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Chittenango's ESCO Syracuse pledges \$80,000 to three nonprofits in Madison County

Wednesday, February 04, 2009

By **Aaron Gifford**
Staff writer

Despite the trying economic times, a Chittenango company has pledged more than \$80,000 to local charities, officials announced.

ESCO Syracuse's contribution will go to the Sullivan United Community Chest, the Canastota Community Chest and the United Way of Greater Oneida. Those groups provide funding for local food cupboards, children's recreation programs, animal shelters and other nonprofit organizations.

Ralph Penner, treasurer of the Sullivan United Community Chest, said the ESCO donation allowed him to add a new agency to his list this year - Marshall Farms, which helps people suffering from clinical depression.

Denise Laube, executive director of the United Way of Greater Oneida, said the company's generosity will help agencies keep up with the increased demand for services now that so many people are out of work or having trouble keeping up with their expenses. The St. Patrick's Church food pantry, for example, is seeing twice as many families as it did at this time last year.

"We could not be more grateful to the management and employees of ESCO," Laube said. "Not only have their generous contributions helped our organization, but they have also helped Madison County as a whole."

Jeff Nguyen, ESCO Syracuse site manager, said it was the employees' pleasure to give back to the community. They've also donated to the Toys for Tots Foundation and the Sullivan Food Pantry.

"Our employees' generosity continues to surprise me," he said. "It is just amazing."

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