

# Going green for eco-friendly holidays this year

BY ERIN ANDERSON

Special to the Record-Eagle

The perennial Yuletide message encourages people to care for their neighbors.

However, one neighbor seems to be routinely neglected during the holidays, and it's a neighbor that we all have in common: the earth.

According to the Corporate Environment Management Program at the University of Michigan, an extra one million tons of waste is generated each week between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

So, this year, why not celebrate the spirit of the season by giving gifts that will benefit both the people on your list and the planet? Check out possible solutions for a greener holiday.

**Green Island** in downtown Traverse City carries a selection of eco-sensitive products for work, home and everywhere in between.

Keep the writer on your list supplied with a variety of recycled paper products, including unique "tree-free" paper made from materials like hemp, vellum, denim and even coffee bean shells. These are either waste products that might otherwise be land-filled or,

like hemp, are sustainable crops that can yield several times a year and require no pesticides.

Their eclectic collection of natural soy and beeswax candles are gifts that can beautify.

Outfit even the littlest ones in planet-friendly style with organic hemp and cotton baby clothes. Decorate your holiday table with the style and earth-savvy of natural table linens and distinctive glassware made from recycled bottles.

Cross the stocking stuffers off your list by loading up on their plentiful assortment of organic and natural personal care and cosmetic items.

Virtually everything in Green Island is made from earth-friendly recycled goods or produced in an environmentally sensitive way.

There's room for both flair and being eco-friendly when it comes to fashion.

**Baabaazuzu** was inspired by Kevin and Sue Burns' love of wool's warmth and their dislike of waste. The Burns have been making jackets, vests, hats, mittens and scarves since 1994. That's when Kevin accidentally shrunk two of Sue's wool sweaters and instead of toss-

ing them, Sue decided to make jackets for her two daughters. They turned out so beautifully that soon everyone was asking for them and Baabaazuzu was officially in the clothing business.

At first, they chose to use only knits, but eventually they expanded to other wovens like tweed. These days, Baabaazuzu recycles over 300 wool garments every week. The majority of these used articles come from second-hand stores that are so overstocked they're often forced to throw these items away. Instead, what's old is new again and ready to wear, complete with Baabaazuzu's trademark small pocket and hand-sewn blanket stitch.

Not in the market for clothing? Check out their collection of holiday stockings, a new use for those leftover scraps of material.

Baabaazuzu items can be purchased at stores around the region such as Green Island and Cali's Cottons in Traverse City, the Black Swan in Glen Arbor, The Painted Bird in Suttons Bay, The Secret Garden in Empire, and Manitou Outfitters in Leland. You can order online at

www.baabaazuzu.com or stop by their shop at 209 St. Mary's (the old Chamber of Commerce building) in Lake Leelanau to browse their showroom. Call Baabaazuzu at 256-7176 their hours.

Looking for a special way to say thank you after all the gifts have been unwrapped? What about sending your holiday thanks on paper that's a gift in itself? The Paperworks program allows you to do just that. Sponsored by the Traverse Bay Intermediate School District, the program produces handmade paper, note cards, bookmarks, gift boxes, frame magnets and gift tags from their facility in the Career Tech Center.

Their paper contains cotton and abaca fibers, as well as recycled paper from the school district itself. But there's more to Paperworks than just their distinctively beautiful and earth-friendly products. Their slogan — handmade paper with a mission — speaks to the tremendous impact this program has on the lives of its participants.

The people behind Paperworks range in age from 16 to 26 and live with various disabilities, yet each

have found a special talent they can contribute to the production of Paperworks products.

Paperworks has been so successful, they are currently expanding to a second facility which will be called the Paperworks Studio and will allow students who have completed the regular training program, and might otherwise be unable to find employment in a traditional workplace, to continue to work in the field in which they have been trained.

Borders Books & Music has just begun a statewide trial period of Paperworks products. If the trial is successful, Paperworks will receive a national account with the ubiquitous book giant. Paperworks also provides custom cards, invitations and announcements. For special orders call 922-6305.

Paperworks products are available at many locations throughout Traverse City, including DeYoung's, Votruba's Leather Goods, Green Island, Annie's, the Denno Museum, Munson Hospital and most local public library gift shops.

Wondering what to give the wine connoisseur who's tasted everything? L. Mawby Vineyards has provided a

solution. Now you can give the gift of good taste and have your purchase be part of what sustains the land.

