

# Making a difference

*Community Involvement Associate Resource Group toy drives*



Some of the hundreds of clothes, toys, stuffed animals and more collected by employees as part of the Community Involvement ARG toy drive.

Baird's Community Involvement Associate Resource Group, a collection of Baird employees who encourage firm involvement in the community, led a pair of holiday toy drives to provide heartwarming gifts to children staying at the hospital or who were in need over the holiday season.

## Milwaukee

Employees in Milwaukee collected hundreds of stuffed animals, games and toys on behalf of kids visiting Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. They also contributed \$1,200 to buy even more items, which the hospital had requested.

"When we delivered the toys, the lady at the hospital was so happy and shocked that we had a full-size pickup filled to the brim with gifts," said Carrie Pok, who has led this drive for a number of years and helped the Community Involvement ARG widen the drive's base this year. "These gifts are used year round to comfort kids who are being treated at the hospital and help them feel a little more normal."

While purchasing gifts at the Wal-Mart in West Bend, Wis., Carrie said employees of the store heard about the toy drive and gave her a collection of hats and mittens that they had knitted for children at the hospital but had been unable to deliver. All of the gifts were delivered to the hospital on Dec. 21.

## Chicago

Employees in Chicago hosted their first Toys for Tots campaign, collecting more than 110 toys for kids in need.

"We were pleased to get strong participation in our very first campaign," said Scott Skie, who helped lead the campaign as one of Baird's Community Involvement ARG co-chairs in Chicago. "It's nice when you can help brighten the holidays for kids who are in need."

Toys for Tots is a program of the United States Marine Corps Foundation, which provides toys for children who otherwise might not receive a gift at the holidays.