

Spotlight on Southwestern Illinois All-Stars

Environmental Operations Inc. and Our Little Haven: Helping provide a voice for children

By KATE GENO

The future success of this region is more likely to occur when the smallest members of the community are supported. The staff at Environmental Operations Inc. holds this belief and works with the nonprofit organization Our Little Haven to better the lives of local children who are victims of abuse.

Environmental Operations Inc. chairman and chief executive officer Stacy Hastie became involved with Our Little Haven in 2000 and partnered with executive director Scott Hummel to further the mission of the nonprofit. Our Little Haven provides a safe, healing environment for children from birth to 10 years old who are recovering from abuse,

neglect, abandonment or early childhood trauma.

Located in a city area that needs youth services, Our Little Haven offers therapeutic residential treatment, a full range of professional psychological services and a therapeutic preschool.

The staff and volunteers at Our Little Haven do a commendable job, says Hastie. He has seen children brought to Our Little Haven who are painfully shy and introverted and then noticed how much they improve, sometimes within a matter of months.

Hastie believes that businesses are successful because of a thriving community. Since Environmental Operations is part of the St. Louis

community, it is the company's job to help protect and empower future members of the region to continue its growth.

To give Our Little Haven the resources it needs to achieve its mission, Environmental Operations is a major corporate sponsor of the nonprofit organization's annual golf tournament. Each year, EO procures the golf venue and gives staff members a free day off to volunteer at the tournament. This year the event will be held at Sunset Country Club in Sunset Hills, Mo., on September 27 with Hastie and his wife acting as co-chairs. Over \$130,000 was raised at the 2009 tournament for Our Little Haven.

Environmental Operations helps with additional fundraising efforts throughout

the year including trivia nights, dinners and silent auctions. Employees collect funds to pay for Christmas gifts for the Our Little Haven kids every year. When the organization's building needed a new roof, Environmental Operations used its relationship with a local roofing company to facilitate the work. Hastie also donates his personal time to Our Little Haven as a member of its executive board.

Founded in 1993 as a single program serving 30 children annually, Our Little Haven has grown to four programs serving 400 children each year. This growth is partly due to companies like Environmental Operations that partner with the charity to provide many of the tools it needs to succeed.

U.S. Cellular supporting teachers, schools as they grow future leaders

By KERRY L. BEISER

U.S. Cellular believes strongly that education is vital to the success of America's future leaders. To that end, the company is giving \$4.5 million to education in 2009-2010 to help schools. Its corporate giving philosophy includes an annual gift of more than \$1.2 million to public and private schools, providing them with the tools they need to succeed.

Calling All Teachers and Calling All Communities are U.S. Cellular's own charitable endeavors that support schools and teachers in kindergarten through high school across the country.

In partnership with DonorsChoose.org, through Calling All Teachers U.S. Cellular invites public school teachers to register online with specific classroom projects or needs that aren't currently being met by the school district's budget. Michelle Groves, director of sales for U.S. Cellular's St. Louis market, says these may include smart boards, digital cameras or enhanced reading collections. Every year, the company pledges \$1 million nationwide toward as many projects as

it can fund. Groves says last year 96 St. Louis metro area projects totaling \$53,000 - 21 of the projects totaling \$11,000 which were in Southwestern Illinois - were made possible thanks to Calling All Teachers.

U.S. Cellular's sister program, Calling All Communities, is open to public or private schools. Groves says rather than a registration/nomination process as with Calling All Teachers, Calling All Communities awards the top 10 vote-getting schools \$100,000 apiece - no strings attached - for use however they decide at their school. In 2009, the first year for Calling All Communities, St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Carrollton was one of 10 schools nationwide to win. The pride these schools have in their schools and in their communities, she adds, is evident from kindergartners through high school seniors.

The spirit of giving is tightly woven into U.S. Cellular's corporate culture, according to Groves. Everyone, no matter their career or their position in life, is a coach and a teacher - a mentor, she



U.S. Rep. John Shimkus (R-Illinois) celebrates with St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Carrollton, one of 10 schools in the country to win \$100,000 in U.S. Cellular's first-ever Calling All Communities competition in 2009.

says - to someone else, and an example to others. U.S. Cellular makes sure that its leaders and associates remember that the young people who are being educated today, along with the teachers U.S. Cellular actively supports with programs such as these, are indeed the building blocks for the future.