Mawby's Conservancy sparkling wine is an extra dry Methode Champenoise described as possessing "candied fruit aromas...moderately full-bodied...classy, lingering fruit finish."

And for each bottle sold, a contribution is made to the Farmland Preservation fund of the Leelanau Conservancy. This fund is dedicated to "the preservation of farmland in perpetuity."

Pick up a bottle or two for those special holiday occasions, hostess gifts, or just to help make a cold winter's night a little bit warmer. The Conservancy wine can be purchased at numerous area retailers such as Traverse City's Wine County Market, Folgarelli's Wine Shop, Jack's Market and the Blue Goat. You can always visit the winery at 4519 S. Elm Valley Rd, just outside Suttons Bay. Their tasting room is open year-round. Call for seasonal hours: 271-3522.

**Erin Anderson is a local freelance writer and author.**

# Corporate caring teams businesses, employees and community

BY NANCY SUNDSTROM

Special to the Record-Eagle

For most, giving during the holiday season means more than exchanging presents. It means making the effort to give to those in need, whether we know them or not.

That's also the case for a large number of regional businesses and institutions, many of whom have long-standing traditions of involving their employees in a wide range of holiday charitable giving programs.

Representatives of these businesses say that they feel strongly about this being an opportunity to "give back" to the community that supports them throughout the year.

"We're fortunate that Traverse City is such a giving community and has citizens who dedicate themselves to those in need, whatever it may be," said Kathleen Guy of the Development Department of Northwestern Michigan College (NMC).

"Professionally and personally, people here aren't shy about coming to the aid of others, not just during the holidays, but all year long."

Since 1992, NMC has been involved in the Adopt-A-Family program through the Salvation Army, and some years, their nearly 300 employees have supported more than 20 families for the effort. Guy's office is securing items on the wish list of a single mother and her three children this year.

Kiss Carpets of Traverse City is in its second year of participating with the national Toys For Tots initiative, and have ways of encouraging both employees and customers to bring new, unwrapped toys to the drop-off site at their store.

"We have employees who give very generously — including our owner, Ken Roberts — but we also do some things to get the public to help out," explained staff member Don Carscadden. "Up until Dec. 23, donors can bring toys to our store and just drop them off, or if you purchase something here and make a donation, we'll eliminate the sales tax."

Corporate Title has seven branches in the region, from Benzonia to Harbor Springs, and just over 60 employees. Chrys Livingston, manager with Corporate Title Plus in Traverse City, says that each year, the business

chooses at least one charitable project to work on, but usually two, which is the case this year.

Their employees are now acquiring items for a duffle bag program sponsored by Goodwill Inn, a homeless shelter in Traverse City. Duffle bags will be filled with items for two levels of teens, as well as adults and babies and the employees will also physically prepare the bags to be given to the Inn before Christmas.

Corporate Title staff are also making monetary donations to a wheelchair program coordinated by Rotary Club. For every \$75 they contribute, Rotary will match another \$75 in an international cause to secure wheelchairs for those who can't afford them.

"We picked these two causes so that we could make a financial donation to a worthy effort as well as putting some time and labor into another one," said Livingston. "Our employees reach a consensus about what to do, and the duffle bag program has had such a good response that we're talking about how to continue it throughout the year, perhaps in the form of something like Adopt-A-Room at the Goodwill Inn."

Bill Marsh Auto is another Traverse City business that supports several causes for the holidays. Just before Thanksgiving, they kicked off their annual participation in Toys For Tots, partnering with Great Wolf Lodge and staging a Santa's Arrival event. As with the other Toys For Tots participants, Bill Marsh will be collecting toys at the Garfield Avenue location until Dec. 23.

They also just completed an Internet auction to raise funds for House of Hope, a program for troubled teens in Traverse City.

Mike Kent, from the marketing department of Bill Marsh, says that as a complement to Toys For Tots, they organized an effort to gather items for wish lists submitted by young people being helped by the Doula Teen Parents Program.

In the different Bill Marsh buildings, there are lists on ornaments that employees are selecting to purchase, and like Corporate Title, the employees will be helping to prepare each person's package.

"What really startling for most of us is the simplicity of the requests," said Kent.

"They are all practical items like underwear, pots and pans, winter boots and gas cards. For most of us, this is stuff we'd go out on an average day and buy, but for these people it's special enough that they ask for it as a Christmas present. It's hard not to be touched by that."

The seven La Senorita restaurants in the region give employees at each location their choice of how they want to spend money that is collected for a fund from deductions in paychecks over the course of the year.

