Weekly News From Around the Columbia Union Conference

January 8, 2014

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—Story by Cristina Macena

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Participar en la audición de The Voice (La Voz) era su oportunidad de cantar en vivo ante millones de personas en televisión y, probablemente, de conseguir un contrato de grabación. Sin embargo, cuando estaba coordinando el horario de la audición en la ciudad de Nueva York, se dio cuenta que sería en sábado. Su corazón se derrumbó.—Artículo de Cristina Macena

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New Ohio Conference President Named
Ohio Conference constituents received an unusual Christmas gift this year—a new conference president—Ron Halvorsen Jr., MDiv. Halvorsen was a favorite among presidential search committee members, and visited Ohio earlier in December. He and his wife spent several days checking out the Columbus and Mount Vernon areas (including the conference office), the Kettering area, and concluded their visit at the Worthington church for a “meet and greet” time with the search committee.

Halvorsen (pictured with his wife, Buffy,) will join the Ohio Conference team in February. “It has been a long and serious prayer journey, which has brought us to the point of accepting the call to the Ohio Conference,” he said. “And that is how we will continue to travel: prayerfully. … We look forward to being a part of the Ohio church family. And we look forward to seeing what God will do for and through the Ohio church family.”—Story by Heidi Shoemaker

READ MORE

Potomac Church Structure To Nearly Double in Size
Last month members of Potomac Conference’s Williamsburg (Va.) church, broke ground for a 5,458 square foot addition. The structure, which comes close in size to the original, will contain two classrooms, a warming kitchen, storage room, restrooms and a generous multipurpose room. The addition will allow needed space for community outreach events such as youth music and drama events, Pathfinders, Vacation Bible School, outreach seminars and holiday programs.

Members refer to Williamsburg as a ‘host church’ because it is common for 50 percent of the Sabbath attendance to be comprised of traveling visitors. Visitors have been instrumental in the fundraising efforts and have contributed over $10,500 to the building expansion. The project cost a total of $906,000.—Story by Jay Berryman

READ MORE ON POTOMAC’S WEBSITE

Allegheny East Pathfinders Witness to Peers
Last month five Pathfinders and 13 Adventurers were inducted into clubs at Allegheny East Conference’s Shiloh church in Petersburg, Va. Six of the inductees were not members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Treyvion, 12, became interested in the Pathfinders through brothers Emmanuel and Joel Peterson. The Peterson boys shared with him about the Pathfinders and their church-sponsored basketball team. Another family became interested in the group when the mother, Mrs. Hall, indicated that she wanted to offer her talents to the Lord. Now she travels from Maryland twice a month to bring her two daughters to the Adventurer club.

Shiloh members, who support both clubs wholeheartedly with their time and money, are praising the Lord that their children are serving as witnesses.—Story by Deborah Whitfield

Pennsylvania Church Turns 75

They began as a small group with big dreams—to have a Seventh-day Adventist Church in McKeesport, a community southeast of Pittsburgh. A house on Bailey Avenue became the first church home in 1938 under the leadership of Pastor R. K. Krick and Elder Robert Boothby. Three of those charter members still attend this Pennsylvania Conference church and remember the days when food for fellowship meals had to be prepared on the first floor and carried to the third floor for the meal. But the commitment of the East Suburban church members was strong. They began to grow and paid off their first mortgage in five years.

After 55 years in McKeesport, the congregation moved to North Versailles, their current location. They recently celebrated 75 years of ministry. The event included music by their choir—their very first choir in all of their 75 years. Donald Lewis, lay pastor, led the day’s service during which members honored Charlotte Rezes (pictured) for her 25 years of service as the church treasurer.

Cyber Criminals Target Adventist Church Funds
The world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventists Church has been the victim of cyber theft, which has defrauded the church of approximately U.S.$500,000. The theft involved funds that were being transferred on behalf of a denominational entity.

Church officials are cooperating with federal authorities in the ongoing investigation and working with the banks and insurance companies to determine what recoveries may be possible. Although it cannot be ruled out at this time, indications do not suggest any insider involvement.—Story by Adventist News Network Staff

Adventist HealthCare donated about $60 million worth of healthcare and community benefits this year, according to a recent article in The Washington Post. The Rockville, Md., organization offered free and low-cost health services to about 54,000 people, including wellness education, support groups for stroke survivors and screenings for heart disease, cancer and diabetes. READ MORE IN THE WASHINGTON POST

Book Release: Hope In My Heart
Alexis Goring’s first book, *Hope in My Heart: A Collection of Heartwarming Stories* offers three short stories on love and hope. Goring, a member of Potomac Conference’s Restoration Praise Center in Lanham, Md., says she hopes her stories will inspire readers to seek God.

**Q: What inspired you to write about love?**

**A:** My book is more about hope than love because all of my characters are hoping for a dream to come true. That dream does not always mean a significant other.

**Q: What do you hope readers will take away from reading it?**

**A:** I hope my readers will realize that no matter what they’re going through in this life here on Earth, if they have faith in God, He will fill their hearts with hope, their lives with joy and their souls with peace.

**Q: Where can readers find the book?**

**A:** The book is available on Amazon and [Christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) — *Interview by V.*

Michelle Bernard

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**Can Government Interfere in the Free Exercise of Religion?**
Twenty years ago members of the U.S. Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act after the U.S. Supreme Court lowered the standard on the free exercise of religion. Adventists joined with several other religious groups to lobby for this crucial statute. The guest for this week's Talking About Freedom podcast, J. Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, talks about this statute as well as the inclusion of prayers in city council sessions and in the public schools.

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Columbia Union Members in the News

The Congressman Who Went Off the Grid
The Dupont Park Adventist School's annual STEM Fair
How local businesses gave to charity in 2013
HAS starts business with help from grant
Olney Prep students visit the White House

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARYLAND

January 10: Takoma Academy has rescheduled their annual Christmas concert, which was canceled due to inclement weather. This event will now be held on Friday, January 10, at 7 p.m. in the Sligo Adventist School gymnasium (8300 Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park, Md.). For more information, call the school at (301) 434-4814.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 13: The National Symphony Orchestra String Trio will
perform a free concert at the Capitol Hill church on Monday, January 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., as part of their 2014 NSO In Your Neighborhood events. Each year, NSO In Your Neighborhood brings the National Symphony Orchestra into the local community for a series of free performances in specific D.C. neighborhoods. For more information, visit chcsda.org.

WORLDWIDE

January 8-18: The 10 Days of Prayer initiative (formerly called Operation Global Rain) was adopted by the world church in 2010. All around the world, Adventist churches are experiencing the renewal of the Holy Spirit by following the disciples’ example and participating in 10 Days of Prayer. This year, the dates are Wednesday, January 8 through Sabbath, January 18. The Hope Channel will also host special programming in conjunction with the program. Small group leader’s guides and daily theme sheets are available online at tendaysofprayer.org.

OVERSEAS

February 13-19: Young adults invited to participate in the North American Division's Ignition Mission Trip to Haiti. The trip will take young people to a Restore a Child orphanage. Young adults can also continue on to the Ignition Convention in Miami that starts on February 19. For more information on joining the trip, contact Gael Murray at Gael.Murray@nad.adventist.org.
Atlantic City Member Listens to a Different “Voice”

January 6, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in New Jersey

Story by Cristina Macena

Alesandra Fernandez remembers the day she received her pass to audition for the TV show, The Voice. For this 17-year-old member of New Jersey Conference’s Atlantic City church, this meant she was one step closer to having her dream come true. She had always loved music and singing. As she was growing up, she sang with the little kids in church but singing with the little kids wasn’t enough for her. She watched members of the Arize ministries sing in church and yearned to join them. At the age of 12 she did and became the youngest member of the group.

Having an opportunity to audition for The Voice was an opportunity to sing live before millions on television and possibly land a recording contract. So she was excited and ready for the auditions. However, as she was scheduling her audition in New York City, she realized that the audition would take place on a Saturday. Her heart plummeted. The first thing that crossed her mind was God’s commandment to keep the Sabbath Holy (Exodus 20:8-11, Isaiah 58:13-14). She thought of many reasons to continue with the audition. She thought that she could just head over to church in the morning then leave around 11:30 a.m. and that everything would be ok. Fernandez even told herself, “Hey, you know what? I could just audition [by singing] ‘Amazing Grace’ by Chris Tomlin and I could be praising God while auditioning.”

She practiced the whole night. Her friends begged her to go; they told her that she shouldn’t miss that opportunity, because it wouldn’t come around again. Some were even bringing up the idea of how popular she’d be in school if she made it.

Before going to bed that night, she prayed to God once again, and, after praying, she told her mother that she couldn’t do it. She felt like
what she was doing was wrong. Not only that, but right before she went to sleep, she received a text message from someone, telling her to think about what God would want her to do, to think about the Sabbath, and how God would feel about her decision. She also remembered the Bible text, “What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” (Mark 8:36).

The next morning, while thousands of people auditioned for the show, Fernandez went to church and remained there for the entire service. “I wouldn’t change an eternal life with God, for a couple of days of fame. If I can’t please God with the things I do, then I don’t want to do them at all,” she said.
Una miembro de Atlantic City escucha una “Voz” diferente

columbiaunionvisitor.com/

January 8, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in New Jersey Conference

Artículo de Cristina Macena

Publicado 08/01/2014

Alesandra Fernandez recuerda el día cuando recibió la notificación para participar en la audición del programa de televisión The Voice (La Voz). Para la joven de 17 años de edad, miembro de la iglesia de Atlantic City en New Jersey Conference, esto significaba que estaba un paso más cerca de cumplir su sueño. Siempre le había gustado la música y el canto, y al crecer, lo hacía con los niños de la iglesia. Pero cantar con los niños no era suficiente para ella. Observaba a los miembros del ministerio Arize cantar en la iglesia y anhelaba participar. A los 12 años, se unió al grupo y se convirtió en la miembro más joven del grupo.

