

Avnet Employees Donate Items to Keep People Warm, Fed and Merry During Holidays

Avnet employees around the world opened their hearts, wallets, pantries and closets to help others in need during the holiday season.

Nearly 450 employees at Avnet Technology Solutions' (TS) Tempe facility donated money or food items for two different food drives. First, TS collected enough food for the Boys and Girls Club to provide more than 300 Thanksgiving dinners, with the HP group filling an entire car with \$500 worth of turkeys. All of the food collected barely fit into the small bus the Boys and Girls Club sent to pick up the items. So much food was collected that the Boys and Girls Club even had extra food left over for its next event.

But TS Tempe didn't stop there, collecting an additional 1,500 pounds of food staples for Haven House, which serves victims of domestic abuse and their children, and a Chandler food bank. "We were running drives concurrently, as the number of needy was so large," says Nick Palmieri, the sales and marketing representative who delivered 800 pounds of food to Haven House.

After learning that Shepherds of Good Hope – the organization Avnet Electronics Marketing's (EM) Ottawa branch has supported for six years – receives many boxed and canned goods but little meat for the holidays, the office teamed with key supplier Actel to collect 400 pounds of pork, beef and chicken for Christmas.

Meanwhile, with temperatures dropping below zero in Denver, employees at TS's Westminster, Colo. facility chose to help area homeless by donating winter clothing – including coats, long underwear, socks and hats – and blankets to the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. Employees divided into two groups to see which could collect more items, with the winning group receiving doughnuts and orange juice one morning.

A tradition for the past seven years, the drive was a big success – so much so that the items donated filled Senior Product Marketing Specialist John Shippey's station wagon. "Both the front and back seat were loaded," says John, who has volunteered at the shelter several times with coworkers. "We go through several cold snaps each year and wanted to help people stay warm."

On the other side of the world, employees of the Avnet EDC facility in Tongeren, Belgium, collected more than 250 toys for the Centrum voor Kind en Gezinsondersteuning (CKG), a local shelter for children under age 12. Several EM supplier finance employees accompanied "Santa" as he delivered the toys to the CKG.

EM's Kansas City branch got into the holiday spirit by inviting suppliers attending its annual vendor holiday luncheon to bring new clothing for women and children, toys, small appliances and gift cards. Together they collected \$2,500 worth of items for residents of SafeHome, a shelter for women and children who have been abused. "Response was terrific – I would guess we had several hundred items," says Pat Gilling, an administrative assistant.