Nancy Edginton, marketing director for La Senorita, says for more than 20 years, and that with almost 700 employees, they're able to raise enough money every year to "do something special that everyone feels good about."

"We have a lot of younger people in our employ and some of them don't make that much money, but everyone supports this and really looks forward to whatever it is they choose to do," said Edginton. "This year, for example, the restaurant on US-31 is going to honor service people and their families, and they'll be having a nice dinner for them there and then throw in a movie or gift certificates. The Garfield restaurant will be hosting families from the Goodwill Inn and doing the same. It's a different cause each year, and it says so much that this is all voluntary and I'm not sure who enjoys it more — our employees or our guests."

**Nancy Sundstrom is a local freelance writer.**

**Following is a sampling of ways that businesses and individuals can help others at the holidays.**

**Financial donations needed**, to provide \$5 gift certificates at a Dec. 13 Christmas Celebration for developmentally challenged in Antrim/Kalkaska counties; send donations payable to Cornerstone Church, memo "Mental Health," to Cornerstone Church, attention Barbara Bryan, 4607 Del Mason, Bellaire, MI 49615.

**Platte Grange Cap and Mitten Tree**, public encouraged to trim the tree with hats, mittens, gloves, socks and other items for children, tree will be "untrimmed" Christmas week so items may be delivered to area agencies in time for Christmas giving; Honor Post Office, 10982 Main, Honor; 325-3132.

**Glen Eagle Retirement Community Mitten Tree**, donations of new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves may be dropped off anytime, items will be given to the Father Fred Foundation; Glen Eagle, 3950 Sumac Dr., TC; 935-4553.

**Toys for Tots campaign**, donations of new, unwrapped toys may be dropped off anytime at

Bill Marsh, Price Point Used Car Super Center, Toys R Us, Kay-Bee Toys, Walmart, United Way of Northwest Michigan, TV 7&4, Northern Michigan Radio Group, Alltel, Kiss Carpet or Munson Medical Center; for details or additional drop off sites in the Grand Traverse region, call United Way, 947-3200, or Mike Kent, 929-8827.

**Cherryland Humane Society Tree of Lights and pet food drive**, light illuminated on Christmas Tree of Lights for each \$10 donation in honor of pet or person; send donations to Cherryland Humane Society, 1750 Ahlberg Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686; Christmas Pet Food Drive, Dec. 6-Christmas, bagged, canned or boxed pet food, treats, cat litter, washable toys, donation barrels at Pet Supplies Plus, McGough's, Square Deal Country Store and at the shelter; for details, call 946-5116.

**Holiday Book Drive**, through Dec. 20, books collected for Reading Is Fundamental and Read to Achieve; Borders Books, 2612 Crossings Circle, 933-0412.

**GT County Commission on Aging "Baskets of Bounty" Program**,

for details, call 922-4688. **Leelanau County Commission on Aging**, for frail and homebound Leelanau County senior citizens, seeking donations of 18-24-inch artificial Christmas trees (decorated or bare), also monetary donations for purchase of canned hams, tree/money donations to Leelanau Commission on Aging office, 7401 E. Duck Lake Road, Lake Leelanau; 256-7590.

**Mesick National Honor Society Christmas project**, donations of non-perishable food items collected through Dec. 15, Mesick High School office 581 Clark St., Mesick; Christi Hulett, NHS adviser, 885-1201, ext. 188.

**Goodwill Inn Holiday Needs Program**, donations accepted 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 3-5:30 p.m. Dec. 8-12; former Goodwill location, 2889 Aero Park Dr., TC; for list of items needed, call 922-4805.

**Send items for this listing of holiday community needs, which will run Thursdays through Dec. 18, to: Holiday Helpers, Traverse City Record-Eagle, 120 W. Front, Traverse City, MI 49685; email sbearch@record-eagle.com; fax 946-8632.**



**KP's Mountain Shop** is on the second floor of the Lodge and features all things downhill... skis, snowboards, outerwear, après ski fashions, accessories, and gifts. The best names in the business are here... Atomic, Burton, Lange, Obermeyer, 686 and plenty more! Phone: 231-378-4510.



**Crystal's Nordic Pro Shop**, inside Kinloch, carries a bountiful selection of X-C equipment, snowshoes, adventure clothing and gifts. All the top names, too... Sporthill, Mountain Hardware, Fischer, SWIX, and more! You can rent X-C skis, boots and poles here, too. Ph: 231-378-2000.

**Music Gifts**

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