Participar en la audición de The Voice (La Voz) era su oportunidad de cantar en vivo ante millones de personas en televisión y, probablemente, de conseguir un contrato de grabación. Sin embargo, cuando estaba coordinando el horario de la audición en la ciudad de Nueva York, se dio cuenta que sería en sábado. Su corazón se derrumbó. Lo primero que recordó fue el mandamiento de Dios de santificar el día sábado (Éxodo 20:8-11, Isaías 58:13-14). Consideró varias razones para continuar con la audición. Pensó que podría ir a la iglesia a la mañana y retirarse alrededor de las 11:30 a.m. para ir a la audición. Incluso razonó: “puedo participar en la audición con la canción ‘Amazing Grace’ de Chris Tomlin y estaría alabando a Dios y participando en la audición”.

Practicó toda la noche. Sus amigos le rogaron que asistiera, le dijeron que no debía perder esa oportunidad porque nunca más la tendría. Algunos le dijeron que, si participaba, sería popular en la escuela.

Antes de acostarse esa noche, oró a Dios nuevamente y, luego de orar, le dijo a su madre que no podía hacerlo. A la mañana siguiente, mientras miles de personas participaban de la audición, Fernandez asistió a la iglesia y permaneció allí durante todo el servicio.

Recordó el texto bíblico: “Porque ¿qué aprovechará al hombre si ganare todo el mundo, y perdiere su alma?” (Marcos 8:36). Dijo, “no cambiaría una vida eterna con Dios por algunos días de fama. Si no puedo complacer a Dios con lo que hago, entonces no lo quiero hacer”.

Click here to read this article in article in English.
Ohio Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists Mount Vernon OH : New Ohio Conference President

New Ohio Conference President

**BREAKING NEWS:** Ron Halvorsen Jr., M.Div., has officially accepted the call to become the next Ohio Conference president.

Halvorsen was a favorite among Presidential Search Committee members, and visited Ohio earlier in December. He and his wife spent several days checking out the Columbus and Mount Vernon areas (including the conference office), the Kettering area, and concluded their visit at the Worthington church for a “meet and greet” time with the search committee.

“It has been a long and serious prayer journey which has brought us to the point of accepting the call to the Ohio Conference,” said Halvorsen. “And that is how we will continue to travel: prayerfully. Only God can lead us as we need to be led. And only God's power can see His will done. We look forward to being a part of the Ohio church family. And we look forward to seeing what God will do for and through the Ohio church family.”

Halvorsen brings with him a diverse experience as pastor, having served as senior pastor of several Adventist college and university church congregations (most recently the College View Church in Lincoln, NE). He has also taught as an adjunct professor at the Union College Theology Department, had several successful (local) radio and television ministries, and is a published author for *Guide Magazine* and *Ministry Magazine*. No stranger to Ohio, Halvorsen has spoken at both Mount Vernon Academy and Spring Valley Academy as their week of prayer presenter several years ago.

Halvorsen has been married for 32 years to Beth “Buffy” Vercio Halvorsen, MS, LCMFT, and they have two adult children and one grandchild. Buffy, also a pastor has served as Pastor for Family Ministries at the College View, Sligo, and Keene church congregations. She specializes in marriage and family therapy, and is a regular speaker for camp meetings, church and women’s retreats.

Halvorsen officially joins the Ohio Conference family in February 2014, replacing Raj Attiken who announced his retirement in September 2013.

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2013 Presidential Search Committee Members:

**District representation is based on membership percentage**

**DISTRICT 1**
Rose Cross - Toledo First
  Mike Fortune* - Toledo First
  Patrick Mazani - Findlay
  Gary Reimer* - Northwood

DISTRICT 2
  Donald Myers* - Wilmington
  Phillip Poland - Village (Mason)
  Joel Rivera - Hamilton Spanish
  Melissa Sahlin* - Village (Mason)
  Monte Sahlin - Village (Mason)

DISTRICT 3
  Ron Anderson - Chillicothe
  Christiane Marshall* - Marietta
  Victor Marshall - Marietta

DISTRICT 4
  William Rodriguez - Youngstown Spanish
  Mark Sitch* - Evergreen

DISTRICT 5
  Leona Bange - Clarksfield
  Jerry Chase* - Akron
  Jose Goris - Cleveland Spanish
  Chester Hitchcock* - Medina
  David Keyes - Akron
  Leroy Kirschbaum - Akron
  Oswaldo Magana - Cleveland Spanish
  Migdalia Mason* - Cleveland Spanish
  Sandra Rios Melendez* - Ebenezer Spanish

DISTRICT 6
  Leon Brown - Newark
  Marcellus de Oliveira* - Marion
  Joanne Erskine - Mount Vernon Hill
  Doug Falle* - Mount Vernon Hill
  Lori Farr* - Wooster
  Tom Hughes* - Newark
  Dan Kittle* - eChurch7
  Billye Newton* - Zanesville

DISTRICT 7
  Mike Barnett* - Columbus Eastwood
  Kennedy Dulo* - Worthington
  Yuliyan Filipov - Worthington
  Mel Hatch - Columbus Eastwood
  Denny Leckron* - Columbus Eastwood
  Robert McGhee* - Worthington
  Marsha Rumsey - Columbus Eastwood
  Dan Thorward - Worthington

DISTRICT 8
  Kate Baldwin - Centerville
  Steve Carlson - Kettering
  Charla Doucette - Beavercreek
Karl Haffner - Kettering
Alison Jobson* - Centerville
**Timothy Ko** - Kettering
Larry Kositsin* - Miamisburg
**Fred Manchur** - Kettering
David Small* - Kettering
**Julie Staats** - Stillwater
Dan Stevens* - Kettering

Those names in bold font are lay members.
* Designates member of the Ohio Conference Executive Committee, who are automatically part of the Presidential Search Committee per Article VIII Section 3 of the Regulations of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (aka our constitution).
The Williamsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church (Va.) members’s long awaited dream is finally becoming a reality. On Dec. 17, ground was broken for a 5,458 square foot addition. The $906,000 structure will contain two classrooms, a warming kitchen, storage room, restrooms and a generous multi-purpose room. Members, elders, the architect and the general contracting company’s owners were present for the groundbreaking and prayer dedication ceremony.

Beginning with a church visioning program, the project progression has been well planned. The group has focused on spiritual direction and a fundraising feasibility study. To date, an ongoing in-house fundraising campaign has netted over $388,000.

Williamsburg is a unique church, a ‘host church’ as many members refer to it as; it’s common for 50% of the Sabbath attendance to be comprised of traveling visitors. Visitors have been instrumental in the fundraising efforts and have contributed over $10,500 to the building expansion.

The addition will allow needed space for community outreach events such as youth music and drama events, Pathfinders, VBS, outreach seminars and holiday programs.
Williamsburg also continually participates in various inter-denominational community outreaches including: F.I.S.H., a food and clothing pantry; United Way; Williamsburg Faith in Action; and the Women’s Ministries child feeding program.

Funding is in place for completion of the building; however, the additional $50,000 needed for outfitting the classrooms, warming kitchen and audio-visual equipment for the multi-purpose area has not yet been raised. Your prayers and financial gifts will be greatly appreciated.

We invite you to worship with us and keep up with our building project, fundraising, and many ministries at www.williamsburgsda.org

Story by Jay Berryman, elder at the Williamsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Cyber criminals target Adventist Church funds

January 02, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Author: ANN staff

The world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventists Church has been the victim of cyber theft which has defrauded the church of approximately U.S.$500,000. The theft involved funds that were being transferred on behalf of a denominational entity.

Church officials are cooperating with federal authorities in the ongoing investigation and working with the banks and insurance companies to determine what recoveries may be possible. Although it cannot be ruled out at this time, indications do not suggest any insider involvement.

“No personal information such as private information, personal donor records or internal accounts were accessed or compromised in the scheme,” said Adventist world church treasurer Bob Lemon. “We are modifying procedures to do our best to prevent this from happening again.”

Seventh-day Adventist Church membership officially reached 18 million members last month and is represented in more than 200 nations.
Just when charities have started to recover from the worst recession in a generation, a new threat struck in 2013. The automatic budget cuts known as sequestration and a 16-day federal government shutdown offered fresh challenges from reduced grants, forcing many charities to lean on the private sector more than ever.

Many companies rose to the challenge. Here’s a sample of the ways Washington area businesses made their mark on the community this year; consider this a snapshot of the good deeds in our midst.

— Vanessa Small

Adventist HealthCare donated about $60 million worth of health care and community benefits this year. The Rockville organization offered free and low-cost health services to about 54,000 people, including wellness education, support groups for stroke survivors and screenings for heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Adventist partnered on its community outreach efforts with organizations such as the Mercy Health Clinic, Rockville Senior Center and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. In April, Adventist employees, along with their family and friends, helped renovate the Silver Spring home of a 62-year-old man who has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease.

Advisory Board Co. saw 100 percent of its employees participate in community service in 2013. Employees conducted 32,000 hours of service, an average of more than 13 hours per staffer. The Washington firm executed more than 70 pro bono projects for its nonprofit partners. It also provided monetary contributions to 23 organizations through its Community Impact Grants program.

● National wireless provider AT&T donated more than $1 million to nonprofit organizations in the Washington region this year, focusing primarily on those that prepare students for college and careers after high school. Organizations that benefited from the program include Food and Friends ($90,000), the Washington Drama Society ($50,000), the MdBio Foundation ($20,000) and the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts ($25,000). Additionally, the company contributed $40,000 to the National Book Festival and gave grants to the Wounded Warrior Project.

During what’s known as “Spirit of Caring Month” at Arlington’s AvalonBay Communities, employees across the country collaborate on volunteer projects that serve their local communities. In the Washington region, staffers worked to assist families who had sought services from the District Alliance for Safe Housing, a group that provides housing and services for survivors of domestic violence.

Alliant Techsystems’s chief executive serves on the USO-Metro Washington board of directors, and ATK sponsors a half-dozen events annually with the organization. This year, the Arlington company volunteered at a skeet and trap shooting event for members of the military and their families, as well as a tour of the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Center in Chantilly and a chance to meet ATK’s astronauts.

