

United Way's **Teach Me to Fish... Work Skills for Life** gives hard-to-place individuals training, opportunities and on-the-job follow-up to get back on the job track

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United Way of Westchester and Putnam



If finding employment is difficult these days, imagine the challenges for youth, people with disabilities, and individuals who have been unemployed for some time. The vast majority wants to work, be independent and contribute as members of society, but needs tools and some extra help to get there. United Way's **Teach Me to Fish... Work Skills for Life** is answering to its goal of making sure that individuals can adapt to changing employment opportunities with workforce readiness, financial education, job interviews, job placement and employment follow-up. >>

**Teach Me to Fish...
Work Skills for Life** Partners
CAREERS for People with Disabilities
Family Service Society of Yonkers
Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers
Urban League of Westchester County

In Yonkers, **Teach Me to Fish... Work Skills for Life** offers careers in the burgeoning area of **home health care**. The free training helps unskilled and unemployed individuals obtain New York State licensing to become Personal Care Aides and Home Health Aides. Upon hiring, these officially certified employees can look forward to employment benefits and growing job opportunities in a field that is striving to serve a rapidly aging population.

If some of today's economically-challenged and diverse students, whose talents might otherwise go unrecognized, were to be mentored and focused on a **career in teaching**, just think of the exponential benefits. This is exactly what Teach Me to Fish...Work Skills for Life partners are successfully accomplishing.

Not only are these students incentivized to finish school, attend college and become teachers, they in turn will inspire their own students – especially minority and economically challenged youth. As part of the school system the sensibilities of these new teachers could redefine how we inspire a wide diversity of future students.

Another Teach Me to Fish partner concentrates on hard-to-place and low income individuals by providing **financial education, job skills and job placement** – core tools to get back on track.

Helping people find affordable homes keeps them on track and our economy humming



Homeward Bound Partners
Community Housing Resource Center
Westchester Disabled on the Move

Homeward Bound: While the concept of affordable housing is often misunderstood, the reality of affordable homes helps stabilize individuals and families who could have easily been tax burdens to the community had they been unable to keep up financially. To provide homes that workers can afford in Westchester County, where the median cost of a home is among the nation's most expensive, allows teachers, police, fire fighters, seniors, people with disabilities and other productive members of our community to live within a reasonable commute to their jobs. It is a way for young families to stay in the area and invigorate our community. Affordable housing helps keep the local economy humming.

United Way's Homeward Bound partners work to create a more **favorable climate** in local communities for the development and preservation of affordable housing. Homeward Bound provides information, technical assistance and education to local officials, residents and other stakeholders to assist in developing affordable housing plans and projects that will get widespread community support.

Affordable housing also helps people with disabilities in our community live productive, independent lives. Homeward Bound partners recruit volunteers and work with advocacy groups to make sure that the people with disabilities also have a place to call home within our communities.

A series of free, on-site workshops help workers make sound financial choices

Financial Education at the Workplace Partners
Community Capital Resources
The Volunteer Center of United Way
Underwritten in part by Chase
Other sponsors: KeyBank, Citizens Bank

Financial Education at the Workplace: Anyone trying to navigate this economy has to factor in setbacks and uncertainties. The challenges for workers already on the edge are immense. United Way's Financial Education Program offers convenient English and Spanish one-hour workshops, free to both employer and employee, that cover financial basics with the goal of helping workers make the best possible decisions for themselves and their families. The convenient on-site workshops, facilitated by United Way volunteers with financial expertise, teach workers how to budget, save and invest money wisely and avoid credit card debt, foreclosure and identity theft.

