



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unilever Wins 2008 Champions of Youth Award

Shelton, CT, March 7, 2008 – The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley announced today that the Unilever Corporation of Trumbull will receive its most prestigious corporate award, the Champions of Youth award.

Jack Ribas, Executive Director, said, “It is truly a blessing to have an organization in your area that cares so much about their community, especially the children.”

The partnership began five years ago with a program called Vitality Day. On Vitality Day, Unilever sends its employees out to Boys & Girls Clubs across the country to work on special projects. At the Boys & Girls Club in Shelton, they constructed two outdoor volleyball courts, built, painted, and installed ten picnic benches, and built and painted a gazebo for the children to play in. Jim Queen, Vitality Day project coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club, said, “This is a great program. First we agree upon a project. They provide the money for the project, the employees to complete the project, and even the food and refreshments for the workers during the day. Last year we had 38 volunteers working on our gazebo, it was great!”

In addition to Vitality Day, Unilever has developed the curriculum and staffed the Drink Smart Eat Smart Program. They are the major presenter and sponsor of our “Girls Night Out” program and they provide funding and staff for a camping experience to a national park for 25 children each year called “America’s Best Classroom.”

Jill DeWerd, program director in charge of the Drink Smart Eat Smart Program and America’s Best Classroom said “Unilever is fantastic, they provide thousands of dollars, the volunteers and even the curriculum for some great education experiences. The



volunteers are really fun to work with. They bring high energy and spirit and have a lot of fun with our kids.

Committee Chair Arlene Clancy said “Whenever there is a Unilever presence in our country, they are bringing that same support and vitality to the Boys & Girls Clubs in that area. What they do here in Shelton, they do in 10 other locations across the country. They are truly an amazing company and a most deserving winner of our Champion of Youth award.”

The Champion of Youth Award will be presented at the Service to Youth Awards Dinner on Tuesday, March 25 at John J. Sullivan’s. Dinner reservations can be made by calling Ann Wheeler at 203-924-7462.

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