In December, more than 50 employees from BAE Systems volunteered at the company’s Trees for Our Heroes event, which allows 150 military families to select a Christmas tree, make holiday crafts, and get photos taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. In June, the company held a giving campaign that raised $50,000 for United Through Reading, an organization that promotes the read-aloud experience for separated military families.

Bank of America’s charitable foundation gave Capital Partners for Education and Urban Alliance Foundation each a $200,000 unrestricted grant. The bank also connected more than 80 local teens to summer employment through its 2013 Student Leaders program, which places community-minded high school students in paid eight-week internships at local nonprofits, and the 2013 Summer Youth Employment Initiative, which provides low-income teens an opportunity to gain valuable work experience through internships at local banking centers and nonprofits. The foundation gave more than $1.5 million in grants to more than 60 nonprofits in the greater Washington area as part of a national effort to enhance the economic vitality of local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs.

Booz Allen Hamilton provided pro bono expert consulting for a literacy program, support for multiple sclerosis, guidance to an education effort and assistance to an environmental program. The activities were among eight projects, each valued at more than $150,000. The McLean company also planned and sponsored an event for more than 1,000 elementary and middle school students, parents, coaches and volunteers to learn about natural disaster preparedness and recovery in partnership with 15 area organizations, including the National Building Museum, the American Red Cross, and the Washington Humane Society. About 115 Booz Allen employees serve as mentors through the Wounded Warrior Mentor Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir.

How local businesses gave to charity in 2013
Cafe Deluxe and Tortilla Coast locations held a fundraiser where $1 of every margarita sold went to benefit Food and Friends, an organization that delivers meals to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-challenging illnesses. The restaurant's corporate parent, the Clover Restaurant Group, raised $500 for the organization.

Since its opening in March, Cappella Washington D.C. has donated roughly $20,000 worth of overnight stays at the luxury Georgetown hotel. Beneficiaries include the National Kidney Foundation, Starlight Children's Foundation and Fashion for Paws.

Capital One gave $100,000 to the United Way of the National Capital Area and $250,000 to the Latin American Youth Center in emergency funds during the federal government shutdown. The McLean-based credit card and banking giant sponsored the opening of the new Junior Achievement Finance Park in Prince George's County, with offers students real world experience with money management. The company also created the Book by Book initiative, a digital campaign to put beloved children’s books into the hands of young readers across the country. In June, Capital One committed nearly $500,000 to the local Easter Seals, a nonprofit staffing agency for veterans and their families. As part of Capital One’s $800,000 commitment to support the Women Veteran Entrepreneur Corps, a training and mentorship program, the company hosted a conference to help women veteran business owners create new jobs and fuel business growth.

CEB's annual Global Service Day drew 2,500 volunteers who completed a combined 13,000 hours of community service. These staffers worked on 125 varied projects, from cleaning up the Anacostia River to building bicycles for children. In coordination with Taproot Foundation, the Rosslyn-based research and talent assessment company held its first ever "ScopeAthon," in which 80 CEB employees met with 25 local nonprofits for a one-day pro bono session aimed at boosting organizational effectiveness.

CACI International this year participated in eCybermission, an online mentoring initiative meant to help students in grades six through nine work on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Arlington contractor’s employees also volunteered at events including bingo and trivia at a USO center at Fort Belvoir and with Wreaths Across America, which provides wreaths for veterans’ graves.

CGI maintained a partnership with Team Fisher House, the online, grass-roots fundraising program of Fisher House Foundation. The foundation provides housing for the families of military members who might be hospitalized or receiving other medical treatment. This year, CGI’s Fairfax-based operations contributed $75,000, in part through a sponsorship of Fisher House race jerseys that were worn for events such as the Marine Corps Marathon or Army Ten Miler. Staffers also volunteered for Fisher House at the Marine Corps Marathon.

Cooley’s D.C. lawyers logged 4,685 pro bono hours in 2013 on cases that dealt with immigration, asylum, intellectual property and consumer protection issues. The law firm also donated money to charities, including Whitman Walker Clinic, Gifts for the Homeless, Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights, Legal Counsel for the Elderly and Muslim Advocates.

Crowell & Moring’s Washington lawyers and staff contributed 27,000 hours in pro bono legal services to the homeless, children, immigrants, individuals seeking justice in the criminal system and victims of domestic violence. The law firm also participated in the Salvation Army’s “Angel Tree” holiday program that provides holiday gifts to children in need, and supported tutoring programs for children in D.C. public and charter schools.

Deloitte employees in the greater Washington area contributed more than 69,000 hours of volunteer time to the community and more than $1 million in pro bono services. The professional services firm also raised more than $1 million locally through its annual United Way Campaign, dedicating $100,000 to a new Deloitte-United Way Veterans Fund serving local veterans’ organizations. Deloitte was a lead convener of a regional pro bono summit in the greater Washington area, attended by more than 200 business, nonprofit and public sector leaders committed to advancing the cause of pro bono in the region.

Deltek this year hosted a breakfast to kick off Jeans Day, a Fairfax County effort to end homelessness. The Herndon company also collected more than 600 toys and nearly $3,000 for Toys for Tots at its annual holiday party and continued to host interns in support of the Year Up Foundation’s intern program, meant to give urban youths work experience. The company currently has three Year Up interns and has previously hired four employees who started as Year Up interns.

Drinker Biddle & Reath’s lawyers and legal professionals in the District devoted more than 4,500 pro bono hours in 2013 on matters including efforts to make prison phone calls more affordable, and compiling a report with the Equal Rights Center that showed Latinos seeking rental housing in Virginia were treated differently than white counterparts. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the firm raised more than $6,000 and collected gift cards, clothing and goods to Covenant House, a New Jersey-based organization that provides services to homeless youth. The firm also participated in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program, buying gifts for 44 children, and donated winter clothing, bedding and funds to the Gifts for the Homeless campaign.

DynCorp International this year donated about $117,000 to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, which provides support for
military and contractor families who have lost a relative. The Falls Church contractor also donated more than $110,000 to USO programs, including Operation Back to School, through which DynCorp purchased a calculator for every military child in the program. The company helped ship more than 40 boxes of winter clothing and supplies for residents of Afghanistan through the Afghan-American Women Association.

**Emergent Biosolutions** concentrates its philanthropic efforts on USO Metropolitan Washington, part of the biotechnology contractor’s strategy to support communities in which it also does business. The Rockville company gave $30,000 to help construct Fort Meade’s USO Center, a recreational facility for service members and their families. Employees at the company also stuffed backpacks with school supplies for USO’s Operation Back to School initiative and collected food donations in advance of the holiday season.

**Entertainment Cruises**, a Chicago company with operations in Washington, donated an Odyssey lunch cruise to wounded warriors from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Wounded Warriors in Transition Unit at Fort Belvoir. Odyssey employees volunteered to work on the cruise and serve as bartenders, food runners, servers and cooks. The company established a Making Waves program to encourage employee contributions to the local community. Its November food drive collected more than 500 items, which were donated to the National Baptist Memorial Church Well Food Pantry. It held a Toys for Tots drive in December. The company also donated a $14,000 National Elite yacht dinner cruise to Life With Cancer’s Lobster Extravaganza as a live auction item.

More than 700 employees in **Ernst & Young**’s greater Washington offices skipped a day at the office to do community volunteer activities, donating more than 4,200 volunteer hours to 13 nonprofit organizations. They worked with students on financial literacy, coached entrepreneurs on their business plans, decorated hats for cancer patients and helped with chores on sustainable food farms. The professional services company also sponsored the learning facility Finance Park in Fairfax, donated more than $40,000 raised through a annual bowl-a-thon benefit and gave more than 1,000 hours visiting elementary and high schools to educate students on business, economics and how to succeed in a global economy.

**Geppetto Catering** did a 12-month volunteer program through its “25 Years of Giving” campaign. The team volunteered at DC Central Kitchen by performing kitchen duties. The catering company’s employees also ran in Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind’s annual Light The Way 5K and provided barbecue for 1,150 racers. Employees also mentored Eastern Senior High School student summer interns and provided financial donations and in-kind catering for the school’s honor roll assemblies. Overall, the Riverdale company gave more than $24,500 in catering gift certificates to support 49 local nonprofit organizations for their silent auction fundraisers and events.

Supermarket chain **Giant Food of Landover** is on track to donate $12 million this year, including nearly $2 million to Washington area schools and $1.6 million for pediatric cancer research. The company also provided millions of meals to local hunger relief organizations, such as the Capital Area Food Bank and Maryland Food Bank.

District-based **HelloWallet** has had a double bottom line business model since its inception in 2009 — meaning it seeks to both make money and help the community. In that vein, the firm has given one free subscription of its personal finance software to a family in need for every five that it sells. In April, the firm upped that effort by offering free subscriptions to all 200,000 members of Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America.

**Holland & Knight** employees donated more than 65,000 hours of legal service to those in need and volunteered more than 1,800 days of community service through its 9/11 Day of Service initiative. More than 85 lawyers, professionals and staffers in the firm’s D.C. and Tysons Corner offices helped by volunteering for Rebuilding Together and raised more than $8,000 to be a house sponsor. It sponsored the holiday party for the Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center, which provides child care and counseling services to underprivileged children and their families. Twelve employees participated in the Audi Best Buddies Challenge in D.C. and raised $18,000. The event was held in support of Best Buddies International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The firm also held a month-long typhoon relief drive across its offices in the United States and abroad and raised more than $90,000 for American Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders to assist with the relief efforts in the Philippines.

Washington area **IBM** employees contributed more than $1 million to local and national charities through the company’s annual employee charitable contributions campaign. IBM also provided big data analytics technology and know-how to the Center for Inspired Teaching, helping its professional development strategy. Technology and know-how was also provided by IBM to the Latin American Youth Center, enabling them to improve operations. Additionally, 30 IBM employees volunteered at Food and Friends for a Day of Caring and more than 50 employees volunteered with the Yellow Ribbon Fund, which supports Walter Reed Bethesda Naval Hospital and Fort Belvoir, to host two special programs for 300 injured service members, their families and caregivers.
Eight staff members at the D.C. digital marketing firm iStrategyLabs devoted 125 hours this year to pulling together Social Media Week, a series of speakers, workshops and parties aimed at educating people about technology and social media in Washington. An estimated 5,000 people and 300 companies took part in the festivities.

