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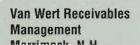
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A Collection's Christmas Story: How Companies are Helping Their Communities

Editor's Note: Image problems for the collection business are well known and widespread - just ask the Federal Trade Commission to see the complaints filed against the business last year. But what's lesser known is the extent of community outreach and philanthropic efforts extended throughout the year by collection firms, debt buyers and others in the business. Collections & Credit Risk invited its readers to tell us about their charitable works. Here, writer Kate Fitzgerald profiles five who did. We offer them as examples others can emulate in the new year.





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ues and priorities among causes. One cause may work to cure diseases, and another may enrich lives on a different level, but it's hard to quantify the value. Throughout our company, we try to choose who to help by listening to our employees and matching our passions to the needs we see," Rosenberg says.

National Recovery Agency Harrisburg, Pa. Collection agency Employees: 93

Passionate Efforts

ational Recovery Agency began its community outreach efforts with a handful of charitable activities that has expanded to a diverse list including cancer research, cheering up needy kids during the holidays and even helping to beautify the local area.

NRA's various volunteer and charitable programs are periodically reviewed to make sure they meet the company's objectives and the interests of employees, says Shell Sharma, the company's director of operations.

In addition to providing a positive impact on the community, Sharma says NRA's volunteer opportunities give employees a sense of belonging to the company and to the community, an opportunity to meet people who work in different departments, and a break from routine.

Current NRA causes include a Toys for Kids drive organized by the Volunteers of America during the holiday season. NRA employees also donated 180 pounds of food to needy families during last year's holidays.

Twice a year, NRA gets strong participation among employees from an on-site blood drive.

The company also helps to beautify Pennsylvania by giving employees a chance to participate in a quarterly cleanup through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway program.

NRA also sponsors the American Family Coalition of Pennsylvania Parents Day, as well as the Jake Gittlen Cancer Research Foundation.

Corporate Turnaround
Paramus, N.J.
Collection agency, smallbusiness finance consultant
Employees: 100