

Contact:
Isabel Almeida
EVP, Workplace Development and Marketing
United Way of Western Connecticut
Phone (203) 792-5330 x 106



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**United Way of Western Connecticut to Host Community Forum
and Symposium on Recovery After Sandy Hook Tragedy
FORMER NYC MAYOR RUDOLPH GIULIANI, COLUMBINE PRINCIPAL,
AND 9/11 FAMILY ADVOCATE AMONG FEATURED SPEAKERS**

DANBURY, CT (February 13, 2013): United Way of Western Connecticut cordially invites members of the public to a community forum to discuss recovery and resilience in the aftermath of the tragic Sandy Hook school shooting on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Ives Concert Hall on the midtown campus of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury. *The forum is open to the press and will be broadcast live over the internet by LiveStream.com.*

The principal of Columbine High School, Frank DeAngelis, and Mary Fetchet, the Executive Director of Voices of September 11, are among the confirmed speakers.

"Even as our community continues to mourn, we must consider how we will move forward to heal and find meaning," said James W. Schmotter, chairman of the United Way of Western Connecticut and president of Western Connecticut State University. "This conference, with guidance from people who themselves have led their communities through the aftermath of horrible attacks, will give us guidance as we find our own path."

The community forum will be followed by an invitation-only symposium on Thursday for educators, first responders, local and state officials, mental health professionals, community leaders and other groups impacted by the tragedy. *This portion of the symposium will not be open to the press.*

Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani will deliver the symposium's keynote address at a dinner to be held following the symposium for participants and invited guests. *The dinner is closed to the media.*

"Unfortunately, we aren't the first community to face such a tragedy, said Kim Morgan, CEO of the United Way of Western Connecticut. "The forum and the symposium are opportunities for us to hear what others have learned about recovery and resilience that can help our community recover

from this terrible tragedy.”

#

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

United Way of Western Connecticut advances the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three key building blocks of education, income and health. United Way creates long lasting community change by addressing the underlying causes of problems that prevent progress in these areas. LIVE UNITED is a call to action for everyone to become part of the change. For more information about United Way of Western Connecticut, please visit: www.uwwesternct.org.