**JBS International** gave to more than 10 local charities, including collecting school supplies for children in August and food and gift cards at Thanksgiving. In December, the woman-owned Rockville technology services firm collected toys for My Sister’s Place and New Endeavors by Women, a transitional residential program for homeless women and their children. On Valentine’s Day, the company prepared 100 gift bags for women at N Street Village.

Employees of **John Marshall Bank** serve as volunteer marketing and finance instructors at Strayer University, where they teach seminars for local entrepreneurs and business owners. In addition, the Reston-based bank donated more than $70,000 this year and hosted its second annual motorcycle ride to benefit injured veterans. Proceeds from the ride — which attracted 70 participants, including bank president Bill Ridenour — were donated to the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

More than 210 employees of the Mid-Atlantic offices of **Jones Lang LaSalle** participated in a day of service on Dec. 5, wrapping gifts for underprivileged children and families; preparing and delivering food for homebound residents; and assembling weekend meals for students in free lunch programs. Among the charities the services firm partnered with are Food & Friends, For Love of Children, New Hope Housing and Operation Homefront.

**Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States** held productions at local schools and community organization to address many topics including HIV/AIDS awareness, bullying, nutrition and active living through its Educational Theater Program. The theater group has performed more than 430 shows and workshops for 39,657 students and 9,073 adults. Kaiser Permanente has invested nearly $1.25 million in producing these productions at no cost to the school or community organization. The health care provider awarded more than $3 million in grants, donations and sponsorships to 85 nonprofit organizations which support health and wellness and employees volunteered more than 4,000 hours with various service organizations.

**K&L Gates** lawyers and staff packed about 18,000 pounds of food and hygiene products at Capital Area Food Bank, and made more than 650 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Martha’s Table. The law firm also did pro bono work for the American Heart Association’s Lawyers Have Heart program, the Capital Area Food Bank’s Outlaw Hunger Campaign, Legal Counsel for the Elderly and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program, and made charitable donations to So Others Might Eat, Manna, the Legal Aid Society of D.C., the D.C. Bar Foundation and the D.C. Fraternal Order of Police.

**KPMG** created a “Reading Relay” across 90 U.S. offices, where volunteers read to children and gave students new books to take home with them. More than 130,000 new books were distributed across the country, and children in the Washington area received 9,400 books. A lead sponsor of the American Heart Association of the Greater Washington Region, KPMG co-chaired the annual Heart Ball, donated funds and helped lead efforts to raise more than $1.5 million in support of the AHA’s mission. In addition, KPMG employees participated in the AHA’s Heart Walk. More than 110 employees donated in excess of 1,300 hours as volunteer teachers for Junior Achievement’s JA-in-a-Day, a program which brings accounting professionals into the classroom to enhance the financial literacy of children in a fun and engaging way.

**Leidos** presented a check for $25,000 to Paralyzed Veterans of America at a Washington Nationals game in September. The Reston company has donated nearly $300,000 to the organization over the past four years. Leidos also donated $25,000 to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation for educational outreach.

**LivingSocial** donated technology, money and man hours this year to assist Musicians On Call, which brings live music to patients’ bedside; Miriam’s Kitchen, which provides meals to the homeless; and typhoon relief in Southeast Asia. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues have become particularly important to the District-based deals firm. This year, 40 employees created a float to take part in the District’s Capital Pride Parade. LivingSocial’s attorneys also crafted an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court in support of striking down Proposition 8.

**Lockheed Martin** funded a mentoring program with Girls Inc. as well as Great Minds in STEM’s Viva Technology program. The Bethesda-based contractor also provided $4 million to UCLA’s Operation Mend, which paid for a surgical recovery suite and telehealth suite for military service members undergoing plastic and other reconstructive surgery.

**Long & Foster** committed to matching up to $25,000 in donations to the American Red Cross’s relief efforts in the Philippines after a deadly typhoon struck the island nation in November. Additionally, the real estate seller held its annual community service day in June in which thousands of staffers worked at parks, schools, shelters and day-care centers to help with spring cleaning and other improvements. At
Long & Foster’s Chantilly headquarters, employees spent that day collecting and packing food items for the You Feed Others program, which provides food for disadvantaged children in Fairfax county.

ManTech International backed CharityWorks, which connects business leaders to charities in the D.C. area to provide administrative and technical support. Company employees donated hundreds of hours to the organization and its partners. The Fairfax contractor also provided students at the Ivymount School, a special education school, with work experience at its corporate office and donated to the CIA Officers Memorial Foundation.

Attorneys and staff members at McDermott Will & Emery helped prepare food at DC Central Kitchen, coached students at Stuart Hobson Middle School for a geography tournament and worked at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. Firm employees also donated new clothes and toys to local children through Families Forward, a nonprofit that helps with employment training for families that are transitioning from shelters into homes.

MedImmune celebrated its 25th anniversary as a company this year, and the milestone became a theme for its philanthropic endeavors. The life sciences firm donated $25,000 to health care and science education groups, including Macmillan Cancer Support in the United Kingdom, the United Nations Foundation, Resource Area for Teaching and Starlight Children’s Foundation MidAtlantic. The company also challenged its employees to volunteer a combined 2,500 hours this year — a goal they had surpassed by 1,600 hours as of mid-December.

Money One Federal Credit Union of Largo held a school supply drive and a Thanksgiving food drive at its branches. It donated more than $1,000 in coats to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington Community.

Since 2005, District developer Monument Realty has participated in the D.C. Housing Authority’s Gift of Love Tree program, in which partners of the agency provide gifts for children and families living in significant economic hardship who rely on affordable housing vouchers. Gifts regularly include winter coats, school uniforms and school supplies. Monument also participates in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation “real estate games,” for which it founded and sponsors a bicycle race. And it holds a “Jeans Friday” every month, where the staff picks an employee’s favorite charity and donates to that cause. Everyone gets to wear jeans.

Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation donated $106,053.94 to Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. One hundred percent of the proceeds from 2,774 Courage Caps and 1,858 Courage T-shirts sold benefitted TAPS, a national nonprofit that provides care for the families of America’s fallen military heroes. It also gave a $50,000 grant and programming to Playworks Washington D.C., for the 2013-14 school year, and started a hockey program in five schools in the fall of 2013. For the holidays, Washington Capitals, Mystics and Wizards players and coaches and significant others assisted in a $20,000 shopping spree at Wal-mart for underserved families by shopping, wrapping and delivering gifts.

MRP Realty, a District real estate developer, supported a Toys for Tots drive and an array of local charities in 2013, including the Arlington Free Clinic, Fight for Children and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington. MRP staff volunteered at Bread for the City, which provides services including food, clothing, medical care, legal and social services.

Encouraging students, particularly girls, to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math is a cause central to Sterling-based Neustar’s annual giving. The company partnered with District-based EverFi to deliver an online course in digital literacy to students in Virginia, Kentucky and California — states where Neustar has large operations — at a cost of $900,000. The firm also provided $40,000 in support to the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

To mark new branch openings, Navy Federal Credit Union donates $1,000 to a local Fisher House facility, which provides lodging for families of military personnel undergoing medical procedures. This year, the Vienna-based credit union opened new local branches in Fredericksburg and Germantown. Employees also raised more than $350,000 for United Way’s Live United campaign.

New Signature made in-kind donations of technology and interactive Web services to organizations including Year Up, Street Sense, Urban Alliance, CrisisLink and Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. The value of those donations was equal to about 2.5 percent of the company’s revenue. In October, the Washington firm received the 2013 Street Sense Good Neighbor Award for the assistance they’ve provided to the biweekly street newspaper.

Nixon Peabody worked with Critical Exposure, an organization that gives children in underserved D.C. schools a chance to highlight issues through photography to create social change. The law firm was lead sponsor for the organization’s annual event that drew more than 300 people to the Edison Gallery and raised $38,000. The firm also fundraised for Rachael’s Women’s Center, First Book — a nonprofit that provide books to low-income children across the country — and worked with Enterprise Community Partners to clean and landscape a vacant property in Southeast D.C. that will be converted into low-income housing.
Northrop Grumman and its foundation focused on contributions to science, technology, engineering and math-focused organizations in 2013, including a $4.5 million, three-year grant to the CyberPatriot program. The Falls Church company also completed a $5 million donation to the USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir and announced it would continue to sponsor the Military Bowl.

Patton Boggs in 2013 gave nearly 43,000 hours of pro bono services and contributed to more than 50 organizations, including the DC Jazz Festival, Don Bosco Cristo Rey Corporate Work Study Program and the Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

The Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation donated more than $100,000 for day care services at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Marine Corp Base Quantico. It also gave nearly $442,500 to its Military Heroes Fund, which helps wounded veterans to retrofit their homes and vehicles.

Prudential PenFed Realty gave nearly $30,000 to Sunshine Kids, a national charity that adds quality of life to children with cancer by providing them with group activities.

Raffa’s Companies for Causes, a program that encourages corporate philanthropy, hosted a group of students during the summer for an internship and professional development program. Raffa employees gave $25,000 to the AIDS Life Cycle Ride. Each month, employees of the Washington consultancy give donations to a charity through its Denim Day drive and the company gave $7,500 to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

Restaurant staff at Ris prepared meals for the Capital Area Food Bank and walked as a team to fight leukemia. They mentored more than 200 Girl Scouts on leadership, hosted underprivileged students for lunches with lessons on etiquette, and offered kitchen skills training for 15 high school students to help them secure jobs. Overall, the restaurant of 70 totaled 350 hours of community service and donated $25,700 worth of food, charity gift certificates and other contributions.

