



Matt - here is your January, 2016 e-newsletter (with updates since late-November):

### **[Better Choices than More Union Concessions](#)**

Our labor federation's president in late-December responded to a *Courant* editorial that demanded more givebacks from state employees to close future budget deficits. [Click here for Jan Hochadel's letter where she offered solutions to the real crisis of inequality and a shrinking middle-class.](#)

### **[Demonstrating Acts of Kindness](#)**

Union members in December joined with faith, civic and fellow labor activists in Danbury Rising! to deliver hope for families in need during the holidays. [Click here for photos of registered nurses and technical professionals from Danbury Hospital participating in the coalition's first diaper drive.](#)

### **[Time to Elevate Teaching as a Profession](#)**

A recent study by the Albert Shanker Institute has sparked important conversations about a public education workforce "diversity gap" and the factors behind it. [Click here for the report and learn more about the impacts of teacher turnover on already distressed local communities.](#)

### **[Celebrating a Year of Wins for the Movement](#)**

Our labor federation president was honored in December with the Connecticut Working Families' Brian Petronella Labor Leader Award at its annual awards banquet. [Click here for photos of community, labor, and civic activists recognized for their efforts over the past year.](#)

## [Technical Professionals Choose Unity](#)

Medical techs and therapists at Danbury and New Milford Hospitals in mid-December voted to re-certify the AFT Connecticut-affiliated union they formed the year before. [Click here for their strong, unified message to management that it's time to "put patients before profits."](#)

## [A Long-Overdue Public Education Policy "Reset"](#)

President Obama in early-December signed a reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) passed by Congress the week before. [Click here to learn more about the new law, which leaves behind the top-down, test-and-sanction-based policies of "No Child Left Behind."](#)

## [Standing Up for Quality, Affordable Care in New London](#)

We have joined with consumer, healthcare, and labor advocates to protect access and affordability in the proposed take-over of L M Hospital. [Click here for our coalition's release of research that finds higher consumer costs in Yale-New Haven Health Systems' expansion.](#)

## [Community Champions for the Holidays](#)

Union members in November began mobilizing to help the John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency make the season a little brighter for children facing hardship. [Click here for a photo of toys collected by members of our A&R union at their annual holiday party.](#)

## **Upcoming Activities & Events**

- January 16: [MLK, Jr. Celebration of Unity, Equality & Democracy](#)
- January 26: [CT Voices for Children 2016 Budget Forum](#)
- January 31: [Union Plus 2016 Scholarships Application Deadline](#)
- February 6: [2016 Legislative Issues Conference](#)
- March 5: [New Haven Regional Legislative Meeting](#)

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