Caron  
Paul Trudelle  
Raymond F. Andrews III  
Rev. George K. Evans  
Rev. Joseph J. Kugler  
Richard and Rose Platt  
Richard G. Hope Jr.  
Richard H. Braun

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Roberta E. Doucet,  
Roma Frost  
Rory McLain  
Rose DelGaizo  
Rose Kushner  
Samuel Russian  
Sandra L. Bell  
Shirley Q. LaFontaine  
Sooren A. Demurjian  
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Walter and Jeanne Pelechatz  
Warren Pierce  
Wesley Arcenas  
William (Bill) Pealer  
William J. Meade  
William, Elenora, Anita Moran  
Willie Spruell

### FAITH COMMUNITIES

Calvary Baptist Church  
Church of the Holy Family  
Colchester Federated Church  
Columbia Congregational Church  
Congregational Church of Scotland  
Ebenezer Lutheran Church  
First Baptist Church of Mansfield  
First Church Of Christ Congregational  
UCC  
First Congregational Church Andover  
First Congregational Church Lebanon  
First Congregational Church  
Of Coventry  
First Congregational Church Of  
S. Windham  
First Congregational Church Willimantic  
First United Methodist of Willimantic  
Gilead Congregational Church  
Hampton Congregational Church  
Roman Catholic Church Of St. Mary  
St. Francis of Assisi Church

St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
St. Mark's Chapel  
St. Maurice Church  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Of Windham  
St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel  
Storrs Congregational Church  
Storrs Friends Meeting  
Temple B'nai Israel  
The Federated Church Of Willington  
Unitarian Fellowship Of Storrs  
Willimantic Seventh Day Adventist Church

### BUSINESSES

Ampersand Consulting  
Brennan Electric  
Curriculum Research & Evaluation, Inc.  
Design Center East, LLC  
Donnelly/Coit Progressive Resources  
Dr. Ralph Kroopnick  
Feron Financial LLC  
FHLB Boston  
Harder + Company Community Research  
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Savings Institute  
The National Institute For The Clinical  
Application Of Behavioral Medicine  
United Technologies

### ORGANIZATIONS

Access Agency (for Partners in  
Independence)  
Altrusa  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
Fill-anthropic  
Lebanese American Club  
Mansfield Lions Club  
Mansfield Middle School  
Operation Fuel

Perception Programs, Inc.  
Soroptimist International Willimantic  
T & D Team EASTCONN  
Thrivent For Lutherans  
Town Of Mansfield  
University Of Connecticut League  
Willimantic Lions Club Charities  
Willimantic Renaissance, Inc.  
Willimantic Rotary Club  
Windham County Bar Association  
Windham Hospital Case Management

### FOUNDATIONS & UNITED WAY

Aetna Foundation  
AT&T Employee Giving  
Bank Of America Employee Giving  
Community Foundation Of Eastern CT  
Dominion Employee Giving  
Guilford Smith Charitable Trust  
Hall Foundation  
ING Employee Giving Program  
Liberty Bank Foundation  
Middlesex United Way  
New Alliance Foundation  
Pfizer Foundation United Way Campaign  
SBM Charitable Foundation Inc.  
SI Financial Group Foundation, Inc.  
United Way Of Butler County  
United Way Of Central and Northeastern  
Connecticut  
United Way Of Greater New Haven, Inc.  
United Way Of Pioneer Valley Inc.

## ECSU AND WAIM: COMMUNITY PARTNERS

When USA Today reported that Eastern Connecticut State University had been voted the top college for its commitment to community service it wasn't news to us.

Over the last school year, WAIM has been the beneficiary of ECSU students' time and talents on many occasions. We were selected as one of the anchor agencies to participate in developing the We Care website, built by student members of ECSU's Association of Information Technology Professionals Chapter. Launched in May, The We-Care site is designed to help local service organizations (like WAIM) stay connected and informed by keeping relevant information on one easily navigated site.

Most recently we've been working with two groups of students from Professor Alex Citurs' class. The first, headed up by JoAnn Beguhla, is working on making WAIM's databases more secure and user-friendly. The second group, led by Mark Bettencourt, helped to design and build WAIM's new, soon-to-be-launched web site.

Since it opened in 2009, Eastern's Center for Community Engagement has connected students with a variety of activities at local non-profits and education programs. Here at WAIM, they have worked on producing an introductory video, set up and participated in our Walk for Warmth, and assisted in many of the everyday activities it takes to provide services to our community.

In addition to what the students provide, the University is allowing WAIM and Perception Programs to use their Athletic Complex as home base for this year's Steeple Chase. The concession stand, complete with running water and refrigeration, will make setting up the event and feeding the riders much easier this year.

In our opinion, Eastern Connecticut State University is a great example of what being a good community partner is all about!



WAIM  
 P.O. BOX 221  
 WILLIMANTIC, CT 96226

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THE MISSION OF THE WINDHAM AREA INTERFAITH MINISTRY IS TO UPLIFT AND UNITE OUR COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING CARING SERVICE AND RESOURCES TO MEET OUR NEIGHBORS' NEEDS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.



## WAIM NEEDS... YOU!

Please let us know if you can help us with new carpeting \*\* pampers—all sizes \*\* sheets, towels and light blankets \*\*  
 \*\* volunteers \*\* more volunteers \*\* painters, carpenters and supplies \*\* men & women's plus-size clothes \*\* Steeple  
 Chase Riders \*\* new member faith communities \*\* Walk -for-Warmth Planning Committee volunteers \*\*

(contact Victoria at 860 456-7270 if you can help)

### **WAIM also needs your financial support.**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help WAIM's ministry thrive.

This donation is given (please circle one) in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ in celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ I would like information on Leaving a Legacy to WAIM. Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send me a tax receipt.

Clip and mail this form with your donation to: WAIM  
 PO Box 221  
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**Thank you!!**