Science Applications International Corp. donated $250,000 to Operation Homefront, which provides financial and other types of support to members of the military, including those who have been wounded. The McLean contractor also supplied more than 6,000 backpacks for children of service members. Additionally, SAIC helped provide Washington Nationals tickets for military families who have lost a relative at war as well as wounded service members.

Sodexo of Gaithersburg and its charitable arm, the Sodexo Foundation, raised more than $2.3 million this year through employee payroll deductions and fundraisers, supplier partner campaigns and its annual Sodexo Foundation Dinner. The foundation funded backpack food programs and summer feeding programs that provided more than 400,000 meals to needy children in 2013. Sodexo Foundation is also working to mobilize youth in the fight against hunger. Its Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarship, which rewards students who have made an impact in the fight against hunger, generated 5,300 applications in December.

The Sprinkles cupcake shop in Georgetown teamed with “Scandal” star Kerry Washington this fall to raise $10,000 for Americans for the Arts. All proceeds from the sale of red velvet cupcakes — which Washington served up to customers — went to the nonprofit organization. Throughout the year, the store donated $200,000 in cash (and cupcakes) to local organizations, such as D.C. Public Schools and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Leftover cupcakes are donated daily to Central Union Mission and Crowder Owens Food Bank.

SRA International sponsored the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology National Capital Region chapter, which promotes science and technology for young people. SRA’s employees served as competition judges, mentored robotics and Lego teams, and developed an interactive technology demonstration. SRA also donated $24,000 to Homes for Our Troops and organized employee volunteer work days for the organization.

Steptoe & Johnson’s Washington office provided 29,065 hours of pro bono representation, continued its monthly “Casual for a Cause” Fridays — where employees can wear jeans in exchange for a donation to a charity — and raised $20,000 for Gifts for the Homeless.

This year, Tasc employees, family members and friends logged 2,698 miles of walking or running to support the Walking with the Wounded Project, which helps retrain and reeducate wounded soldiers. Employees also raised $11,000 for Building Homes for Heroes, an organization that builds or modifies homes for wounded veterans. Tasc matched the donation to bring the total to $22,000.

Triple Canopy sponsored events at the Special Olympics of Virginia. The Herndon security contractor also sponsored six Armed Forces Foundation dinners at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and sponsored 15 wishes in the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree Program.

Developer Urban Investment Partners is a benefactor of the Anne Frank House, a nonprofit founded by Adas Israel congregants in 1988.
that provides housing support for local residents suffering from mental illness. Along with his family, Steven Schwat, who co-founded UIP, packed and delivered Thanksgiving meals to AFH clients.

Telecommunications behemoth Verizon has made domestic violence awareness and prevention a cornerstone of its charitable giving for the past 15 years. This year, the company will dole out an expected $6.5 million nationally to aide shelters and prevention organizations. That figure includes 25 grants totaling $332,500 to organization around the Washington region, including Mary’s Center, My Sister’s Place, Bowie State University Foundation and Shelter for Help in Emergency.

Vornado/Charles E Smith is a partner to Higher Achievement, a year-round learning program that helps at-risk District middle school students aim for college. Higher Achievement’s gala, led by company President Mitchell Schear, also a board member, raised $1.2 million. The commercial real estate company was the exclusive corporate volunteer for the Higher Achievement Olympics of the Mind, an academic competition. Vornado’s food drive donated more than 5,300 pounds of food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center and Capital Area Food Bank and raised more than $14,000 for the Capital Breast Cancer Center.

Staff from Washington Property Co., based in Bethesda, participated in Children’s National Medical Center’s “Race for Every Child,” an October run and walk along Pennsylvania Avenue.

WilmerHale staff and attorneys tutored 30 high school students from Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools, volunteered pro bono hours and made financial donations to Bread for the City, and participated in a 5k walk to benefit Whitman-Walker Health, a nonprofit organization that helps those affected by HIV/AIDS. Since 2011, the firm has raised more than $55,000 for the group. So far in 2013, D.C. area employees have logged 61,077 pro bono hours.

Vanessa Small, who covers nonprofits, compiled this report with contributions from Abha Bhattarai, Marjorie Censer, Sarah Halzack, Catherine Ho, Jonathan O’Connell and Steven Overly.
When Roscoe Bartlett was in Congress, he latched onto a particularly apocalyptic issue, one almost no one else ever seemed to talk about: America’s dangerously vulnerable power grid. In speech after late-night speech on the House floor, Bartlett hectored the nearly empty chamber: If the United States doesn’t do something to protect the grid, and soon, a terrorist or an act of nature will put an end to life as we know it.

Bartlett loved to conjure doomsday visions: Think post-Sandy New York City without power—but spread over a much larger area for months at a time. He once recounted a conversation he claimed to have had with unnamed Russian officials about how they could take out the United States: They would “detonate a nuclear weapon high above your country,” he recalled them saying, “and shut down your power grid—and your communications—for six months or so.”

Bartlett never gained much traction with his scary talk of electromagnetic pulses and solar storms. More immediate concerns always seemed to preoccupy his colleagues, or perhaps Bartlett’s obsessions just sounded more like quackery than real science, even coming from a former Navy engineer who had worked on the space race. Whatever the reason, Congress’s failure to act is no longer Bartlett’s problem. The octogenarian Republican from western Maryland—more than once labeled “the oddest congressman”—found himself gerrymandered out of office a year ago and promptly decided to take action on the warnings others wouldn’t heed, retreating to a remote property in the mountains of West Virginia where he lives with no phone service, no connection to outside power and no municipal plumbing. Having failed to safeguard the power grid for the rest of the country, Bartlett has taken himself completely off the grid. He has finally done what he pleaded in vain for others to do: “to become,” as he put it in a 2009 documentary, “independent of the system.”

I visited Bartlett this past fall, following a set of maze-like directions—take a series of different forks in the road and look for the one paved driveway that turns off a narrow, rocky dirt road—as I climbed to nearly 4,000 feet, one of the highest U.S. elevations east of the Rocky Mountains. I lost cell phone service halfway into the four-hour drive from Washington and never got it back. The nearest shopping mall is more than an hour’s drive away.

When I arrived, Bartlett greeted me in faded denim overalls and an unruly white beard and asked if anything had happened since he was last in Maryland, about a week earlier. I told him that the National Security Agency had just been caught tapping into the connections between data centers run by Google and Yahoo. He looked nonplussed.

Limiting the role of government consumed much of his life for the 20 years he spent in Congress, leaving little time simply to sit by his lake and watch the sun go down and the bats come out. But nowadays, his concerns center around when the next frost will come and keeping mice out of the food pantries. He’s more interested in pointing out the different species of trees on his property or showing off his new composting toilet than discussing Obamacare (“just awful”) or the government shutdown (“lots of people realized we could get along just fine without the government”).

“You know,” he said after a pause, “the news now is like a soap opera. If you miss it for a week, you haven’t missed much.”

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“People ask me ‘Why?’” Bartlett says as he is showing me around. “And I ask people why you climb Mount Everest. It’s a challenge, and it’s challenging to think what life would be like if there weren’t any grid and there weren’t any grocery stores. That’s what life was like for our forefathers.”

At 87, Bartlett hardly needs a reason to justify getting far away from the hustle and stress of Capitol Hill. There are no more votes to go back for, no more campaigning to do after nearly two decades as by far the most conservative member of Congress from the generally liberal state of Maryland. But he hasn’t fully withdrawn from society: Every couple weeks, he shaves, puts his suit back on and heads to Washington, where he serves as a senior consultant for Lineage Technologies, a cybersecurity group that seeks to protect supply chains. (“I don’t need to work, but I want to be responsible,” he says. “There are problems that need fixing, and I have some insight into these things.”)

Bartlett’s newest cabin overlooks his manmade lake and will become his primary residence after he finishes the interior. He works on the cabin six days a week. The dining room, kitchen and living area will be heated by a large wood-burning stove.

| Photos by Jason Koebler |
Not that his life out here in the mountains is anyone’s idea of retirement. He rises at dawn every day except Saturday (he’s a Seventh Day Adventist) and spends 10 to 12 hours cutting logs, tending gardens and painting walls. I ask Bartlett, as he climbs a ladder to an attic, if he has ever had any health problems. No, he says, besides a little arthritis and acid reflux. He may be pushing 90, but his weathered skin, hearing aid and walking stick are the only reasons you’d think he’s gotten old. When his wife suggests we use “the Gator,” a John Deere golf cart-like vehicle, to tour their refuge, he refuses, preferring to go by foot.
The Dupont Park Adventist School’s annual STEM Fair

“I thought of the idea for this experiment because I love music and I wanted to see what effect different styles of music have on the circulatory system,” said Madeline in front of her poster titled “I Love Music.” Her poster described an experiment she performed where she hoped to determine the effect of different genres of music on the cardiac function of the participants in the study. Her test subjects listened to numerous genres of music including gospel, rap, and rock among others and then their blood pressure was measured. Her poster was one of many at Dupont Park Adventist School’s annual STEM Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

On Dec. 19, Dupont Park Adventist School hosted its annual STEM fair for students in grades six, seven and eight at their Massachusetts Avenue campus. The goal of the fair was to expose the students to STEM, re-enforce what they had been taught about the scientific method, and to get them to think of their own potential experiments based upon their personal interests and ideas they could find through research. Each experiment was summarized on a poster.

Volunteer judges from the community were asked to come and participate in the fair to help score the student’s posters, and also to give them feedback and pointers. The posters were graded based upon:

• The generation of a hypothesis
• Clear identification of dependent and independent variables
• Clear description of the methods and procedures using metric units, and use of multiple trials
• Interpretation of results
• Conclusions, potential future experiments and relevance to the real world

“I thought the brownies would have a greater thickness when I added 15 milliliters (ml) of baking soda to the mixture,” said another student named Anaiyah who aspires to pursue the culinary arts one day. “The opposite of my hypothesis occurred which was that the more baking soda I added, the less thickness the brownies had.”

In her experiment titled “Will the Best Brownies Please Rise,” Anaiyah had designed a study where she titrated different amounts of baking soda (the independent variable) into a brownie mixture and then measured the thickness of the brownies (the dependent variable).