In addition to Calling All Teachers and Calling All Communities, U.S. Cellular helps make charitable giving and volunteerism easier and more personal

for local associates through the company Web site, Give.Volunteer.Share., which connects associates with volunteer opportunities in their area. In 2009, U.S. Cellular associates working and living in Southwestern Illinois gave more than 800 hours of their time to local organizations and associates company-wide donated \$621,000 to benefit organizations of their choice. U.S. Cellular matches associates' donations up to \$2,500 dollar-for-dollar annually to any nonprofit organization.

Korte & Luitjohan, Highland Pregnancy Care Center partner to promote healthy births

By KATE GENO

When Gregg Korte, general manager of Korte & Luitjohan Contractors Inc., began donating time to the Pregnancy Care Center of Highland, it was a way for him to put words into actions. The Korte family is very dedicated to the preservation of life; this is a way to support women, he says, who face untimely pregnancies, and find ways to better their situations.

Korte & Luitjohan began working with the Christian-based nonprofit center in June of 2005. Korte has served on its board of directors since that time. For the past five years, K&L employees have come together on personal and company time to meet the

everyday needs of the Center. They help with maintaining the facility and delivering donated items such as cribs to new parents; the construction company's IT manager also helps with the Center's computer network.

When the Pregnancy Care Center relocated in 2009, Korte & Luitjohan helped ready the new building and then moved HPCC to its new site. K&L employees donated their time to build walls at the new facility and a subcontractor donated its time to tape and mud the drywall and paint it. When the location was ready, volunteers moved the furniture and supplies to the new building with K&L company trailers and trucks.

In addition, Korte & Luitjohan is a major supporter of the Highland Pregnancy Care Center's fundraisers. It has been particularly involved in the annual Celebration of Life Spring Banquet for the past five years. The construction company is a platinum sponsor of the event and contributes financially to the cost of the banquet. K&L also sends employees to set up, serve and clean up. This banquet raises 68 percent of the Center's annual budget; Korte says Korte & Luitjohan's efforts help to keep the Center open to the community.

Korte believes strongly in the services offered by the Highland Pregnancy Care Center. The HPCC is committed to

assisting women carry their babies to term by providing free emotional support and practical assistance. Women can access a 24-hour counseling hotline, free legal advice, birth coaching and job training. Baby clothing, beds, car seats and baby care items are available to women who need them.

It is gratifying to go beyond just talking about his beliefs, says Korte, to actually supporting his value system through hands-on assistance. The overall motivation and goal behind Korte & Luitjohan's efforts with the Highland Pregnancy Care Center, he adds, is to save lives and change lives for the better.

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Building on Success

Spotlight on Southwestern Illinois All-Stars

Imaging Center and Madison County Health Dept. unite to screen women for breast cancer

By KATE GENO

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in women, except for skin cancers. However, if cancer is detected while still in its earlier stages it can be successfully treated. That is why the Imaging Center of Alton partners with the Madison County Health Department to offer free mammograms and breast exams for women in Madison County.

The Imaging Center of Alton opened in 2009 and is an outpatient imaging facility offering ultrasound, digital mammography and MRIs.

When Susan Piazza, the Center's marketing representative, heard about free cancer screenings that were being held at local hospitals, she decided to find out how the Imaging Center could get involved. Piazza contacted the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program representative, Gloria Gray, to schedule free screenings at the Imaging Center.

The Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program offers free mammograms, breast exams, pelvic exams and pap tests to eligible women. Since the program was launched in Illinois in 1995, more than 102,000 uninsured and underinsured women have been screened for breast and cervical cancers. Now the program is able to extend its reach in the region with the help of the Imaging Center.

Piazza says how necessary it is for women to receive these essential services. She adds that

is has been a real eye opener to hear about the number of uninsured or underinsured women that normally go without these screenings because of a lack of insurance to cover the costs.

