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## 3 groups gain United Way funding

Business First - by Tracey Drury  
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Three additional nonprofit groups will receive program funding from the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County following the successful end to the agency's annual campaign.

The United Way announced today it will provide another \$150,000 in funding for three programs:

- Belle Center, \$54,000 to support youth programming in higher education prep, trade education and post-high school work.
- International Institute of Buffalo, \$46,000 to support IIB's domestic violence and human trafficking victim services program.
- Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, \$50,000 to support a youth development program at South Park High School proven to improve graduation rates for youth at risk of dropping out.

The new funding comes in addition to the \$4 million awarded in program investments earlier this year. The 2010 Community Care Campaign, which received \$13.3 million in pledges and donations by March 31, was the first in a decade to see an increase revenues raised, enabling the incremental funding.

**Michael Weiner**, United Way president, said the organization wanted to make sure the positive results of the 2010 campaign translated into investments back into the community where the agency has identified critical or priority service needs.

"This is a great opportunity for us," he says. "Usually we're cutting back programs, but here's another opportunity to invest more resources. Who would have thought we'd be in a position to do that? This is a great time for us."

All three programs to receive the additional funds were among the 147 originally reviewed by the agency and all scored extremely well, but not high enough to be included in the first round of investments. And with two in the education area and one in health and wellness, they were also programs that met one of the United Way's priority community impact platforms, Weiner says.

"This gives us a chance to go back and look for those programs that were not only reviewed and scored positively by the review team, but also related to priority areas in our platform," he says.

A complete list of funded programs is online at [www.uwbec.org](http://www.uwbec.org).

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