



OFFICE OF  
STATE TREASURER  
DENISE L. NAPIER

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# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, February 7, 2002

## STATE KICKS-OFF CAMPAIGN TO RETURN MILLIONS IN UNCLAIMED FUNDS TO RIGHTFUL OWNERS

***\$306 Million Unclaimed; Treasury Web Site Adds 167,000 Names;  
26,000 Recent Additions Listed in Newspapers Today***

State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier today kicked-off the State Treasury's 2002 campaign to return millions of dollars to thousands of state residents from the Treasury's unclaimed property accounts. Nappier unveiled the campaign slogan, "We've got money... some may be yours!" and announced that 167,000 new names have been added to the Treasury web site.

The campaign's aim is to locate individuals whose unclaimed funds have been turned over to the State and reunite those assets with rightful owners or heirs. The Treasurer's Office currently holds \$306 million in unclaimed property.

The State Treasurer's Office collects and safeguards cash and other financial assets that have been unclaimed for a period of generally three to five years. The funds, called "unclaimed property," include savings or checking accounts, stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares, safe deposit box contents, or un-cashed checks, such as insurance benefits or wages.



**Check our list.  
Claim your cash.**

1-800-833-7318 [www.nameitandclaimit.org](http://www.nameitandclaimit.org)

"In fiscal year 2001, my office returned almost \$10 million to more than 11,600 citizens – more money than has ever been returned in the 65-year history of the unclaimed property program," said State Treasurer Denise Nappier. "We have millions of dollars more to give back... so we ask our citizens to scan the newspaper pages, or search the web site for their names or the name of someone they know. Help us to give you back your money!"

Nappier noted that on the current list of individuals with unclaimed assets are 20 individuals with more than \$30,000 waiting to be claimed, including seven individuals with more than \$50,000. During fiscal year 2001, the top amount to be claimed was \$158,000.

Individuals whose names appear in the newspaper or on the web site can contact the Treasurer's Office three ways:

- Fill out, clip and mail the inquiry form included at the back of the newspaper section.
- Use the email form on the web site, [www.nameitandclaimit.org](http://www.nameitandclaimit.org)

Contact: **Bernard L. Kavalier**  
**Director of Communication**  
(860) 702-3277 FAX (860) 702-3043  
[BERNARD.KAVALER@PO.STATE.CT.US](mailto:BERNARD.KAVALER@PO.STATE.CT.US)

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- Call the Office, toll-free, weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at 1-800-833-7318, or for assistance in Spanish: 1-800-618-3404.

State law requires the Office to publish in newspapers every other year the names that have been added to the unclaimed property database during the previous two years. This year's publication includes more than 26,000 names.

The primary sources of unclaimed property are employers, banks, insurance companies, and hospitals which hold uncashed checks, stocks, insurance benefits and other forms of unclaimed property. Businesses are required to report unclaimed property annually to the State Treasurer's Office by March 31.

Nappier said the Treasury's Spanish language unclaimed property telephone line, which was inaugurated in 2000, will continue in operation for this year's effort. The Spanish language phone number is 1-800-618-3404. In addition, copies of the Unclaimed Property supplement will be mailed to municipal town halls, public libraries and senior centers throughout Connecticut, and advertisements urging Connecticut residents to check for unclaimed assets will appear on Connecticut Transit buses and in weekly newspapers circulating in the Latino and African American communities.

"All of our efforts serve our primary mission--to increase the return of property to rightful owners. Our web site has proven to be extremely effective in reaching people, and we will continue to update it," Nappier said. "It's a wonderful vehicle to broaden our outreach and increase customer service to the community; it is user friendly and, like all of our claim services, it is free," she said.

During the 10-month *Name It and Claim It* outreach campaign during fiscal year 2001, the Treasury received more than 117,000 inquiries, far surpassing previous campaigns, with 62% of the inquiries received on-line. The amount of assets returned to rightful owners has increased in each of the past three years, each time surpassing the previous one-year record. The number of individuals receiving assets annually from the Treasurer's Office has increased by 405% between 1997 and 2001.

The 80-page publication is included in today's editions of 15 Connecticut newspapers: The Hartford Courant, Connecticut Post, New Haven Register, Stamford Advocate/Greenwich Time, Danbury News-Times, Waterbury Republican -American, New London Day, Torrington Register-Citizen, Norwich Bulletin, Norwalk Hour, Journal Inquirer (Manchester), Willimantic Chronicle, Meriden Record Journal, New Britain Herald and Bristol Press.

Nappier also noted that in fiscal year 2001, a total of \$39,520,947 was turned over to the Treasurer's Office from businesses filing Unclaimed Property holder reports, an increase of \$2.3 million from the previous year.

"All of our outreach efforts, to rightful owners and business holders, support the principal mission of unclaimed property as a consumer protection service, safeguarding the ownership interests of Connecticut citizens," said Assistant Treasurer Madelyn Colón.

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