The Center has hosted five screenings to date with an average of 25 women at each event who received free breast exams and mammograms.

Piazza says the Center is dedicated to providing a warm, patient friendly atmosphere. The staff is there to take care of women. The hard part, she says, is getting women to realize the necessity for these screenings and to get them in the door.

Women ages 35 and up are the ideal candidates for the screening but women of any age are welcome. If they qualify, women can go to the Imaging Center any time for a free screening. However, if the patient does not have a referral the Center will make it work, says operations manager Stephanie Dykstra. Their goal, first and foremost, is to promote women's health.

The Imaging Centers of Southern Illinois are involved with numerous charitable organizations in the region including the Easter Seals, the Community Hope Center and The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Steve McRae, owner of the Imaging Centers, allows the staff to volunteer during business hours and is very supportive of all their community involvement, which makes a huge impact on their outreach efforts, says Dykstra.

Carpenters' District Council's compassion, charitable giving generous despite tough economy

By KERRY L. BEISER

Times have been tough for everyone in this recession, including for members of the Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity. Man hours have been difficult to come by, paychecks farther apart and leaner.

But what hasn't been harder to see is the compassion of the Carpenters. Carpenters Executive Secretary-Treasurer Terry Nelson - head of an organization that has been in existence for more than 128 years and covers 33 counties in Illinois and 44 in Missouri - says throughout the current recession, Carpenters as a whole continue to give to those in need, within their organization and throughout the greater St. Louis

community.

We're still a community, Nelson emphasizes; we're just a community that's hurting just like the rest of the country, but one that can and will bounce back. Although in robust economic times the Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis and Vicinity has typically given between \$12,000 to \$14,000 a month in charitable donations, even now the organization is giving an average of \$7,800 monthly to an impressive list of needy charities on both sides of the Mississippi River.

Among the Illinois-side charitable organizations proud to be recipients of the Carpenters' District Council's generosity are: The United Way, Big

Brothers Big Sisters, Junior Achievement of Southwestern Illinois, Steamfitters Local 439, Burn Victims Children's Camp, Camp Ondessonk, East St. Louis Youth Commission, Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois, McKendree University, Southern Illinois University and many, many more.

4-H is another organization the Carpenters supports every spring, Nelson says, by buying an animal and selling it at the county fair.

Nelson says the Carpenters' slogan, "The Carpenters' Union Builds Our Community," sums up how dedicated it is to improving the lives of those its members have the privilege of living and working alongside in the region.

IBJ Business News

Shimkus receives U.S. Chamber award

U.S. Rep. John Shimkus (R-Illinois) is the recipient of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise Award.

The Spirit of Enterprise Award is given to Members of Congress who vote at least 70 percent of the time on key votes selected by the U.S. Chamber. Fifteen House votes in 2009 were considered in order to receive this year's award.

Shimkus has a cumulative rating over 13 years of 89 percent with the U.S. Chamber.

MM&R's Mathis receives Addis Hull Award from Illinois Institute

The Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education announces that Patrick B. Mathis, shareholder and founding partner of Mathis, Marifian & Richter Ltd., has been selected as the recipient of the Addis Hull Award. The award is given to recognize volunteers, like Mathis, who have shown their commitment to education and to promoting excellence in legal practice. The award is named in honor of Addis Hull, one of ICLE's earliest and most fervent volunteers.

IBJ Business News

Holland Construction building Creal Springs Elementary

Holland Construction Services Inc. is beginning construction on the new Creal Springs Elementary School for Marion's Community Unit School District #2. Design Architects Inc., a division of Hurst-Rosche Engineers Inc. of Hillsboro, designed the building for long-term durability and energy efficiency. The \$13 million, 67,000-square-foot school is replacing a 100-year-old Pre-K to eighth-grade facility that has become overcrowded as the surrounding area continues to grow.



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Spotlight on Southwestern Illinois All-Stars

The Goddard School's owner, faculty regularly interact with community in voluntary service

By LAURA REED

The Goddard School in Edwardsville opened its doors at The Park at Plum Creek in February 2009 and since has quickly emerged as an organization that is committed to community service and developing partnerships with the local business sector.

