

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006

Hanover continues tradition of giving

By Ellie Oleson CORRESPONDENT

The president and chief executive officer of Worcester-based The Hanover Insurance Group Inc. is proud of the corporation's 2,100 generous local employees and wants them to be proud to be a vital part of The Hanover.

Frederick H. Eppinger, Jr., The Hanover's president and CEO, said, "We try to be a world-class company — a place that employees can be proud to be part of. We care about our community and try to be a good corporate citizen."

Mr. Eppinger said "one important cornerstone of the year" is holiday giving, which this year included donations to the Telegram & Gazette Santa Fund, The Salvation Army, U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots and more.

"Our employees and we try to be thoughtful about what we do," Mr. Eppinger said.

Each year, The Hanover, a Worcester-based property and casualty insurance company, holds a two-day event at Mechanics Hall to thank retirees', employees, business associates, family and friends involved in the company, Mr. Eppinger said.

This year's holiday celebration on Dec. 3 and 5 featured the Thayer Symphony Orchestra, the Salisbury Singers and the Village Theatre Group.

Each employee receives two free tickets, with additional tickets available, with

all proceeds, plus a company match, going to benefit local charities.

This holiday season, The Hanover donated \$3,000 each to the T&G Santa, The Salvation Army and the Friendly House emergency fund.

In addition, this December employees donated 850 toys to Toys for Tots, making The Hanover the largest Toys for Tots collection site in Worcester County, Mr. Eppinger said.

The Hanover also made a \$2,000 donation to Foothills Theatre to sponsor holiday programs and held an American Red Cross blood drive to help replenish the blood supply during the holidays.

Employees also teamed up with the Junior League and the Worcester public school system to donate \$750 in cash as well as enough coats, hats, gloves and mittens to clothe 150 needy children. The Hanover Insurance Group Foundation Inc. donated another \$5,000 to the cause.

The company also made a \$5,000 holiday gift to each of its three "partnership schools" — Canterbury Street School, Thorndyke Road School and Columbus Park Preparatory Academy — to help meet needs not in the schools' budgets.

All this is in addition to the \$2 million gift given by The Hanover Insurance Group to the Worcester Center for Performing Arts earlier this month. That gift is to go toward the planned

\$26 million transformation of the former Loew's Poli Place Theatre in Federal Square, into a new, 2,300-seat Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Mr. Eppinger, a Spencer native and father of three, said he is pleased that The Hanover is able to become so involved in helping the greater Worcester community, particularly children in need.

He said he remembers reading about the T&G Santa when he was growing up, and he was happy to help that and other children's charities.

"We work together with our employees to focus on things that matter," Mr. Eppinger said. "People giving — that's a nice thing."

Each year for the past 68 years, the T&G Santa Fund collects thousands of donations from generous readers and area residents to help buy toys for children in need in Central Massachusetts.

Children 12 and younger who would otherwise not receive any holiday gifts are eligible to receive two toys each. Area agencies assisting with applications for assistance included: The Salvation Army, Catholic Charities Family and Children's Services of Southbridge, Gardner Community Action Committee, WHEAT Community Services and Winchendon Community Action Committee.

