

Earth Day 2012



Volunteerism & Charitable Giving

Name: Helping Hands
Location: DEP Central Office
Years with DEP: Nearly 2 Decades

For almost 2 decades, DEP has sponsored local charities through its Helping Hands program. This program provides an opportunity for DEP employees to give back to their local community during the holiday season.

Typically, DEP will select one or two charities to sponsor and collect donations, both goods and money, on behalf of the selected charity. There is usually around \$1,000 dollars and countless items collected to support these charities. Throughout the years, the program has sponsored many organizations including Big Brother/Big Sisters, The Humane Society of Harrisburg, Toys for Tots, Central PA Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House, SPCA, Bethesda Mission and Central PA Animal Alliance.

It is a special tradition for DEP to have a large conifer in the Rachel Carson lobby to celebrate to holidays. When DEP employees donate money or goods, they are given the opportunity to decorate the tree with a paper 'helping hand'. Each year, a check presentation ceremony is held in the lobby, complete with Christmas carols sung by DEP's own chorale group, the Earth Tones.

The generosity of DEP employees has made this a long-lasting a valued program within the department. Helping Hands looks forward to continuing this tradition long into the future.