A franchisee of the Goddard Systems Inc., The Goddard School in Edwardsville provides childcare and preschool services for children six weeks to six years. In doing so, it has welcomed more than 175 families through the doors, creating new relationships and improving the quality of life in the community.

In just over a year in operation, The Goddard School in Edwardsville has embedded itself in the community by requiring its 30 teachers to perform community service as part of their employment with the school. Barbara Burrows, owner of The Goddard School in Edwardsville, says this requirement not only allows the school to assist

local organizations but also instills in 30 local professionals the importance of community outreach and support. She says learning the importance of community service is a lifelong lesson that her teachers can then share throughout their careers. The teachers at The Goddard School in Edwardsville participate in story telling at the Glen Carbon Centennial Library, volunteer at the Glen Ed Pantry, support the Race for the Cure, participate in the Martin Luther King Day of Service and answer phones for the Jerry Lewis MDS Telethon, just to name a few. Most recently, two teachers participated helping with the set-up of Relay for Life.

The Goddard School in Edwardsville is also a big supporter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois. This summer it will host two events to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation, including a Children's Expo and Block Party on July 17th at the school and a golf scramble on August 7 at Spencer T. Olin Golf Course.

Burrows, who is a freshman Wish Granter for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, has also had the opportunity to work on several wishes in Southwestern Illinois. Beyond the help she and her staff are able to give in raising funds for the organization, she recently hired one of the Make-A-Wish grantees, Shelby Crocker, age 17, to paint murals on the walls to capture the school's North Woods theme. Crocker, of Edwardsville, has a wish to travel to Paris to attend art school.

In addition to its community service, The Goddard School in Edwardsville is also a big supporter of promoting local businesses and is active in the Edwardsville Rotary, the Ed/Glen Chamber of Commerce and the RiverBend Growth Association. Representatives of the school participate on committees and are helping plan community-wide events like the Edwardsville Rotary Criterium, a professional bicycle race held in downtown Edwardsville in mid-September.



Shelby Crocker, above, an aspiring artist, is a recent Make-A-Wish grantee who has been hired by The Goddard School to paint murals on the wall of The Goddard School to capture the school's North Woods theme.

Casino Queen's charitable foundation continues to transform, develop East St. Louis

By KERRY L. BEISER

Since it opened in 1993, the Casino Queen's charitable efforts toward the city of East St. Louis have transformed the city of East St. Louis; the casino continues to pump dollars and economic development vitality into the community.

Seventeen years ago, the Casino Queen formed a foundation specifically to direct its municipal philanthropy. The Casino Queen Community and Development Foundation, according to marketing director Todd Ribick, is the entity through which the casino's good works come to

fruition.

"That foundation was part of our promise to East St. Louis," said Ribick. In 1993, the Casino Queen's initial charitable funding to the city was the first such influx of dollars that East St. Louis had seen in 30 years, according to Ribick. From 1993 through 2009, tax revenue paid to the city of East St. Louis by the casino surpasses \$160 million.

The Casino Queen's charitable endeavors also take the shape of economic development. It has also made capital improvements along the Mississippi

riverfront totaling more than \$200 million. As the casino continues to invest in its entertainment and business amenities, its commitment to investing in the betterment of East St. Louis continues as well.

One major example of CQ philanthropy, Ribick says, is its large-scale "Toyland" holiday event. The toy drive donates toys for every child in the East St. Louis public school district. "Several thousand school children come to the hotel ballroom to see Santa and receive their bag of toys," he said.

In an effort to further enhance the quality of life in East St. Louis, the Casino Queen joined forces with East St. Louis School District 189 and city officials to create an organization known as East St.

Louis Partners for Progress. The group's goal is to counter the rising tide of teacher retirement, student population decline and the local housing authority's recent public housing unit reductions with a unique solution to maximize resources.

Character Counts, another casino-city-school district partnership program, is designed to reduce violence and bad behavior in and out of class. "The goal is to create a new generation of leaders who embrace the concept of ownership of their immediate surroundings," said Ribick.

