

## Donora digs deep to help the local community



Mary Anne Bandalo accepts the cheque from the Dyno Nobel staff including, back row, from left, Matthew Graves, Chris Stawicki, Jane Yost, Chris Jones and Marissa Wiley; front row, Lars Story, Christine Williamson, Dave Ramble and Bob MacPherson.



A 'thank you' cake for Dyno Nobel from the children and staff of the Mon Valley Youth and Teen Centre.

### Dyno Nobel North America's Donora manufacturing plant, in Pennsylvania, has donated much-needed food and funds for new computers to the Mon Valley Youth and Teen program.

Donora's BEx Facilitator Bob MacPherson, along with Staff Specialist Cindy Randall and Health and Safety Supervisor Chris Jones, organised food collection drives at the plant that saw employees fill the trays of two pick-up trucks with food.

The drives were held in December last year, 14 February (Valentine's Day, during which they ran a 'Have a Heart' campaign), 3 May and again in June.

"Our efforts have helped to keep the shelves from going bare during some of the more difficult times," Bob said.

"The youth and teen centre received an extra allotment of food in summer so I have made the decision to wait until the fall season to hold the next drive. We are learning more about how to do food drives each time and trying to educate our people about their role.

"The drives are going to be an ongoing effort from the plant. A lot of people in the community are hurting and it's another way to help out the community."

After meeting Mary Anne Bandalo, Executive Director of the Mon Valley Youth and Teen program, Bob learned that most of the computers children used at the youth and teen centre were outdated.

"Their greatest need was computers," Bob said. "In the after-school program, she (Mary Anne) tries to expose the kids to computers and a good, healthy atmosphere. But the computers were very old and she was spending half the time rebooting the computers when the kids come into the centre."

With the help of Process Engineer Dan Spencer, Health and Safety Supervisor Chris Jones and Process Development Engineer Christine Williamson, the Donora plant successfully applied for a grant through IPL's Community Fund, and US\$10,000 was provided to purchase 15 new computers, software, several projectors, a big screen TV and a new printer.

The team was able to leverage its skills and Dyno Nobel's purchasing power to buy more computers than expected with the grant money. Volunteers from the Donora plant will work with kids from the program to get the newly purchased equipment up and running.

The plant also donated US\$500 to the Mon Valley Youth and Teen Association's summer camp program, and Chemical Operator B Jake Durka organised for employees to donate toys for the Mon Valley Leathernecks' Toys for Tots program.

Also as part of the plant's efforts, Chemical Operator A Dan Johnson worked with the Boy Scout troop 1391 in Millsboro raising US\$2000, that was then matched under IPL's Dollar for Dollar program. The US\$4000 donation was used to purchase camping equipment including a transport trailer that will carry gear to support their camping program.

Employees at the plant are also committed to caring for their environment. Twice a year the plant holds a community environmental waste collection day where members of the community are encouraged to dispose of their electronic waste (e-waste) such as old computers and TVs. All the collected e-waste is sent to a certified agency for recycling.

The effort has helped to keep more than 12,000 pounds (5443 kilograms) of e-waste from entering the landfill located nearby. Warehouse Operator Bill Filippini volunteered on his day off to join Environmental Manager Matt Graves and others to collect e-waste and help with the effort.

Matt has also represented the plant at the Donora Smog Museum's 65th Anniversary Commemoration. Donora is donating US\$1000 and employees are offering their services to the museum to help remember the tragic loss of life 65 years ago when a haze of smoke and pollution covered the town.

Bob said that through the support of Donora Plant Manager Lars Story it had been possible to meet so many needs.

"Many people at Donora do so much more than just making good reliable products," Bob said. "They show their care for the community and the environment every day. I am really proud to be a very small part of that effort."