

Community Heroes



CSA Pat Montolone (left) and Eric Sterchi (right), Manager of Store 973 in Carson City, Nev., are shown with Pau Wa Lu Middle School Principal Robin Pridrett. Store 973 donated 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to the school, where many students lost all of their belongings because of a mercury spill.



Denver CSC 1080 recently demonstrated their commitment to Caring and Making a Difference by collecting four boxes of used cell phones for donation to a local shelter for victims of domestic violence.



Tomas J. Fernandez, Senior Corporate Attorney in Office Depot's Litigation and Compliance Department, was among a group of volunteers who spent their Thanksgiving holiday in Nassau, Bahamas, helping to make repairs to Adventure Learning Centre as well spending time with orphans and AIDS patients. Office Depot donated backpacks and school supplies for the children.



Will Williams (right), a manager at Crossdock 3063 in Orlando, Fla., was awarded the Bronze Star for his recent military service.



Stores 469, 392, 2165 and 2192 in the Denver area joined forces to sponsor the Douglas County Libraries Youth Reading Program. More than 3,000 children participated in this effort to help kids build their reading skills.



District 14 Manager John Vance received many expressions of gratitude (above) for arranging a donation of backpacks and school supplies to children affected by Hurricane Isabel last fall.



Office Depot donated backpacks and school supplies to a group of enthusiastic students at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., who collected the much-needed items to send to more than 400 schoolchildren in Iraq.



Over 50 Office Depot associates participated in the American Heart Association's Metro Atlanta Heart Walk. Together, 21 stores from Districts 2 and 24 as well as several members of the Business Services Division raised over \$6,000.



Store 549 in Sterling, Va., joined with KidsRFirst, a local academic support group, to sponsor a holiday gift-wrapping table.



Pierce College President Rocky Young (left) and Ken Ash from Office Depot District 60 participated in the dedication of a computer lab at the college, located in Woodland Hills, Calif. A contribution from Office Depot helped to upgrade the computers in the training lab.



Bill Allen (center) of CSC 1122 in Charlotte, N.C., accepts an award from the Department of Defense in appreciation of Office Depot's support for employee Roy Hollar, who serves in the Military Reserves and was deployed to Iraq.

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In the Line of Fire

In the last issue of WYN2K, we related several stories about ways in which Office Depot helped victims of natural disasters in the U.S. and Canada. A number of additional accounts of helping hands extended by Office Depot and its employees came our way after the terrible wildfires that ravished Southern California in late October.

Praise for Brian and Gabriel



Gabriel Galvin (left) and Brian Stengel

William McDonald called the Executive Customer Relations Department to commend two Office Depot employees from Store 842 in San Bernardino, Calif. He wanted to let us know how Assistant Manager Brian Stengel and CST Gabriel Galvin had tirelessly pitched in to help fire victims at an evacuation center in an area airplane hangar.

Brian and Gabriel brought paper and supplies, copiers, printers and Sprint Air Cards. Brian networked the shelter's computers so that all of the volunteers could use them. McDonald cited many instances when Brian and Gabriel stepped in to volunteer wherever they were needed. As one of the leaders of the command post, he felt that when Brian was in the area, he could stop worrying and do whatever needed to be done, confident that his communications center was in good hands.

He told us, "You expect the firefighters and police to be heroes. They're trained to fight fires and save lives. Brian and Gabriel's help in networking and providing airtime helped give the 6,500 evacuees hope, which was what they really needed most of all." Both Brian and Gabriel were awarded the "Thinking Out Of The Box Award" by the Executive Customer Relations Team for their unselfish service at this difficult time.

-- Reported by Susan Lynn

Rob Tucker Does His Duty



Rob Tucker is at lower right in the photo (above) with his entire crew and at center in the photo at the scene of one of the wildfires (below).



By day, Rob Tucker has been an exceptional driver for Office Depot's Signal Hill, Calif., BSD location for the past nine years. At other times, he is a firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician and fire academy instructor. When the fires raged in Southern California, Rob spent seven days straight on the front lines helping to bring the flames under control.

Rob was featured in a story in a local newspaper, which wrote about how he unselfishly went on duty at 3 a.m., leaving his wife, Tammy, and their 20-month-old son, Trent, to be safely evacuated later the same day. "I know the firefighters in East County are taking care of my family," he told a reporter. "This is my job here."

He related how he had slept for only one hour in the previous 72. "There are so many things going on. You can't get any sleep," he said.

When we returned to Office Depot, Rob shared unbelievable stories about teamwork, tragedy and what he described as a "once in a lifetime" fire. He brought amazing photos with him. When he was asked to provide one for WYN2K, he insisted that it not be a photo of him alone, but one that included his entire crew. His co-workers are extremely proud to have Rob on their team.

-- Reported by Deb Biek

Helping in Little Ways



Mikaela Van Vooren (in front of store) and her classmates cheer Office Depot for helping victims of the California fires.



When the fires struck, 8-year-old Mikaela Van Vooren of Long Beach, Calif., and her classmates at Calvary Christian Academy of Long Beach decided to see what they could do to help children who had lost their homes and belongings. The niece of Andrew Van Vooren, who works for Office Depot, Mikaela wrote a letter to the Company to ask for a donation.

Office Depot was pleased to send a \$500 gift card to the youngster's school. The children went on a shopping expedition to Store 2235 in Cerritos, Calif., to purchase school supplies for four families in need of assistance. They delivered the supplies along with other essential items to the families, who had a total of 18 children among them, in late January.

According to Mikaela's parents, her Uncle Andrew "was very proud to work for Office Depot when he heard how they came through for his niece."

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CSC 1080 in Denver teamed with Crossdock 3070 and BSD Sales Location 5119 to support a local food drive. Employees donated a truckload of food and clothing, then volunteered for the collection day.