“I think the brownies sunk because the baking soda contributed too much acid to the system,” Anaiyah continued when asked to give an explanation of her results. That led to a discussion where it was suggested to her that there actually may have been too much base added to her brownie mixtures since the active ingredient in baking soda is actually the base sodium bicarbonate.

Other students received similar feedback and debriefing on various aspects of their posters which described experiments testing numerous other ideas. Among them were Soda Meltdown, It’s Crystal Clear, So Long Soil, 3-2-1 Blastoff, and many others.

“Our students like STEM, though there are some parts that they are averse to like the math but they do enjoy doing experiments,” said Mrs. Donna Fields who teaches science at the Dupont Park Adventist School and organizes the STEM fair when asked whether or not her students enjoy science. “They like explaining orally but struggle with the writing at times. They like to discover.”

In addition to their STEM fair, the Dupont Adventist School periodically invites STEM practitioners from the community to come talk to the students about their careers and to give science demonstrations as well.
How local businesses gave to charity in 2013

Just when charities have started to recover from the worst recession in a generation, a new threat struck in 2013. The automatic budget cuts known as sequestration and a 16-day federal government shutdown offered fresh challenges from reduced grants, forcing many charities to lean on the private sector more than ever.

Many companies rose to the challenge. Here’s a sample of the ways Washington area businesses made their mark on the community this year; consider this a snapshot of the good deeds in our midst.

— Vanessa Small

**Adventist HealthCare** donated about $60 million worth of health care and community benefits this year. The Rockville organization offered free and low-cost health services to about 54,000 people, including wellness education, support groups for stroke survivors and screenings for heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Adventist partnered on its community outreach efforts with organizations such as the Mercy Health Clinic, Rockville Senior Center and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington. In April, Adventist employees, along with their family and friends, helped renovate the Silver Spring home of a 62-year-old man who has been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease.

**Advisory Board Co.** saw 100 percent of its employees participate in community service in 2013. Employees conducted 32,000 hours of service, an average of more than 13 hours per staffer. The Washington firm executed more than 70 pro bono projects for its nonprofit partners. It also provided monetary contributions to 23 organizations through its Community Impact Grants program.

**National wireless provider AT&T** donated more than $1 million to nonprofit organizations in the Washington region this year, focusing primarily on those that prepare students for college and careers after high school. Organizations that benefited from the program include Food and Friends ($90,000), the Washington Drama Society ($50,000), the MdBio Foundation ($20,000) and the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts ($25,000). Additionally, the company contributed $40,000 to the National Book Festival and gave grants to the Wounded Warrior Project.

During what’s known as “Spirit of Caring Month” at Arlington’s **AvalonBay Communities**, employees across the country collaborate on volunteer projects that serve their local communities. In the Washington region, staffers worked to assist families who had sought services from the District Alliance for Safe Housing, a group that provides housing and services for survivors of domestic violence.

**Alliant Techsystems**’s chief executive serves on the USO-Metro Washington board of directors, and ATK sponsors a half-dozen events annually with the organization. This year, the Arlington company volunteered at a skeet and trap shooting event for members of the military and their families, as well as a tour of the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Center in Chantilly and a chance to meet ATK’s astronauts.

In December, more than 50 employees from **BAE Systems** volunteered at the company’s Trees for Our Heroes event, which allows 150 military families to select a Christmas tree, make holiday crafts, and get photos taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. In June, the company held a giving campaign that raised $50,000 for United Through Reading, an organization that promotes the read-aloud experience for separated military families.

**Bank of America**’s charitable foundation gave Capital Partners for Education and Urban Alliance Foundation each a $200,000 unrestricted grant. The bank also connected more than 80 local teens to summer employment through its 2013 Student Leaders program, which places community-minded high school students in paid eight-week internships at local nonprofits, and the 2013 Summer Youth Employment Initiative, which provides low-income teens an opportunity to gain valuable work experience through internships at local banking centers and nonprofits. The foundation gave more than $1.5 million in grants to more than 60 nonprofits in the greater Washington area as part of a national effort to enhance the economic vitality of local communities with a focus on housing, hunger and jobs.

**Booz Allen Hamilton** provided pro bono expert consulting for a literacy program, support for multiple sclerosis, guidance to an education effort and assistance to an environmental program. The activities were among eight projects, each valued at more than $150,000. The McLean company also planned and sponsored an event for more than 1,000 elementary and middle school students, parents, coaches and volunteers to learn about natural disaster preparedness and recovery in partnership with 15 area organizations, including the National Building Museum, the American Red Cross, and the Washington Humane Society. About 115 Booz Allen employees serve as mentors through the Wounded Warrior Mentor Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Fort Belvoir.
Cafe Deluxe and Tortilla Coast locations held a fundraiser where $1 of every margarita sold went to benefit Food and Friends, an organization that delivers meals to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-challenging illnesses. The restaurant’s corporate parent, the Clover Restaurant Group, raised $500 for the organization.

Since its opening in March, Cappella Washington D.C. has donated roughly $20,000 worth of overnight stays at the luxury Georgetown hotel. Beneficiaries include the National Kidney Foundation, Starlight Children’s Foundation and Fashion for Paws.

Capital One gave $100,000 to the United Way of the National Capital Area and $250,000 to the Latin American Youth Center in emergency funds during the federal government shutdown. The McLean-based credit card and banking giant sponsored the opening of the new Junior Achievement Finance Park in Prince George’s County, with offerings students real world experience with money management. The company also created the Book by Book initiative, a digital campaign to put beloved children’s books into the hands of young readers across the country. In June, Capital One committed nearly $500,000 to the local Easter Seals, a nonprofit staffing agency for veterans and their families. As part of Capital One’s $800,000 commitment to support the Women Veteran Entrepreneur Corps, a training and mentorship program, the company hosted a conference to help women veteran business owners create new jobs and fuel business growth.

CEB’s annual Global Service Day drew 2,500 volunteers who completed a combined 13,000 hours of community service. These staffers worked on 125 varied projects, from cleaning up the Anacostia River to building bicycles for children. In cooperation with Taproot Foundation, the Rosslyn-based research and talent assessment company held its first ever “ScopeAthon,” in which 80 CEB employees met with 25 local nonprofits for a one-day pro bono session aimed at boosting organizational effectiveness.

CACI International this year participated in eCybermission, an online mentoring initiative meant to help students in grades six through nine work on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Arlington contractor’s employees also volunteered at events including bingo and trivia at a USO center at Fort Belvoir and with Wreaths Across America, which provides wreaths for veterans’ graves.

CGI maintained a partnership with Team Fisher House, the online, grass-roots fundraising program of Fisher House Foundation. The foundation provides housing for the families of military members who might be hospitalized or receiving other medical treatment. This year, CGI’s Fairfax-based operations contributed $75,000, in part through a sponsorship of Fisher House race jerseys that were worn for events such as the Marine Corps Marathon or Army Ten Miler. Staffers also volunteered for Fisher House at the Marine Corps Marathon.

Cooley’s D.C. lawyers logged 4,685 pro bono hours in 2013 on cases that dealt with immigration, asylum, intellectual property and consumer protection issues. The law firm also donated money to charities, including Whitman Walker Clinic, Gifts for the Homeless, Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights, Legal Counsel for the Elderly and Muslim Advocates.

Crowell & Moring’s Washington lawyers and staff contributed 27,000 hours in pro bono legal services to the homeless, children, immigrants, individuals seeking justice in the criminal system and victims of domestic violence. The law firm also participated in the Salvation Army’s “Angel Tree” holiday program that provides holiday gifts to children in need, and supported tutoring programs for children in D.C. public and charter schools.

Deloitte employees in the greater Washington area contributed more than 69,000 hours of volunteer time to the community and more than $1 million in pro bono services. The professional services firm also raised more than $1 million locally through its annual United Way Campaign, dedicating $100,000 to a new Deloitte-United Way Veterans Fund serving local veterans’ organizations. Deloitte was a lead convener of a regional pro bono summit in the greater Washington area, attended by more than 200 business, nonprofit and public sector leaders committed to advancing the cause of pro bono in the region.

Deltek this year hosted a breakfast to kick off Jeans Day, a Fairfax County effort to end homelessness. The Herndon company also collected more than 600 toys and nearly $3,000 for Toys for Tots at its annual holiday party and continued to host interns in support of the Year Up Foundation’s intern program, meant to give urban youths work experience. The company currently has three Year Up interns and has previously hired four employees who started as Year Up interns.

Drinker Biddle & Reath’s lawyers and legal professionals in the District devoted more than 4,500 pro bono hours in 2013 on matters including efforts to make prison phone calls more affordable, and compiling a report with the Equal Rights Center that showed Latinos seeking rental housing in Virginia were treated differently than white counterparts. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the firm raised more than $6,000 and collected gift cards, clothing and goods to Covenant House, a New Jersey-based organization that provides services to homeless youth. The firm also participated in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Program, buying gifts for 44 children, and donated winter clothing, bedding and funds to the Gifts for the Homeless campaign.

DynCorp International this year donated about $117,000 to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, which provides support for
military and contractor families who have lost a relative. The Falls Church contractor also donated more than $110,000 to USO programs, including Operation Back to School, through which DynCorp purchased a calculator for every military child in the program. The company helped ship more than 40 boxes of winter clothing and supplies for residents of Afghanistan through the Afghan-American Women Association.

**Emergent Biosolutions** concentrates its philanthropic efforts on USO Metropolitan Washington, part of the biotechnology contractor’s strategy to support communities in which it also does business. The Rockville company gave $30,000 to help construct Fort Meade’s USO Center, a recreational facility for service members and their families. Employees at the company also stuffed backpacks with school supplies for USO’s Operation Back to School initiative and collected food donations in advance of the holiday season.

