

# Morris Twp. company makes gifts to help veterans re-enter work force

Written by

## STAFF REPORT

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As part of the company's goal of enhancing the quality of life for others, Actavis Inc. recently applied its human resources expertise to helping veterans transition back into the civilian work force.

As the "team-building" portion of the company human resources leadership team's first retreat of the year, Brenda Vesey, vice president of human resources, arranged for more than 18 Actavis employees to make gifts designed to assist veterans' transition to the work force. Working in small groups on Wednesday, they designed and assembled colorful office organizers and decorative journals for Morris County vets.

Actavis engaged Caring Capital, a Morristown consulting firm that helps companies make an impact on communities, to lead the afternoon event. To prepare for the program, Caring Capital president Susie Schub sought advice on useful gifts from staff at the Veterans

Administration New Jersey Health Care System in Lyons as well as from HR executives leading career transition programs for veterans through Society for Human Resource Management-Morris County.

"Our philosophy as a generic pharmaceutical manufacturer is that our overall objective is to enhance the quality of life for others," Vesey said, "whether that's by providing a lower-cost alternative to brand-name medications or reaching out to our neighbors who need a helping hand. Compared with the sacrifices made by those who serve our country in uniform, our effort here may seem minor. But if we can help even one veteran, it's worth it."

The Caring Capital event coincided with "Operation Care Package," Vesey said, a two-week drive at all five of the company's American sites to collect toiletries, snacks and miscellaneous items for U.S. troops overseas.

Actavis Inc. is the U.S. subsidiary of Actavis

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Group, among the world's leading generic pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Actavis employee Martha Zamora participated while wearing a T-shirt proclaiming herself the "Proud Sister of a Veteran — Operation Enduring Freedom," and expressed personal gratitude to the company's efforts on behalf of veterans like her brother, Alexander.

"Having a brother serve in the Marine Corps, I've seen for myself how critical it is for communities to show their support for veterans and to do all we can to help them, however we can," she said.

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