

# No duvet days for Chester staff on volunteer scheme

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/EINPresswire.com/ UK (Submitpressrelease123.com - press release) Scores of staff at a Chester finance company decided to take a day off in the run-to Christmas this year, even though they were perfectly well and hadn't booked any holiday.

But instead of a reprimand, bosses at The Funding Corporation issued each with a "thank you" - and the assurance that they wouldn't be losing a penny in pay.

For rather than snuggling under the duvet, the staff were turning up for a hard day's work helping a good cause in the Chester area.

They were taking part in the company's recently launched Employee Volunteer Programme which allows them to take one day off each year on full pay to assist local caring organisations.

Chester's Hospice of the Good Shepherd, which is The Funding Corporation's adopted local charity for 2012, was the beneficiary of the volunteers' work.

Duties included helping prepare for the hospice's festive fare at Inglewood Manor Hotel in Chester, and packing gift bags for its successful "Santa Dash" through Chester in December.

Other staff even found themselves taking on the role of Santa's little helpers when they played a part in the Christmas Grotto at Gordale Garden Centre in Burton which raised money for the hospice.

Since launching the scheme in summer, more than 250 hours of volunteer time have been notched up by members of The Funding Corporation, based on Chester Business Park.

Inspiration for the helping hands project came from the company's charity committee, and the idea won full backing from staff and management.

Committee head Jane Whittle, the company's Marketing Manager, said that the last couple of months had fully demonstrated the value of the programme:

"The lead up to Christmas always finds charities put under extra pressure as they coincide many of their fundraising events with this traditional time of giving," she said.

"The good causes benefit from this scheme, but our staff say that they also get a lot from the experience of taking on a new challenge in the heart of the local community," added Jane.

The Funding Corporation employs 195-plus staff, and volunteers stepping forward have come from all parts of the company.

ENDS

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