



Festiva employees participate in Day of Caring

On September 3, 2009, 10 employees from [Festiva Hospitality Group's](#) corporate office in Asheville, N.C., dedicated their morning to [Hands On Asheville-Buncombe's Day of Caring](#). Hands On is a part of [United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County](#) that provides a link for individuals, families, corporate, and civic or faith-based groups to volunteer in support of nonprofits in Asheville and Buncombe County.

This was the second year in a row that Festiva participated in Day of Caring, which allows businesses, individuals and organizations to go out into the community and help local nonprofit organizations with specific projects. All 10 employees arrived bright and early Thursday morning at [Loving Food Resources](#) (LFR), a local food bank dedicated to providing food, health and personal care items to people living with HIV/AIDS or any person receiving home Hospice care in the 17 counties of Western North Carolina.

Loving Food Resources was founded in 1991 and is located at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church. It is a 100% volunteer organization with more than 80 people from all walks of life who make a regular monthly commitment. This food pantry depends on the generosity and caring of people in the community who are dedicated to improving the lives of those in need. As both donations and the client base grow, improvements to the structure that houses LFR are needed not only for the safety and comfort of volunteers and clients, but also to accommodate the expanding inventory of items in the pantry where clients come to "shop" every Saturday.

Festiva's employees came in to tackle the much-needed jobs of cleaning, painting, organizing and heavy lifting to give the pantry a bit of a face-lift and make headway for long-term improvements. Most departments of the corporate office were represented including Owner Services, Accounting, IT, Payroll and Communications. After a history and tour of the pantry, the Festiva team organized themselves and got to work on the various tasks assigned by LFR board member Mike Stevenson.

Festiva's employees "accomplished the tasks we had set up and even more. They were attentive, willing, energetic and fun to be around. We appreciate so much what they did for us," Stevenson said in an e-mail after the event.

This year's Day of Caring served several purposes for those who participated. Not only did they demonstrate the hardworking nature of Festiva's employees by accomplishing all of the tasks planned that day (and more), but they also made connections with a local

nonprofit while working together as a team. More importantly, they made a positive impact on a community organization that plays a crucial role in the lives of its clients.

Festiva's involvement in Day of Caring was organized by Debbie Shroyer. Participating employees were Sara Bader, John Bimshas, Rebecca Broadwell, Luke Burrell, Tammy Bryson, Jessica Gaskin, Michele Kemper, Anne Moore, Angela Norville and Traci Weisner.