

CORPORATE GIVING

Back to school with full backpacks

Laura Brost | Sentinel Staff Writer

August 6, 2007

It was a monthlong backpack competition.

The winners? Central Florida children who can't afford back-to-school supplies.

Florida Hospital employees from all seven campuses along with the 16 Centra Care locations and other outlying facilities took part in the department competition to see who could collect the most school supplies to stuff backpacks. During the month of July, the employees brought in supplies that have filled more than 1,700 backpacks, with each backpack's supplies valued at about \$40 each.

The bags were donated to Parramore Kids Zone, Princeton Elementary School in Orlando, Killarney Elementary School in Winter Park, Hungerford Elementary School in Maitland, Fern Creek Elementary School in Orlando and the Council of 101 for Abused Children and Women.

"I think we've got wonderful employees with giving spirits and I think it's really a blessing to be

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able to do this for our communities," said Robyn Edgerton, administrative director of mission development at Florida Hospital. "To be honest, I wasn't surprised [by the number of backpacks] because our employees love it. This is actually the favorite event and I think it's because it's for children and people love to imagine the child on the first day of school . . . I'm not surprised at their generosity."

Briefly . . .

Lockheed Martin donated \$250,000 to the Central Florida YMCA for a Technology Center at the South Orlando YMCA Family Center, set to open in September, and an educational mentoring program. The center and program will encourage students to pursue careers in math, science and engineering. Volunteers from Lockheed Martin and math and science teachers from Oak Ridge High School will mentor students participating in the program, which will accommodate about 150 students. . . .

During July's Pepsi 400 at the Daytona International Speedway, Irwin Industrial Tools, headquartered in Huntersville, N.C., built and then donated a 10x12 storage shed to the Central Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America to be used for equipment storage at Camp La-No-Che in Paisley. The company sponsors a car -- the Irwin Marathon with WeldTec Ford Fusion, with driver Jamie McMurray. . . .

Orlando National Bank in Winter Park donated \$1,500 to the House of Hope in Orlando, a nonprofit organization that serves as an educational and residential program for troubled teens. The bank's donation will help with maintenance on the organization's campus facilities. . . .

The UCF College of Education received a contribution of \$1,000 each from Carpets & More Flooring America of Oviedo and Spirit Cheer of Oviedo. . . .

R.L. Haines Construction LLC in Orlando donated construction labor and materials to the Edgewood Children's Ranch in Orlando to renovate a three-room cottage. R.L. Haines Construction employees volunteered for the project, and other materials were donated by Cutting Edge Carpet in Orlando, Exterior Supply in Jacksonville, Sanford Mirror & Glass in

Sanford, Ferguson Enterprises in Orlando, Outdoor Living Products in Orlando and Full Pull LLC in Orlando. Edgewood Children's Ranch rehabilitates at-risk youth and their families by placing the children in a Christian-oriented setting, working to improve their social, academic and behavior skills.

Center Lake Properties and Pineloch Management Corp., both in Orlando, donated and installed a permanent trail bench and trash receptacle and planted 10 Florida native trees at Montverde Town Hall in Lake County. . . .

The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, was the presenting sponsor for an event in May called A Cobalt Affaire, which included a celebrity golf tournament and clinic. The event raised more than \$200,000 for the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando.

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