

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Mercurio (203) 705-0683

## **The Business Council of Fairfield County Launches Award for Healthy Workplaces**

Stamford, Connecticut; January 28, 2011 - - The Business Council of Fairfield County will host our third Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program on Friday, February 11 at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Stamford from 7:45-9:30am.

Our 2011 Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program will applaud the efforts of 30 area employers who understand the competitive advantage of a healthy workforce and who have implemented cutting edge programs to promote a healthy workplace and assist their employees to live healthier lives.

From these programs we have learned that promoting health in the workplace doesn't have to be complicated or expensive, and that organizations – large and small – can make healthy foods available, promote smoking cessation programs, walking programs and disseminate health related information from a wide array of sources.

There are three categories of distinction, Platinum, Gold and Silver, awarded on the basis of program components and outcomes.

Those being recognized in the Platinum category include Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Big Y Foods, Inc., Cartus, Deloitte, IBM, Town of Mansfield, CT; Nestlé Waters North America; People's United Bank; Pitney Bowes Inc.; Sikorsky; Stamford Hospital; Tauck; and Terex Corporation.

Those being recognized in the Gold category include Ability Beyond Disability; American

Heart Association; AmeriCares; R.C. Bigelow; University of Hartford; Mediacom Communications; Pawling Corporation; Purdue Pharma L.P.; Sacred Heart University and XL America.

Those being recognized in the Silver category include Compass Furnished Apartments Fairfield County Bank; 1-800-Flowers; Rockwood Service Corporation; Silver Hill Hospital; St. Vincent's Medical Center and Telephonics Corporation.

“Health is a business issue. As costs related to health and health care escalate business has responded in a variety of ways,” commented Tanya Court, Vice President, Public Policy, The Business Council of Fairfield County. “By recognizing the efforts of employers to promote healthy lifestyles, we hope to serve as a catalyst for other employers in both the private and public sector to take action.”

### **Corporate Wellness Programs in the Region**

Research demonstrates that employers realize increased productivity and reduced direct healthcare costs when they offer health and wellness programs to their employees.

"So often employers develop and implement excellent wellness programs for their employees yet the programs are underutilized due to limited communication and inconsistent reinforcement. UnitedHealthcare is pleased to sponsor The Business Council's Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition to acknowledge those employers who have recognized and communicated the value of their wellness programs to employees," said John King, Vice President, Client Development, UnitedHealthcare.

Registration begins at 7:45am and the program will start at 8:00 and conclude by 9:30am. Registration is free for honored companies; \$25 for members of The Business Council and \$35 for non-members. To register, please contact The Business Council of Fairfield County at 203-359-3220.