**Entertainment Cruises**, a Chicago company with operations in Washington, donated an Odyssey lunch cruise to wounded warriors from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Wounded Warriors in Transition Unit at Fort Belvoir. Odyssey employees volunteered to work on the cruise and serve as bartenders, food runners, servers and cooks. The company established a Making Waves program to encourage employee contributions to the local community. Its November food drive collected more than 500 items, which were donated to the National Baptist Memorial Church Well Food Pantry. It held a Toys for Tots drive in December. The company also donated a $14,000 National Elite yacht dinner cruise to Life With Cancer’s Lobster Extravaganza as a live auction item.

More than 700 employees in **Ernst & Young**’s greater Washington offices skipped a day at the office to do community volunteer activities, donating more than 4,200 volunteer hours to 13 nonprofit organizations. They worked with students on financial literacy, coached entrepreneurs on their business plans, decorated hats for cancer patients and helped with chores on sustainable food farms. The professional services company also sponsored the learning facility Finance Park in Fairfax, donated more than $40,000 raised through an annual bowl-a-thon benefit and gave more than 1,000 hours visiting elementary and high schools to educate students on business, economics and how to succeed in a global economy.

**Geppetto Catering** did a 12-month volunteer program through its “25 Years of Giving” campaign. The team volunteered at DC Central Kitchen by performing kitchen duties. The catering company’s employees also ran in Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind’s annual Light The Way 5K and provided barbecue for 1,150 racers. Employees also mentored Eastern Senior High School student summer interns and provided financial donations and in-kind catering for the school’s honor roll assemblies. Overall, the Riverdale company gave more than $24,500 in catering gift certificates to support 49 local nonprofit organizations for their silent auction fundraisers and events.

Supermarket chain **Giant Food of Landover** is on track to donate $12 million this year, including nearly $2 million to Washington area schools and $1.6 million for pediatric cancer research. The company also provided millions of meals to local hunger relief organizations, such as the Capital Area Food Bank and Maryland Food Bank.

District-based **HelloWallet** has had a double bottom line business model since its inception in 2009 — meaning it seeks to both make money and help the community. In that vein, the firm has given one free subscription of its personal finance software to a family in need for every five that it sells. In April, the firm upped that effort by offering free subscriptions to all 200,000 members of Iraq Afghanistan Veterans of America.

**Holland & Knight** employees donated more than 65,000 hours of legal service to those in need and volunteered more than 1,800 days of community service through its 9/11 Day of Service initiative. More than 85 lawyers, professionals and staffers in the firm’s D.C. and Tysons Corner offices helped by volunteering for Rebuilding Together and raised more than $8,000 to be a house sponsor. It sponsored the holiday party for the Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center, which provides child care and counseling services to underprivileged children and their families. Twelve employees participated in the Audi Best Buddies Challenge in D.C. and raised $18,000. The event was held in support of Best Buddies International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The firm also held a month-long typhoon relief drive across its offices in the United States and abroad and raised more than $90,000 for American Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders to assist with the relief efforts in the Philippines.

Washington area **IBM** employees contributed more than $1 million to local and national charities through the company’s annual employee charitable contributions campaign. IBM also provided big data analytics technology and know-how to the Center for Inspired Teaching, helping its professional development strategy. Technology and know-how was also provided by IBM to the Latin American Youth Center, enabling them to improve operations. Additionally, 30 IBM employees volunteered at Food and Friends for a Day of Caring and more than 50 employees volunteered with the Yellow Ribbon Fund, which supports Walter Reed Bethesda Naval Hospital and Fort Belvoir, to host two special programs for 300 injured service members, their families and caregivers.
Eight staff members at the D.C. digital marketing firm iStrategy Labs devoted 125 hours this year to pulling together Social Media Week, a series of speakers, workshops and parties aimed at educating people about technology and social media in Washington. An estimated 5,000 people and 300 companies took part in the festivities.

**JBS International** gave to more than 10 local charities, including collecting school supplies for children in August and food and gift cards at Thanksgiving. In December, the woman-owned Rockville technology services firm collected toys for My Sister’s Place and New Endeavors by Women, a transitional residential program for homeless women and their children. On Valentine’s Day, the company prepared 100 gift bags for women at N Street Village.

Employees of **John Marshall Bank** serve as volunteer marketing and finance instructors at Strayer University, where they teach seminars for local entrepreneurs and business owners. In addition, the Reston-based bank donated more than $70,000 this year and hosted its second annual motorcycle ride to benefit injured veterans. Proceeds from the ride — which attracted 70 participants, including bank president Bill Ridenour — were donated to the Wounded Warrior Foundation.

More than 210 employees of the Mid-Atlantic offices of **Jones Lang LaSalle** participated in a day of service on Dec. 5, wrapping gifts for underprivileged children and families; preparing and delivering food for homeless residents; and assembling weekend meals for students in free lunch programs. Among the charities the services firm partnered with are Food & Friends, For Love of Children, New Hope Housing and Operation Homefront.

**Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States** held productions at local schools and community organization to address many topics including HIV/AIDS awareness, bullying, nutrition and active living through its Educational Theater Program. The theater group has performed more than 430 shows and workshops for 39,657 students and 9,073 adults. Kaiser Permanente has invested nearly $1.25 million in producing these productions at no cost to the school or community organization. The health care provider awarded more than $3 million in grants, donations and sponsorships to 85 nonprofit organizations which support health and wellness and employees volunteered more than 4,000 hours with various service organizations.

**K&L Gates** lawyers and staff packed about 18,000 pounds of food and hygiene products at Capital Area Food Bank, and made more than 650 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Martha’s Table. The law firm also did pro bono work for the American Heart Association’s Lawyers Have Heart program, the Capital Area Food Bank’s Outlaw Hunger Campaign, Legal Counsel for the Elderly and the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program, and made charitable donations to So Others Might Eat, Manna, the Legal Aid Society of D.C., the D.C. Bar Foundation and the D.C. Fraternal Order of Police.

**KPMG** created a “Reading Relay” across 90 U.S. offices, where volunteers read to children and gave students new books to take home with them. More than 130,000 new books were distributed across the country, and children in the Washington area received 9,400 books. A lead sponsor of the American Heart Association of the Greater Washington Region, KPMG co-chaired the annual Heart Ball, donated funds and helped lead efforts to raise more than $1.5 million in support of the AHA’s mission. In addition, KPMG employees participated in the AHA’s Heart Walk. More than 110 employees donated in excess of 1,300 hours as volunteer teachers for Junior Achievement’s JA-in-a-Day, a program which brings accounting professionals into the classroom to enhance the financial literacy of children in a fun and engaging way.

**Leidos** presented a check for $25,000 to Paralyzed Veterans of America at a Washington Nationals game in September. The Reston company has donated nearly $300,000 to the organization over the past four years. Leidos also donated $25,000 to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation for educational outreach.

**LivingSocial** donated technology, money and man hours this year to assist Musicians On Call, which brings live music to patients’ bedside; Miriam’s Kitchen, which provides meals to the homeless; and typhoon relief in Southeast Asia. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues have become particularly important to the District-based deals firm. This year, 40 employees created a float to take part in the District’s Capital Pride Parade. LivingSocial’s attorneys also crafted an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court in support of striking down Proposition 8.

**Lockheed Martin** funded a mentoring program with Girls Inc. as well as Great Minds in STEM’s Viva Technology program. The Bethesda-based contractor also provided $4 million to UCLA’s Operation Mend, which paid for a surgical recovery suite and telehealth suite for military service members undergoing plastic and other reconstructive surgery.

**Long & Foster** committed to matching up to $25,000 in donations to the American Red Cross’s relief efforts in the Philippines after a deadly typhoon struck the island nation in November. Additionally, the real estate seller held its annual community service day in June in which thousands of staffers worked at parks, schools, shelters and day-care centers to help with spring cleaning and other improvements. At
Long & Foster’s Chantilly headquarters, employees spent that day collecting and packing food items for the You Feed Others program, which provides food for disadvantaged children in Fairfax county.

**ManTech International** backed CharityWorks, which connects business leaders to charities in the D.C. area to provide administrative and technical support. Company employees donated hundreds of hours to the organization and its partners. The Fairfax contractor also provided students at the Ivymount School, a special education school, with work experience at its corporate office and donated to the CIA Officers Memorial Foundation.

Attorneys and staff members at **McDermott Will & Emery** helped prepare food at DC Central Kitchen, coached students at Stuart Hobson Middle School for a geography tournament and worked at the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. Firm employees also donated new clothes and toys to local children through Families Forward, a nonprofit that helps with employment training for families that are transitioning from shelters into homes.

**MedImmune** celebrated its 25th anniversary as a company this year, and the milestone became a theme for its philanthropic endeavors. The life sciences firm donated $25,000 to health care and science education groups, including Macmillan Cancer Support in the United Kingdom, the United Nations Foundation, Resource Area for Teaching and Starlight Children’s Foundation MidAtlantic. The company also challenged its employees to volunteer a combined 2,500 hours this year — a goal they had surpassed by 1,600 hours as of mid-December.

**Money One Federal Credit Union** of Largo held a school supply drive and a Thanksgiving food drive at its branches. It donated more than $1,000 in coats to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington Community.

Since 2005, District developer **Monument Realty** has participated in the D.C. Housing Authority’s Gift of Love Tree program, in which partners of the agency provide gifts for children and families living in significant economic hardship who rely on affordable housing vouchers. Gifts regularly include winter coats, school uniforms and school supplies. Monument also participates in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation “real estate games,” for which it founded and sponsors a bicycle race. And it holds a “Jeans Friday” every month, where the staff picks an employee’s favorite charity and donates to that cause. Everyone gets to wear jeans.

**Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation** donated $106,053.94 to Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. One hundred percent of the proceeds from 2,774 Courage Caps and 1,858 Courage T-shirts sold benefitted TAPS, a national nonprofit that provides care for the families of America’s fallen military heroes. It also gave a $50,000 grant and programming to Playworks Washington D.C., for the 2013-14 school year, and started a hockey program in five schools in the fall of 2013. For the holidays, Washington Capitals, Mystics and Wizards players and coaches and significant others assisted in a $20,000 shopping spree at Wal-mart for underserved families by shopping, wrapping and delivering gifts.

