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PATLive answers phones, local needs

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Volunteerism is encouraged at PATLive, say leaders of the Tallahassee-based Professionally Answered Telephones, a telephone answering company.

In 2000, company officials created PATCares, a nonprofit service organization for PATLive employees "to support and serve Tallahassee." In 2005, PATCares donated a total of \$9,000 worth of money, food and clothing locally.

The owner of PATLive, Glen Davidson, and Doug Wussler, the president and CEO, say they are strong supporters of community service.

"Most people are looking for simple but meaningful ways to help other people and to assist with causes they can connect with. PATCares fulfills this need," Wussler said. "It offers our employees the opportunity to decide who and how to help. Employees can take leadership positions with PATCares, contribute to the programs with donations or time, or they can opt out completely.

"PATCares is owned by and run by employees. PATLive is so impressed with the work they do that the company matches 100 percent of every dollar they raise," he said. "It is a powerful partnership between the company, the employees and the community."

Each month, PATCares has at least two events, and all profits benefit a specific group in the community. They have included the Refuge House, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Foundation Fighting Blindness and Habitat for Humanity. PATCares donates hundreds of dollars' worth of school supplies to area foster children each summer, and the employees have helped specific families in need.

All PATCares events are open to the public. The next one, an \$8 all-you-can-eat Thanksgiving meal, will be Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House. For information, call (800) 622-1132.

Tell us how your company gives back to the community. Send us a brief e-mail to business@tallahassee.com. Please type "Helping Hands" in the subject line and include your phone number in the message.

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