The vital importance of investing in East St. Louis' infrastructure and its people is a goal that the Casino Queen's ownership will continue to prioritize for years to come, according to Ribick.

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IBJ Business News

TWM staff purchase company stock

Dana Link and J.R. Landeck have become associate stockholders in local civil engineering and surveying firm Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen Inc.

Greenwalt earns LEED GA certification

SCI Engineering Inc. announces that Donnie Greenwalt, staff scientist, has earned his Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Associate certification from the Green Building Certification Institute.

Meridian Financial welcomes Browne

Meridian Financial Group Ltd. welcomes Daniel Browne as vice president.

Fairview Heights business woman honored by state treasurer

Sharon Campbell, owner and operator of Cal Johnson's answering service, is the recipient of a Woman of Excellence award from the Illinois Treasurer's Office. The Woman of Excellence award recognizes women whose professional and civic accomplishments have enabled them to have a profound and positive impact on the personal and economic empowerment of women.

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Spotlight on Southwestern Illinois All-Stars

Geotechnology Inc. supports active military personnel through Adopt a Soldier effort

By KATE GENO

Geotechnology Inc., a professional engineering and environmental services corporation, participates annually in the Adopt a Soldier program in which it generously sponsors four military service members - two from Southern Illinois and two from Missouri.

Adopt a Soldier is a grassroots effort that was started by 92.3 FM right after Sept. 11, 2001. The main goal of the program is to connect community members with deployed soldiers to share encouragement and support. Elaine Keys, project administrator for Geotechnology's non-destructive testing group, says she heard about the program while listening to the radio station four years ago.

Keys proposed the idea to the company as an honorable cause to support and received the go-ahead to sponsor service members from Illinois and Missouri. Since then, the company has "adopted" a total of 16 soldiers.

To participate in the program, Geotechnology arranges a one-month-long collection drive and distributes flyers to staff members with a list of items that the service members have requested. Items include toiletries, snacks, powder drinks, books, games, videos, blankets, calling cards and postage stamps. Employees and their children also write thank you cards to include with the donations.

To capture the attention of the staff and to increase their interest in the program each year, Shannon Conwell, CADD technician for the company and a Missouri Air National Guard member, designs a creative table display. A mannequin is outfitted as a soldier in a camouflage uniform and helmet to make the display more realistic and to bring the message home. Posters of the military are also hung around the office.

Conwell says there is a satisfaction in giving back to those that serve our country and offering appreciation to

military members. Not everyone is able to serve, but everyone can support those who do serve, she adds. Geotechnology's senior vice president and several other employees are military veterans so they can personally relate to the importance of this program.

Keys is in charge of coordinating the campaign, packing everything up according to the program guidelines and getting the packages shipped on time. In 2009, the company donated more items than ever before despite the down economy. Twelve boxes of donations, weighing a total of 195 pounds, were sent out. Geotechnology also donates the money for shipping the boxes overseas.

It is a great testament to the people here



Staff at Geotechnology Inc. in 2009 "adopted" four active military personnel through the Adopt a Soldier program, collecting, donating and shipping 195 pounds worth of requested supplies.

that they want to give back and rise to the occasion no matter what the circumstances of the economy may be, says Nora Bresnahan, marketing coordinator.

The knowledge of how much these contributions mean to the soldiers and their units has been communicated through several thank-you letters to the company from military personnel.

First Clover Leaf Bank's Green Team gives back to myriad of Metro East charities

By KATE GENO

First Clover Leaf Bank believes in giving back to the communities where it is located and as a result, it formed the Green Team in 2001 to organize and expand its volunteer efforts.

Local organizations and fundraisers that have benefited from the Green Team's efforts include The March of Dimes, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern Illinois, the Relay for Life

and the Multiple Sclerosis Walk. If it's a cause they can help with, the team is open to being involved, says Joni Picklesimer, loan support representative and Green Team coordinator. All First Clover Leaf Bank employees are involved with the Green Team and choose the specific volunteer effort that they want to participate in.

