

CELL

CORPORATE GIVING

Robert Half rolls out red carpet for Boys and Girls Clubs

Laura Brost | Sentinel Staff Writer

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It wasn't your usual red carpet affair.

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In fact, the Christmas party for Robert Half International's Orlando and Heathrow offices was filled with children, presents, and even Santa himself.

Instead of celebrating on their own this year, the two offices decided they'd share the cheer with more than 40 Orlando kids from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida, Apopka branch. More than 30 employees filled the present requests of the kids, shared food, hosted Santa and even raffled off three new bicycles.

"I had no idea that they [Robert Half International employees] were going to do it the level that they did," said Rico Nelson, service director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida, Apopka branch. "I mean, it was red carpet. They had gifts for every one of our kids and it was much bigger than I ever dreamed it would be."

Along with the Santa visit, a Christmas tree and music made the night a success as the kids were "bright-eyed and bushy-tailed," Nelson said.

Briefly

The CVS/pharmacy Charitable Trust, the private foundation managed by CVS Corp., has awarded Lighthouse Central Florida with a \$10,000 grant. . . .

The Winn-Dixie Stores Foundation has given six Orlando-area nonprofit organizations \$25,000 during its "Better Holidays. Better Communities." event. The store will also donate a total of \$675,000 to other various charities in Jacksonville, Tampa, Miami and New Orleans. . . .

Sprint sponsored a "phone bank" at the Helpings from the Heart Thanksgiving Day dinner in November, offering free phone calls for the homeless to anywhere in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Participants used up about 2,000 minutes at the dinner, which was sponsored by Golden Corral in partnership with the Salvation Army and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. . . .

ABC Fine Wine & Spirits, Orlando, raised more than \$12,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation through 16 wine tastings across Florida in celebration of the company's 70th anniversary. . . .

Walt Disney World's Toys for Tots drive collected more than 29,000 new toys from its nearly 60,000

employees, who also spent more than 1,600 hours for the program by registering thousands of families and translating the registration into Haitian-Creole. . . .

FDN Communications will contribute annually \$15,000 of phone and Internet services directly to Special Olympics Florida. Also, any new telecommunications business referred to FDN through Special Olympics Florida will result in a 5 percent monthly donation to the nonprofit of each new customer's monthly recurring bill. . . .

UCP of Central Florida received \$154,280 in gifts and pledges at its Fifth Annual Faces Behind the Miracles Fundraising Breakfast. Underwritten by Dr. and Mrs. Donald Diebel, the breakfast had more than 400 guests. . . .

Richard L. Gonzalez, vice president of Pineloch Management Corp., Orlando, presented \$500 checks, new Krups coffeemakers and Zabar's gourmet coffee for teachers' lounges at Lake County schools East Ridge High, Lost Lake Elementary, and Windy Hill Middle School in Clermont as well as Minneola Elementary in Minneola.

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