**MRP Realty**, a District real estate developer, supported a Toys for Tots drive and an array of local charities in 2013, including the Arlington Free Clinic, Fight for Children and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington. MRP staff volunteered at Bread for the City, which provides services including food, clothing, medical care, legal and social services.

Encouraging students, particularly girls, to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math is a cause central to Sterling-based **Neustar’s** annual giving. The company partnered with District-based **EverFi** to deliver an online course in digital literacy to students in Virginia, Kentucky and California — states where Neustar has large operations — at a cost of $900,000. The firm also provided $40,000 in support to the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

To mark new branch openings, **Navy Federal Credit Union** donates $1,000 to a local Fisher House facility, which provides lodging for families of military personnel undergoing medical procedures. This year, the Vienna-based credit union opened new local branches in Fredericksburg and Germantown. Employees also raised more than $350,000 for United Way’s Live United campaign.

**New Signature** made in-kind donations of technology and interactive Web services to organizations including Year Up, Street Sense, Urban Alliance, CrisisLink and Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. The value of those donations was equal to about 2.5 percent of the company’s revenue. In October, the Washington firm received the 2013 Street Sense Good Neighbor Award for the assistance they’ve provided to the biweekly street newspaper.

**Nixon Peabody** worked with Critical Exposure, an organization that gives children in underserved D.C. schools a chance to highlight issues through photography to create social change. The law firm was lead sponsor for the organization’s annual event that drew more than 300 people to the Edison Gallery and raised $38,000. The firm also fundraised for Rachael’s Women’s Center, First Book — a nonprofit that provide books to low-income children across the country — and worked with Enterprise Community Partners to clean and landscape a vacant property in Southeast D.C. that will be converted into low-income housing.
Northrop Grumman and its foundation focused on contributions to science, technology, engineering and math-focused organizations in 2013, including a $4.5 million, three-year grant to the CyberPatriot program. The Falls Church company also completed a $5 million donation to the USO Warrior and Family Center at Fort Belvoir and announced it would continue to sponsor the Military Bowl.

Patton Boggs in 2013 gave nearly 43,000 hours of pro bono services and contributed to more than 50 organizations, including the DC Jazz Festival, Don Bosco Cristo Rey Corporate Work Study Program and the Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

The Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation donated more than $100,000 for day care services at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Marine Corp Base Quantico. It also gave nearly $442,500 to its Military Heroes Fund, which helps wounded veterans to retrofit their homes and vehicles.

Prudential PenFed Realty gave nearly $30,000 to Sunshine Kids, a national charity that adds quality of life to children with cancer by providing them with group activities.

Raffa’s Companies for Causes, a program that encourages corporate philanthropy, hosted a group of students during the summer for an internship and professional development program. Raffa employees gave $25,000 to the AIDS Life Cycle Ride. Each month, employees of the Washington consultancy give donations to a charity through its Denim Day drive and the company gave $7,500 to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

Restaurant staff at Ris prepared meals for the Capital Area Food Bank and walked as a team to fight leukemia. They mentored more than 200 Girl Scouts on leadership, hosted underprivileged students for lunches with lessons on etiquette, and offered kitchen skills training for 15 high school students to help them secure jobs. Overall, the restaurant of 70 totaled 350 hours of community service and donated $25,700 worth of food, charity gift certificates and other contributions.

Science Applications International Corp. donated $250,000 to Operation Homefront, which provides financial and other types of support to members of the military, including those who have been wounded. The McLean contractor also supplied more than 6,000 backpacks for children of service members. Additionally, SAIC helped provide Washington Nationals tickets for military families who have lost a relative at war as well as wounded service members.

Sodexo of Gaithersburg and its charitable arm, the Sodexo Foundation, raised more than $2.3 million this year through employee payroll deductions and fundraisers, supplier partner campaigns and its annual Sodexo Foundation Dinner. The foundation funded backpack food programs and summer feeding programs that provided more than 400,000 meals to needy children in 2013. Sodexo Foundation is also working to mobilize youth in the fight against hunger. Its Stephen J. Brady Stop Hunger Scholarship, which rewards students who have made an impact in the fight against hunger, generated 5,300 applications in December.

The Sprinkles cupcake shop in Georgetown teamed with “Scandal” star Kerry Washington this fall to raise $10,000 for Americans for the Arts. All proceeds from the sale of red velvet cupcakes — which Washington served up to customers — went to the nonprofit organization. Throughout the year, the store donated $200,000 in cash (and cupcakes) to local organizations, such as D.C. Public Schools and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Leftover cupcakes are donated daily to Central Union Mission and Crowder Owens Food Bank.

SRA International sponsored the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology National Capital Region chapter, which promotes science and technology for young people. SRA’s employees served as competition judges, mentored robotics and Lego teams, and developed an interactive technology demonstration. SRA also donated $24,000 to Homes for Our Troops and organized employee volunteer work days for the organization.

Steptoe & Johnson’s Washington office provided 29,065 hours of pro bono representation, continued its monthly “Casual for a Cause” Fridays — where employees can wear jeans in exchange for a donation to a charity — and raised $20,000 for Gifts for the Homeless.

This year, Tasc employees, family members and friends logged 2,698 miles of walking or running to support the Walking with the Wounded Project, which helps retain and reeducate wounded soldiers. Employees also raised $11,000 for Building Homes for Heroes, an organization that builds or modifies homes for wounded veterans. Tasc matched the donation to bring the total to $22,000.

Triple Canopy sponsored events at the Special Olympics of Virginia. The Herndon security contractor also sponsored six Armed Forces Foundation dinners at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and sponsored 15 wishes in the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree Program.

Developer Urban Investment Partners is a benefactor of the Anne Frank House, a nonprofit founded by Adas Israel congregants in 1988.
that provides housing support for local residents suffering from mental illness. Along with his family, Steven Schwat, who co-founded UIP, packed and delivered Thanksgiving meals to AFH clients.

Telecommunications behemoth Verizon has made domestic violence awareness and prevention a cornerstone of its charitable giving for the past 15 years. This year, the company will dole out an expected $6.5 million nationally to aide shelters and prevention organizations. That figure includes 25 grants totaling $332,500 to organization around the Washington region, including Mary’s Center, My Sister’s Place, Bowie State University Foundation and Shelter for Help in Emergency.

Vornado/Charles E Smith is a partner to Higher Achievement, a year-round learning program that helps at-risk District middle school students aim for college. Higher Achievement’s gala, led by company President Mitchell Schear, also a board member, raised $1.2 million. The commercial real estate company was the exclusive corporate volunteer for the Higher Achievement Olympics of the Mind, an academic competition. Vornado’s food drive donated more than 5,300 pounds of food to the Arlington Food Assistance Center and Capital Area Food Bank and raised more than $14,000 for the Capital Breast Cancer Center.

Staff from Washington Property Co., based in Bethesda, participated in Children’s National Medical Center’s “Race for Every Child,” an October run and walk along Pennsylvania Avenue.

WilmerHale staff and attorneys tutored 30 high school students from Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools, volunteered pro bono hours and made financial donations to Bread for the City, and participated in a 5k walk to benefit Whitman-Walker Health, a nonprofit organization that helps those affected by HIV/AIDS. Since 2011, the firm has raised more than $55,000 for the group. So far in 2013, D.C. area employees have logged 61,077 pro bono hours.

Vanessa Small, who covers nonprofits, compiled this report with contributions from Abha Bhattarai, Marjorie Censer, Sarah Halzack, Catherine Ho, Jonathan O’Connell and Steven Overly.
H.A.S. starts business with help from grant

The Inter-Mountain

Highland Adventist School high school students have started a business. Thanks to a generous matching grant from the Tucker Community Foundation and donations from school supporters, the school has installed a 32 foot by 20 foot high tunnel near the school.

The high tunnel is in full production and is being managed by the H.A.S. high school entrepreneurship class.

Dr. Carol Carter, associate professor and chair of D&E's department of business and entrepreneurship, and Harry Henderson, associate professor in the same department, provided expert business advice as the project was in the planning phase. Carter also supplied the school with an entrepreneurship curriculum she co-authored.

After hours of hard work in preparing the ground for planting, and research to determine what plant species would be best for winter growing in the high tunnel, the students planted kale, spinach, hardy lettuce, and swiss chard and a few other experimental plants.

The students also enjoyed a visit from Mike Kwasniewski, owner of the Charm Farm in Beverly. Kwasniewski talked to the students about the basics of starting and running a small business followed by a visit to the greenhouse where he made some management and growing suggestions.

As the greenhouse crops have begun to grow, the students hand pick, package, and price the produce before selling it in the driveway of the school many days after school.

The students report that they have no trouble selling their winter vegetables and even have parents stopping in to see if there are any greens left on days when they sell out.

Cheryl Jacko, principal and entrepreneurship teacher, said, "The students are really enjoying this project and learning a lot about small business management. We are very appreciative to the Tucker Community Foundation and our matching donors, Carter, Henderson and all the others who have contributed to this project.

"Besides learning small business skills, a goal of this project is to help our students discover ways they can develop business opportunities right here in our area. We want to see our graduates stay here to build our local community while supporting themselves through private enterprise.

"They are also learning a lot about sustainable, local agriculture, which we promote. It is a win, win opportunity for our students."
Olney Prep students visit the White House

by Terri Hogan Staff writer

Olney Adventist Preparatory School’s second-, third-, and fourth-graders recently took a memorable field trip to the White House.

“This was very special as we were one of the first groups to come through since the government shutdown,” said Principal Jami Walker. “It was also special because we were able to go at Christmastime, to see all the beautiful decorations.”

After going through a security check, the students, teachers and chaperones were greeted at the visitor entrance by Bo, the black Portuguese Water Spaniel, and his sister Sunny — the Obama family dogs.

Walker said that students enjoyed seeing the decorated trees, portraits, and life-sized replicas of the portuguese water dogs made out of black satin ribbon. Other highlights included the official White House Christmas Tree and a gingerbread replica of the White House, complete with miniature Sunny and Bo.