



## Parsippany company's employees build benches, help needy

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Langdon Ford Financial employees work to build furniture for the needy served by Our House Inc. (Staff photo: Megan Anderle)

PARSIPPANY -- Langdon Ford Financial advisers and staff, looking to support the needy, spent half a workday building and painting furniture for them.

About 45 of the Parsippany company's advisers and staffers worked on garden benches, tables and chairs with the help of Caring Capital, a program of Jumpstart, which sponsors corporate workshops that use art to help the needy. Jumpstart, founded by Susie Schub, receives help from various social service agencies to run many programs, of which Caring Capital is one. Some employees constructed the benches and chairs using nails, while others sanded and painted the furniture.

"A lot of people do independent charity work in our company. Caring Capital was our vehicle to do something like this together," managing partner John Langdon said.

At the end of the day, Langdon employees donated four sets of benches, each with foot stools, to the nonprofit Our House Inc. In addition, children's furniture was donated to the Morris County Office of Temporary Assistance, which is dedicated to getting Morris County residents back on their feet financially.

"There's no wrong way to create art. It's amazing to see when people see talents that they didn't know about," said Schub, president of Caring Capital.

Our House provides employment, residential and recreational services to disabled adults and families across New Jersey. Its first home opened in 1980 in Summit. It now has 25 in Morris, Union, Essex and Somerset counties.

"Patients spend lots of time on the deck and patio, so it's nice to see so many people give back to people less fortunate than themselves," said Robin Murray, associate director of Our House.

Kim Luthy, a Langdon financial adviser, met Schub at a Morris County Chamber event. She suggested the effort.

"I spoke to John and said that we needed to do something with the company, due to the culture shift, medical and benefit changes and the economy," Luthy said.

"For the last several years, we've been involved in charities from a financial standpoint. We wanted to do something beyond that and get our hands dirty," managing partner Marc DelGaudio said.

Financial adviser John O'Malley said the event tied into the morals and ethics of the firm.

"In the current business climate, people don't trust companies with their money. Ethics and morals are what our company is about," O'Malley said.

"Without a doubt we want to do this in the future," DelGaudio said.