



**Medium Firm Winner**  
**Rea & Associates**



Number of organizations impacted – About 200  
Total hours volunteered – More than 3,150

Giving back is at the heart of Rea & Associates. As a firm and as individuals, we have a calling to help those around us and improve our communities. Looking back on our individual, office-wide and firm-wide philanthropic efforts over the course of 2017, we are proud of the impact our team had, and continues to have, on our communities.

As a firm, we spent more than 3,136 hours volunteering in our communities and donated more than \$108,000 to upwards of 150 organizations across the state last year alone.

The Rea Foundation, Rea's non-profit arm, supported more than 40 additional nonprofits with gifts totaling nearly \$44,000. The foundation also awarded scholarships to accounting students at eight Ohio universities.

Firm-wide, our efforts (including countless volunteer hours and donations totaling more than \$152,000) impacted north of 200 organizations.

**Paws-To-Paws**

As our firm prepared to announce a pending merger with Walthall CPAs last fall, we were sensitive to how Walthall clients and employees would feel about the change. The alignment of our cultures was a key driver behind the decision to merge, so reinforcing that – especially early on – was incredibly important.

Around the same time as the merger announcement, hurricane season was in full swing, with three huge storms (Harvey, Irma and Maria) causing unfathomable devastation and causing families tremendous heartbreak. We wanted to do something as a firm to help, and since giving back was also at the heart of Walthall, we invited them to join us, pre-merger, to work together as "one firm" for the first time and raise funds to help hurricane victims.

While researching the best ways to get involved, we learned that the animals affected by these natural disasters are often overlooked among all of the other critical populations that need help. As any animal lover can attest, some of the images that surfaced from the devastation

were truly moving: A dog stranded in the flood waters, helpless and afraid. A hero putting himself in harm's way to carry a stranger's pet to safety. A woman who, having just lost her earthly possessions, can still turn to her cat for comfort. A gymnasium – a makeshift shelter – filled with caged animals that were separated from their families and recovered and brought to safety by first responders.

Our firms joined forces in Paws-To-Paws, a two-week campaign we created to benefit the Humane Society of the United States' Hurricane Relief Fund.

As pet owners ourselves, we know that fur-moms and fur-dads are always looking for any opportunity to show off their pets. So our social media campaign did exactly that. The premise was simple: share a picture of your pet with us on Facebook or Twitter, and we'll make a donation on your behalf. The Rea Foundation (Rea's non-profit arm for handling charitable donations) agreed to contribute \$25 for every picture shared. We also collected donations in each of our 13 office lobbies.

Through the Paws-To-Paws campaign, we generated \$5,880 to help animals in need, all while building a sense of togetherness and purpose with our future coworkers.

### **Help Can Hunger**

In our 14th annual Help Can Hunger food drive, employees donated a total of 36,525 pounds of food to local nonprofits and food pantries across Ohio to help families in need throughout the holiday season. 2017's total was a whopping 7,350 more than what was generated the year before. For a firm of about 300 employees, the average employee donated about 122 pounds of food this year.

Over the course of the food drive's 14-year history, 291,000 pounds of food have been collected and donated to organizations and families in need across Ohio.

### **The Marcia Stutzman Award for Service to the Community**

Each year, we award one employee with the Marcia Stutzman Award for Service to the Community, which honors a late Rea partner who had a passion for helping her community.

The 2017 winner, Sharon Cole, is a senior manager who spends her evenings and weekends working with incarcerated men through a prison ministry. Traveling between three different prison systems in Ohio for the last 12 years, Sharon holds worship, conducts Bible studies, plans community outreach projects and hosts retreats for the men.

She shows these men respect and unconditional love – which, for some of them, is something they've never experienced. In fact, at the end of one retreat, one man told Sharon that she helped him realize that someone loved him for the first time in his life.

Sharon is able to look past the prejudices to see how wonderful these men are and how desperate they are to feel that someone cares about them. Sharon says that prison is her

favorite place to be and that the joy, unconditional love, faith, friendship and wisdom that she receives from them is beyond description.

### **Day of Caring**

In the spring, members of our New Philadelphia office joined nearly 600 volunteers from 30 area organizations to participate in the United Way's annual Day of Caring. Our team visited a local historic attraction to clear branches, mulch, plant flowers, clean the gift shop and more.

### **Work Hard, Play Harder**

The Medina team ventured into the great outdoors last fall to construct a large pavilion and clear trails at the Medina County Park District's Killbuck Lakes. And while the work may have been strenuous, you can bet the team took advantage of the amazing view from the newly erected perch.

### **Dancing with the Divas**

Scott Moyer, a principal in our Zanesville office, traded in his pocket protector for a pair of dancing shoes when he and his dance partner participated in the annual Dancing with the Divas Charity fundraiser to raise money for The Nicholas Barry Muscular Dystrophy Fund. Scott and his partner collected \$10,400 in donations and won the organization's Fundraising Achievement Award. They were also voted fan favorite!