

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Holiday Cheer

NORTHSHORE UNIVERSITY HEALTHSYSTEM'S EMPLOYEES GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES' CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS.

It's that time of the year again. Everyone's been hustling and bustling for what seems like weeks to share time with and present gifts to loved ones. But many dedicated employees at NorthShore University HealthSystem (NorthShore) are way ahead of the holiday game. They've made their lists (and checked them twice!), wrapped and delivered *hundreds* of gifts, organized festive parties and volunteered their time to brighten the season for families, children and seniors whose holiday circumstances may not be as cheerful as ours.

Here are some of the events made possible by NorthShore employees during the holiday season:

In 2008, **Highland Park Hospital** employees conducted a holiday drive benefiting the Moraine Township. In early November the CARE (Considerate, Attentive, Responsive and Empathetic) Committee set up a "giving tree" in the cafeteria decorated with ornaments that display specific items corresponding to items on each child's wish list. Highland Park Hospital staff members purchased, wrapped and labeled the gifts and returned them to the Highland Park Hospital campus by mid-December.

In 2007, Highland Park Hospital participated in this same event for Moraine Township and had great results—they provided multiple gifts for approximately 40 children and grocery store gift certificates and hams for 15 families.

In 2007, **Glenbrook Hospital** employees brightened the lives of 80 seniors and 60

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children (after starting out with 40 seniors and 40 children and adding 40 more seniors and 20 more children due to high demand from the staff).

The children, referred by Glenview Youth Services, were encouraged to ask for their biggest wish, which, of course, resulted in some extravagant requests like video game systems and expensive clothes and shoes. Glenbrook employees were encouraged to give each child one "fun" item and one "necessity" (warm clothing).

The seniors had very modest wishes—from a sweater or blanket to grocery store gift cards and stamps. Last year was the first year Glenbrook included seniors, referred by the North Shore Senior Center, and this year they're on Glenbrook Hospital Santa's list again. The project has become one of the campus's most popular CARE events.

In 2007, the **Evanston Hospital/Corporate CARE Committee** hosted a community food and toy drive for Connections for the Homeless, an Evanston agency that serves homeless adults and families and those threatened with

homelessness. Evanston employees spread holiday cheer by collecting carloads and vanloads of goodies for close to 40 children and teenagers. **C**



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