



Nordblom kicks off blood drive

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Burlington — Community service

Burlington-based Nordblom Company announces the success of the first American Red Cross blood drive in 2010.

Hosted at 55 Network Drive in Burlington, the blood drive was open to all members of the Northwest Park community. According to Kerry Enright of the American Red Cross, "there were 37 presenting donors, 11 of which were first time donors. [We had a] great response."

The Community Service Committee of Nordblom Company thanks both the American Red Cross and the employees of Northwest Park and Network Drive for their involvement in this community outreach initiative.

The committee was busy in 2009 with a wide variety of local philanthropy initiatives. In April, employees of Northwest Park and Network Drive donated a total of four carloads of food to the Burlington Food Pantry. Burlington residents Helen MacKinnon, Kathy Giacoppo and Margaret Giacoppo lead the food drive and coordinated the distribution arrangements through St. Mark's Church.

Last summer, Nordblom Company donated to the Playground Renovation Project at the Francis Wyman Elementary School in Burlington. The renovation was completed in time for the new school year. This playground will provide a safe, nurturing and inclusive environment for all children of the Burlington community. A brick was placed in Nordblom's name in Marisol's Maze, the commemorative brick path located in the playground. Addition, the "Reading Retreat Gazebo," an area for both play and educational opportunities, was dedicated with a plaque to Nordblom Management Company.

In October, the Community Service Committee sponsored a collection for "Coats for Kids" within Nordblom's corporate headquarters building at 15 Third Ave.

Every few weeks donations were brought by a Committee member to Anton's Cleaners in Burlington, who cleaned the coats for free and delivered them to charitable organizations in the Greater Boston area. These organizations then distributed the coats to families in need. Sixteen coats were donated to Anton's for those in need in 2009.

On two occasions last year, the committee organized teams of Nordblom Company employees to donate their time and energy at the Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory in Quincy. During each visit, employees sorted children's clothing and packed backpacks of school supplies for Boston-area children. The December team matched clothing in specific sizes and genders to create a week's worth of outfits for 22 children in need.

To cap off a successful year in corporate philanthropy, the final American Red Cross Blood Drive was hosted at 52 Second Ave. in Northwest Park in November. A total of four American Red Cross Blood Drives were held throughout the year, with 25 units of blood collected at the November drive. Nordblom's Community Service Committee has several 2010 initiatives underway and looks forward to another successful year.

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