

THE DAILY RECORD

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ParalegalPERSPECTIVES

Paralegals offer help for Haiti, doctors

As a litigation paralegal at Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, often I am asked to use the Internet to conduct research and to access various federal and state court Web sites.

As a result, every time I opened up my Internet browser screen the second week in January, I was reminded of the devastating effects from the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. I finally reached a point where I felt that I needed to do something to help.

When I sent out a request to my fellow PAR members, I had no idea what an overwhelming response I was about to receive. Upon reading one of the news updates, Doctors Without Borders announced they had lost a few of their valued employees in one of the collapsed buildings. The organization is "committed to bringing quality medical care to people caught in crisis regardless of race, religion, or political affiliation and is able to work independently based on funding from private sources, not governments."

My hope was to try to raise a little money to send to Doctors Without Borders to enable them to continue to provide medical care to those in dire need, specifically the capital of Port-au-Prince.

I am so pleased to report that not only did many members of the Paralegal Association of Rochester contribute to the cause, but Davidson & Fink LLP and Harter Secrest matched the donations made by their own paralegals. On Jan. 22, our combined

efforts allowed PAR's board to make a donation of \$2,627 to Doctors Without Borders.

In fact, Davidson Fink went above and beyond thanks to PAR member Ruth Warlick and another firm employee, Val Dreier, who suggested the firm use the month's "dress down day donation to a charity" to piggyback on our request for donations. Davidson Fink employees collected \$1,021, which was matched by the firm, making their total donation \$2,042.

If you work with any of the following individuals, please know that they gave without hesitation and sent their donations with the most sincere messages I have encountered since working on PAR's board: Marcelle Veater, Jane Loderhose, Rose Umiker, Kathy Lanning, Michele Oosterling, Marlene Unger, and Bonnie Brooks of Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP; Mary Beth Doyle of Harris Beach PLLC, Patty Sexstone of Forsyth & Forsyth; Allyn Van Dusen of Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson LLP; Lynn Alpaugh of Underberg & Kessler LLP and Elizabeth Kinsley from Hiscock & Barclay LLP; and Christine Sellers, Carol Marzec, Chris Flynn, Elizabeth Stehler, Sandra Hahn, Mary Ellen Shantz and Elizabeth Steadman of Harter Secrest & Emery LLP.

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