

**TEAM marks 11th year of offering free tax assistance to clients**

**By Patricia Villers**

DERBY - TEAM, Inc. officials last week celebrated the 11th year of their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

VITA provides free income tax preparation help to low-income residents in the communities served by TEAM.

David Morgan, TEAM President/CEO, held a press conference with several long-time volunteers and representatives of Ansonia and Derby City Halls.



“This is a celebration of volunteerism and service to our residents in the Valley,” Morgan said. He said the agency is proud of the program’s success.

“Last year [volunteers completed] 884 returns which resulted in \$1.2 million in refunds,” Morgan said.

TEAM has 40 volunteers who are IRS trained and certified to help income eligible residents of the Valley and Milford. To be eligible for assistance the household income has to be less than \$54,000 a year.



Volunteer Mike DePalma of Shelton said, “There is a symbiotic relationship between clients and volunteers.”

Ansonia resident Nancy Valentine, a volunteer, said, ‘We’re getting to know these people. They’re becoming our second family.’ She said it’s a great program, and clients often show them their appreciation.

Tax returns are completed at TEAM offices and Derby Neck Library in Derby, and at Milford Senior Center.



A new sign now graces the front of Emmett O'Brien Technical High School in Ansonia. It replicates the sleek, modern line of the newly-renovated school building. *Photo by Patricia Villers*



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Mayor David Cassetti & The City of Ansonia  
Would Like Invite You to  
Our Annual

# Easter Egg Hunt

Prizes for finding the Golden Egg!

Remember Bring a Basket or Bag

**Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:00 am**

**At The Armory**  
25 North Cliff St

**Ages 1 to 10 years old**  
**All children must be accompanied by an Adult**



[www.cityofansoniam.com](http://www.cityofansoniam.com)

## Valley Community Foundation appoints new board members

DERBY - The Valley Community Foundation has announced the appointment of board members: Francis H. Michaud, Jr., Raymond Oppel, Fred Ortolini, and Marianne Smythe.

**Francis H. Michaud, Jr, CPA** is a founding partner of Michaud Accavallo Woodbridge & Cusano, LLC and is the partner in charge of technical review. He is the founder of the Health Initiative for Men (HiM) program at Griffin Hospital and is an Incorporator of the Hospital.



**Raymond Oppel** is a lifelong Shelton resident and a self-employed CPA in Shelton since 1993. Oppel is also a member of the Connecticut Society of CPA's and the AICPA. His wife, Debbie, is a teacher in the Shelton school system. They have two children.

He is active in Huntington Congregational Church, having served as treasurer for more than a decade and on the endowment committee since 1994.

**Fred Ortolini** is a lifelong Valley resident. He lives in Oxford with his wife, Lynn. When he is not behind the camera, Ortolini is serving on the Boards of Directors of the Valley United Way, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, and BHcare Foundation. Ortolini participates in community events such as Men Who Cook, Pedal for PCRC, and the Corporate Volunteer Council, among others.

**Marianne Smythe** has been a financial advisor for 25 years. She and her husband, Brad, have lived in Shelton for more than 33 years. They have two daughters and two grandchildren.

Smythe has been active in volunteer and service opportunities with the Diocese of Bridgeport and her home parish of St. Joseph's in Shelton. She has served on the Valley Community Foundation's Advisory Council and Development Committee.

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