

2009 HONOREES

Arts

MEDIUM

CONTINENTAL OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS**Location:** Columbus**Employees:** 160**Nominated by:** St. Stephens Community House

The leadership at Continental Office Environments won't let the current economic conditions hinder its efforts to support the community.

The company is so dedicated to helping others, it redirected funds earmarked for holiday gifts for clients to the Children's Hunger Alliance.

The business furniture supplier sent a letter to those on its gift list informing them a "gift of nourishment" was made in their name.

"It was a win for us, a win for the Children's Hunger Alliance and a win for the client," wrote Rachel Friedman, executive vice president for marketing and sales, in nominating materials. "Getting through these tough economic times will take extraordinary cooperation and creativity."

The company also lent financial support and manpower to a variety of Central Ohio charities including St. Stephens Community House, the Stefanie Spielman Fund for Breast Cancer Research and Columbus City Schools.

"Continental has made it their mission to diligently support our community and build a better quality of life for residents of Central Ohio and beyond," wrote St. Stephens CEO Michelle Mills.

Twenty-six Continental Office Environments employees participate in Columbus schools' Project Mentor.

Eighty-two associates volunteered for nonprofit work last year and employees were represented on 13 nonprofit boards.

The company donated \$160,000 in cash and \$107,000 in in-kind donations last year.

Continental Office Environments associates in 2008 took part in United Way's Community Care Day, top, and the company let St. Stephen's Community House use its showroom for Halloween fun, bottom.

