

# Richardson Employees Help 700 Students Start School Year with Supplies



Employees who keep their eyes and ears open for community relations opportunities find them everywhere they go. Jim Strand, vice president of financial operations in Richardson, Texas, found one at a Chamber of Commerce meeting three years ago – a local school whose students could not afford school supplies.

Richardson employees came to Forestridge Elementary’s rescue for the past three school years, collecting paper, pencils, pens, crayons, glue, notebooks and a variety of other items for students as well as note cards, Post-it notes and tote bags for teachers.

“Forestridge is an exemplary school – many students are from Africa and Vietnam and have never been to school before,” says Judy Kuper, records manager in Richardson. “The North Texas Avnet Cares committee saw this as a good opportunity to work with our community – this year we delivered six large boxes of supplies.”

With enrollment hitting 700 this year, the supplies were especially needed, says Forestridge principal Kathy Higgins. “Please let everyone know how big a difference it makes to the students when they have the things they need in order to be successful.”

Higgins also uses some of the supplies as rewards for the 150 students attending Forestridge’s Saturday English as a Second Language classes.