A Green Team event that has a direct impact on the well being of community members is the annual Health Fair, which is hosted by First Clover Leaf Bank every May. The fair is held at the main bank headquarters on Goshen Road in Edwardsville. There are generally 25 to 30 bank employees who donate their time to volunteer at this event.

The purpose of the day is to provide free health screenings to the public. Chiropractors, dentists and other medical

specialists are on hand to offer their services. Attendees are also able to learn about nutrition and exercise, sunscreen and skincare, dental care, family lifestyle, kidney health, CPR and first aid training.

There is a complimentary lunch, prize giveaways and activities just for kids. Inflatable play houses, bike safety lessons and a caricature artist are on site for the kids' entertainment. The ARCH helicopter even makes a special landing during the fair. Since the fair is always held over Mother's Day weekend, there is also a booth where kids can decorate gifts for their moms.

Several hundred attendees come to the

health fair each year and benefit from the vital health screenings, says Picklesimer. The bank advertises in each of their branches and in the local newspapers to draw as many people as possible to this important event. The goal of the fair is to raise awareness of health issues and to keep community members fit and healthy.

Picklesimer says the satisfaction of giving back to others and seeing the positive effect that their efforts have on people is priceless. The bank staff as a whole believes in making a positive difference in the lives of others and to encourage good works in their communities.



First Clover Leaf Bank's Green Team coordinates company-wide volunteerism at a number of charity functions throughout the year. The bank's own health fair each May (above) is one of its biggest events.

Commerce Bank employees ensure kids have school supplies they need thru KidSmart

By KATE GENO

Commerce Bank is dedicated to making a positive impact on the Metro East community, both financially and through employee volunteer participation.

A committee of Commerce Bank employees representing all area banking centers and corporate departments chooses volunteer opportunities on an ongoing basis and recruits coworkers to participate. In 2009, the committee supported 14 nonprofit organizations with their time and effort.

According to Jenny Hoelzer, assistant vice president community relations, the bank supports organizations that are regional assets such as museums and the Zoo, organizations that rebuild neighborhoods such as the Franklin Neighborhood Association in Belleville and organizations that focus on youth services like KidSmart.

Commerce Bank employees participate annually in KidSmart's Push for Pencils project, a community-wide school supply drive that benefits the more than 90,000 St. Louis area children who cannot afford basic school supplies.

In 2009, Commerce Bank became a community partner for the collection drive and volunteered its banking centers as official collection sites. Thanks to bank employees and community members, Commerce Bank delivered more than 20,000 items to KidSmart including the organization's "top 5" supplies - pencils, glue, crayons, markers and paper. The

collected supplies are then distributed to local children through KidSmart's free educational supply store.

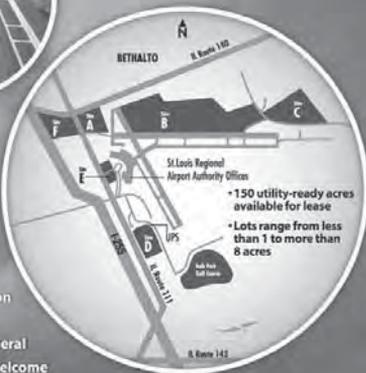
KidSmart's mission is to ensure that children and their classrooms in the St. Louis area have the basic tools for learning by transferring, at no cost, the community's surplus supplies and merchandise into the hands of teachers for school children in need. Since opening in 2002, KidSmart has distributed more than \$12 million in school supplies to more than 45,000 economically disadvantaged children in the area.

Commerce Bank strives to celebrate and encourage individuals who donate their own time and energy to making a difference in the lives of others. With this in mind, it created the Commerce Bank Community Service Award program. Ever year, a recipient is chosen and honored with a luncheon. The bank also awards a grant in the name of each honoree to the nonprofit organization of his or her choice. Since the program's inception in 1997, 91 individuals have been recognized with this nomination-based award. Organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and the O'Fallon food pantry have received grants as a result.

It is the philosophy of the bank and its staff to make a difference through financial and personal involvement, says Hoelzer. At its core, Commerce is a community-minded bank and this is reflected through its ongoing dedication to supporting individuals and organizations in this region.

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