

# Give Where You Live

## Andy Burness and Burness Communications

Burness Communications, a Bethesda-based public relations firm that works with social change organizations in the U.S. and internationally, is known to its employees as a great place to work. Already a three-time recipient of the Washingtonian Magazine's Great Places to Work award, Burness Communications also goes the extra mile in its charitable giving. Founder and President Andy Burness encouraged employees to set up an employee steering committee to help decide how and where the company gives, locally and around the world where they do business.

Most recently, that employee team decided to give to the Neighbors in Need Montgomery Fund as a way to "give where they live," helping nonprofits working with low-income County children, families and seniors most hard hit by the economic downturn. In response to the earthquake in Haiti, the company made a decision to do a four-to-one match of contributions by employees to nonprofits doing disaster relief work in the country. This effort built on an

existing company incentive for personal giving that matches employee charitable contributions one-to-one, up to \$1,000 per year.

"Our charitable giving is an extension of the work we do, and reflects the spirit of our employees," explains Andy Burness. "Our giving also reflects our commitment to 'practice what we preach,' both in our own backyard of Montgomery County and globally.

It's only natural that those directly responsible for our success, our employees, want to make a difference in their community."



*The "Give Where You Live" Corporate Honor Roll is sponsored by The Community Foundation for Montgomery County, an affiliate of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. The Community Foundation for Montgomery County encourages individuals, families, and businesses to support the causes they care about most—especially here in our community.*

*If you and your company already give in Montgomery County and you'd like to be recognized on the Give Where You Live Corporate Honor Roll, please contact us. Or if you and your firm would like to get more involved in strategic local giving, we'd be happy to provide complimentary guidance on how to get started.*



### Founding Corporate Honor Roll

The *Give Where You Live* Honor Roll recognizes the growing circle of business leaders who – personally and corporately -- give generously, especially in Montgomery County. They gave in good times – and they are still giving, especially now when the need is so great.

William G. "Bill" Robertson -  
Adventist HealthCare

John E. Chapoton - Brown Advisory

Andy Burness - Burness Communications

Peter Welber - Chevy Chase Trust

Devin Schain - Campus Direct

Mary A. Malgoire - The Family Firm

Susan Freed - Freed Advisors

Michelle Freeman –

Carl M. Freeman Co. & Foundations

Kristin Gerlach - Gerlach real estate, inc.

Neal J.B. Simon – Highline Wealth Management

Seth Goldman - Honest Tea

Alan Meltzer – The Meltzer Group

Thomas Natelli - Natelli Communities

Jeffrey Z. Slavin -

C.J. O'Shaughnessy, Inc. REALTORS

Eugene Profit – Profit Funds

Susan Lacz - Ridgewells Catering

Craig A. Ruppert - Ruppert Companies

Kevin Beverly – Social & Scientific Systems, Inc.

Ethan Assal - Verasolve LLC

Haroon Mokhtarzada - Webs.com



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