Cardinal Health launches year of service on Martin Luther King Day

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Cardinal Health employees across the U.S. honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. last week by engaging in service projects, formally launching a year of service to celebrate the company's 50-year anniversary.

"One of my favorite quotes of Dr. King is 'Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?" said Devray Kirkland, Cardinal Health's Chief Diversity Officer. "All of us need help at some point in our lives; none of us have gotten where we are in life by ourselves. Sharing that help when we can is one of the best ways we can honor the memory of Dr. King."

Below are a few MLK Day of Service highlights.

At our headquarters in Central Ohio, employees, including Victor Crawford, CEO of Cardinal Health's Pharmaceutical segment, and Ola Snow, Chief Human Resources Officer, donated school supplies for students in Columbus City Schools' Learning Extension Centers. The learning centers provide at-risk students with internet access, learning devices and supplies that support remote learning.

Employees brought bags, boxes and trunks full of donations, from pens, pencils, paper, crayons and markers to board games, yoga mats and jump ropes for after school activities.



Also in Ohio, leaders of our legal team supported Choices, a local shelter for victims of domestic violence, with donations of snacks and natural hair care products. They also collected thousands of diapers and wipes to donate to a diaper bank.



And Andrea Ravagnani, IT Strategy Consultant, and her daughter, Maria, baked dozens of cookies and made signs thanking healthcare providers, then delivered them to a Nationwide Children's Close to Home Urgent Care facility.



In Elk Grove, Calif., employees of our pharmaceutical distribution center packed up sack lunches and donated them, along with 20 blankets and 50 pairs of socks, to people living in area homeless camps.

"Our team is always looking for opportunities to give back to those in need," said John Guenette, Elk Grove Director of Operations. "We thought that this was a great way to align with Cardinal Health's year of service, give back to our community and honor Dr. King."



In Jackson, Miss., distribution center employees donated food and personal care kits to area residents experiencing hunger and homelessness.

"We saw an opportunity to step up and serve our community," said Kyla McCoy, QRA

Compliance Officer in Jackson. "Our goal was to collect enough to do 10 care kits – but we got enough donations to make nearly 50, as well as donations of bedding and food."





In Norfolk, Neb., employees assembled desks and donated them to an elementary school for administrators to pass along to at-risk students learning remotely.

"We have all been affected dramatically by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Ben Collins, local Engineering Manager. "Unfortunately, students' education could be impacted long-term. Some families lack the infrastructure to make learning from home possible. We were grateful to be able to do one small thing to bring a sense of normalcy to students who are struggling with remote learning."



In LaVergne, Tenn., employees stocked a local Free Food Refrigerator with essential food items, and collected coats and jackets for people experiencing homelessness in the region. The refrigerator and clothing are close to a local homeless shelter and are accessible around the clock throughout the year.

"This day of service gave us an opportunity to serve our local community," said Amber Howell, Customer Service Manager in LaVergne. "Our town has a growing homeless and jobless population struggling to feed their families – one in five people here experience hunger each day. We were happy to be able to provide a little relief to those in need."



In Charlotte, N.C., employee Tiffanie Rowe and her family "made a special effort to

show love in a purposeful way this MLK day," Rowe said. "We called our work our 'Mission Live the Dream' Day. We delivered meals to the elderly, donated books and clothing to a local shelter, handed out snacks and water to the homeless and dropped-off home-made desserts to quarantining families. We also paid for the order of the person behind us in line at our food stops along the way."

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