

Florham Park Eagle

Blankets, pillows assembled by Gerber employees in Florham Park

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PHOTOS BY CHRISTINE LEE

Employees at Gerber's headquarters on Vreeland Road in Florham Park created fleece blankets and pillows during "Nestlé Cares," the parent company's day of service on Thursday, Aug. 10.

FLORHAM PARK – Colorful design patterns, shaped like plants and animals, were scattered along tables in a room at Nestlé Infant Nutrition, the headquarters of Gerber, for a day of service on Thursday, Aug. 10.

It was up to teams of employees at the baby food giant's headquarters at 12 Vreeland Road to assemble the patterns to create blankets and pillows to help families in need.

The employees, 52 in total divided into small groups in two sessions, made the items under the direction of Morristown-based Caring Capital, an organization that connects companies with area non-profit organizations to make a difference in communities.

The blankets and pillows were made during Nestlé Cares, the company's national day of community service done at Nestle properties nationwide. Florham Park-based Gerber is a subsidiary of Nestlé.

Donning T-shirts reading "Nestlé Cares," the teams worked together to create a fleece blanket and pillow gift set, which were donated to Cornerstone Family Programs at 62 Elm St. in Morristown.

Easy Work

"This is probably something you don't do

at work everyday," Caring Capital's founder and president, Susie Schub observed as she delivered instructions to the assembled employees.

As pop and classic rock music played, the teams cut out individual felt pieces and assembled the shapes onto pre-made colorful blankets. The blankets were assembled by a textile designer from Caring Capital.

Each set of blankets and pillows portrayed a particular theme, most around the ocean and sealife, reflecting this year's Nestlé Cares theme.

The teams were tasked with coming up with a theme for their group's blanket and pillow. Once the theme was decided, the employees began cutting out the different shapes and laying them on the blankets, Schub explained.

Cathy Cleenput, a teaching artist with Caring Capital, remarked that the projects were so simple, "you cannot fail."

The gift sets were delivered later that day to Cornerstone Family Programs.

