

Mark Durst named to head 1997 United Way campaign

The United Way of York Region is pleased to announce that Mark Durst, president of Patriot Computer Corporation, has accepted the voluntary position of chair for the 1997 United Way campaign. Based in Thornhill, Durst brings regional awareness, business acumen and proven leadership to the United Way's annual fundraising drive.

In accepting the position for the 1997 campaign, Durst commented on the importance of the United Way work and opportunities for substantial increases in corporate and employee giving.

"We have a big job to do but we'll also have fun beginning with the kick-off

Duck Race on Sept. 14 at Boyd Conservation Area in Vaughan" said Durst.

Wyn Chivers, executive director for the United Way of York Region described the strength and commitment that Durst brings to the United Way. "Mark is a strong community leader. He very successfully led Patriot through explosive growth in the '90s and has been honored with several prestigious Canadian Business Awards including Canada's 50 Best Managed Private Companies. Durst has also recently been named one of Canada's Top 40 Executives Under Age 40 and one of the Ontario Business Report's Top 100 Entrepreneurs of the Year for 1996."

As the 1997 campaign chair, Durst will work with senior campaign volunteers in taking the United Way of York Region well over the \$3 million mark. The United Way of York Region, through its annual generation and distribution of funding, currently supports 35 service providers on which an ever increasing regional population has placed an increased demand for programs and services.

"Relationship building with companies such as Patriot has enabled the United Way of York Region to help those who need help the most and still remain tremendously cost effective" said Chivers.

"Over one thousand volunteers will be involved in fundraising efforts that support one in three York Region residents with critical social and health services."

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