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PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$115,751
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Small Business Service Bureau Employees	\$1,297
Small Business Service Bureau Matching Gift	\$1,297
William F. Lynch Company, Inc	\$1,054
Friends thru Miniature Club Silent Auction	\$300
Central Massachusetts PHCC Association, Inc	\$200
West Boylston Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball Teams	\$120
Santa's Helper	\$101.01
Matthew, Sean, Benjamin and Zachary Hicks of Sutton	\$100
Ava and Stephen	\$50
Katrina, Christopher, Jakob, Kaelin and Jayme	\$50
Savana, Nikolas, Dean, Luke, Daisy and Grampy; Grammy Melora	\$50
Timothy Dillon	\$50
34 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren; Grammy Clark	\$25
Elsie and Jake Frankian	\$25
Jake and Becky	\$25
Santa's Helper	\$25
Thank you St. Jude	\$25
Mom, Dad and Bob; Jane Jewell	\$20
The Wednesday Bridge Club	\$20
Derek Jeter; A fan from Spencer	\$10
Santa's Helper	\$5
IN MEMORY OF	
Donna Dawe	\$150
Diane Blanchflower (O'Connor); Mom, Dad and children	\$100
Eleanor Flynn, Maddy Kelley, Norma Rutter and Gladys Peterson; Love "The Queens"	\$100
George and Helen Ouillette; George and Ida	\$100
Marion Roberson; Emile Roberson	\$100
Patrick J. Dore; Mom, Dad, Erin and Sean-Michael	\$100
Peter and Elizabeth Johnson	\$100
Edward D. Harrington Jr. and Leonard Slabich	\$50
Fabian; Wife	\$50
Grampy Joe; Shauna, Kevin and Kyle	\$50
Henry Nicholas Hall	\$50
Joseph Daige	\$50
R.B. we miss you; N.L. and P.S	\$50
Russell "Doc" Holland, Madeline and Molly; Edwin and Madelyn Morse	\$50
Sally Anne Groves	\$50
Steven P. Buniowski; Love your family	\$50
Two wonderful women, mother Shirley Musci and Priscilla Groves; Paul and Maria Lavery	\$50
Lillian (Dee) Anderson, Charles B. Dee, Jane K. Laughner, Edward J. Pescaro, Virginia (Dee) Hallaman, Robert H. Hallaman Sr., Robin Dee Hallaman, Robbie Hallaman, Dora Hallaman and Jon Jon Jacobson	\$40
Helen M. Juneau; Her loving family	\$30

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Byron and John P. Remillard; Mr. and Mrs. Charles French and family	\$25
Dean	\$25
Departed Sisters; Thistle Lodge #2 Daughters of Scotia	\$25
Edward and Stella Boehnke; Their children	\$25
Edwin Stoddard; Pauline Stoddard	\$25
Family and friends; John and Diane	\$25
George H. Lawler Jr.; George IV, Eric and Robert miss you Grandpa	\$25
Grammy Helen Norris; Eddie and Elena Norris	\$25
Great-grandma Hallihan; Sean and Maureen	\$25
Hazel, Lillian, Sandy and Bobby; Kailin and Tayla	\$25
John and Helen Beauregard; Their nieces and nephews	\$25
John P. Phelan; Elizabeth M. Phelan	\$25
Marissa Przygoda; The Przygoda family	\$25
Maurice O'Brien Jr. and John Dillon; John and Breda McInerney	\$25
Mother Florence Stacy and niece Fay Cronin; Ruth Hisoire	\$25
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Knowles, Mr. and Mrs. Myron Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Knowles Jr	\$25
Our Dad and Grandpa David Swett Jr.; Brian, Lynn, Brayden, Camden and Daylen	\$25
Robert J. Pellegrino; Love Marlana	\$25
Uncle Willie and Aunt Pat; Kathleen and Kevin	\$25
Bruce Little's Mother; Friends from Saint-Gobain	\$20
Grampie Bob Harris; Blanche, Robyn, Kathy, Julien, Jil and Brandon	\$20
Patricia Champeau Snow; Mom, Dad and brother Kevin	\$20
Elnar Pearson; Evelyn Thomas	\$15
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Thomas and family; Evelyn Thomas	\$15
Fred; B. and L	\$10
Grandpa Francis and Uncle Phil; Michael and Elizabeth	\$10
John and Marguerite McShera; Your loving children	\$10
Papa John DiLiddo and Uncle Ricky; Vick and Dee	\$10
Karen's Aunt Bunny; Brayden, Camden and Daylen	\$5
TODAY'S TOTAL	\$6,779.01
GRAND TOTAL	\$122,530.01

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the fund can do so by clipping and filling out the form in the newspaper and mailing it to: Telegram & Gazette Santa Fund, c/o Commerce Bank, P.O. Box 15204, Worcester, MA 01615-0204 or by going online to www.telegram.com/santa to donate by credit card.