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Fox Rothschild celebrates 100th Anniversary with 100 charitable acts

By Tracy Carbasho

The law firm of Fox Rothschild has turned its 100th anniversary celebration into a unique opportunity to help individuals throughout the nation.

Founded in Philadelphia in 1907 by Edwin Fox and Jerome Rothschild, the firm now has 400 lawyers who work in 14 offices coast to coast. A firm-wide committee was formed in November 2005 to begin brainstorming about innovative ways to commemorate the success that has lasted a century. Louis Fryman, chair emeritus and partner in the Philadelphia office, presided over the committee.

The firm considered a number of different initiatives to celebrate this special anniversary before deciding to embark on its "100 Charitable Acts" initiative.

"It's a win-win situation for everybody. The charities we help benefit from the contributions of Fox Rothschild and our employees benefit by giving back to the community," said Jay Marinstein, managing partner of the Pittsburgh office. "It's a bonding process where people get together outside of work to assist charities. Any time you have an event that requires people from all levels of a firm to have one goal, it enhances the work environment."

The initiative calls for each of the firm's 14 offices to perform between eight and 10 charitable acts. Even if each office does the minimum, the firm will still exceed 100 good deeds.

The first event conducted by the Pittsburgh office was a Big Brothers/ Big Sisters event at PNC Park this summer. The youths got to sit with their big brother or sister in private suites to watch a Pirates game.

"This was touching because many of the kids had never attended a game and had never sat in the suites," said Marinstein. "Our office has also been involved with the KidsVoice Kites for Kids program and we have served as a corporate sponsor for two fundraising walks, one to support research on juvenile diabetes and the other to support breast cancer research."

Fox Rothschild also served as a corporate sponsor for an event at Passavant Memorial Homes Foundation, an organization that provides mental health support services to residents.

More recently, lawyers from the local office participated in a food drive with the East End Cooperative Ministry, an interfaith ministry dedicated to helping at-risk children and youths, the hungry, the homeless and others in need. The

Fox Rothschild volunteers sorted and bagged non-perishable food items for distribution to local at-risk and homeless individuals. The firm also collected food which was used by the pantry.

The work of nine partners, associates and staff members helped to feed an estimated 25 families a day over the span of one week. The volunteers included partners Susan Foreman Jordan and Kenneth Lewis, associates Seth Corbin and Cynthia Yializis and staff members Shirley Garvey, Amy Kahl, Melissa Radinsky, Sydney Shiring and Stephenie Wagner.

"Fox Rothschild's work serves the most vulnerable members of our communities," said EECM volunteer coordinator Emily Huck. "Our hunger programs could not exist without our volunteers. Fox Rothschild is the first law firm which has stepped up to provide such vital help in the past few years."

The programs provided by EECM serve up to 150 meals per day and supply emergency groceries and resources to between 400 and 500 families each month. The ministry's Meals on Wheels program delivers food to about 85 people every day.

Another charitable act performed by Fox Rothschild was contributing to the Leaders for Literacy, an affiliation of the Pittsburgh Literacy Council. Additional goodwill acts are planned for the remainder of the initiative, which will run through the end of March 2008. However, the details have not been finalized.

The Pittsburgh office has about 25 attorneys with the majority of the firm's lawyers working in Philadelphia. The firm has grown from 300 to 400 attorneys in the past year.

"Much of the growth has resulted from the firm being financially successful and attorneys knowing it is a good place to work," said Marinstein. "The bedrock of our firm was built on Democratic principles and all issues are discussed at the executive level with managing partners from all of the offices."

Marinstein is confident that once the "100 Charitable Acts" initiative ends, Fox Rothschild will continue to be a good corporate citizen as it has for the past century.

"Our firm is committed to giving back to the community," he noted. "Law firms, along with other businesses in Pennsylvania, should get involved with local charities."

Marinstein directs individuals to the firm's web site at www.foxrothschild.com to view a video that details the firm's history and highlights the 100th anniversary celebration. ■