



## Welcome to the first digital version of the *Heartline*!

After 5 years, the *Heartline* will now be delivered quarterly, right to your inbox!

In this summer issue, a special message from the Foundation's Executive Director, the expansion of the Feeding Hunger: A "No Lunch" Lunch program, a personal story from an associate, and much more!

### Share Your Story



#### By Terry Byrne, GSFF Assistant Chair, KanPak, Penn Yan

The Back(pack) to School program is one that's especially near and dear to my heart. Growing up in the projects of New York, I know what it's like to be in need, and it's personally important to me that the kids at Penn Yan Elementary and Dundee Elementary are excited about going to school. Now these children can focus on enjoying the start of the school year, without having to compare their backpacks and school supplies with the other children. If I could, I'd do this program every single day of the week.

This month, the KanPak Committee in Penn Yan purchased 400 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in our community. KanPak Penn Yan associates raised funds for the donations in just one month from bake sales, recycling, raffles, and direct associate contributions. The backpacks donated represented more than 50 percent of the county backpacks needed for this upcoming school year.

### The Foundation Continues Feeding Hunger: A "No Lunch" Lunch in Four Locations this Fall!

Last November the GSF Foundation launched Feeding Hunger: A "No Lunch" Lunch, a one-hour soup kitchen-style event to help raise awareness and funds for childhood hunger. The event was piloted by GSF's Garner, North Carolina facility and raised \$61,000 to help two organizations provide 100,000 meals for hungry kids and nutritional assistance to 85 food insecure families.

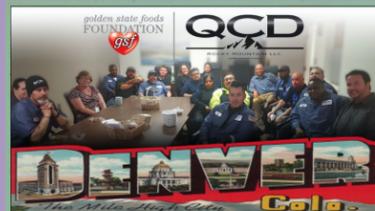


The Garner facility will host their second event on November 14, 2017 at [Community of Hope Ministries](#). This year, three additional facilities will participate in raising funds for local food banks. Check out what the committee chairs have to say about their events! [READ MORE](#)

### Welcome QCDRM to the Foundation Family!

This past July, QCD Rocky Mountain in Denver, Colorado became the 30th GSF Foundation Committee.

Welcome to the family, QCDRM!



### Did You Know?

Did you know that from 2003-2016, GSF and the Foundation together donated **\$5.6 million** to Ronald McDonald House Charities? That's the equivalent of **70,000** room night stays at an RMHC house!



### Coming Soon! The GSFF Annual Associate Campaign

On September 1, the GSF Foundation's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Associate Campaign will commence! All of the Foundation's programs are made possible through the financial contributions of our own GSF Associates.

This year's Associate Campaign Chair is Bill Pociuljko, a 20-year veteran of GSF, who helps procure GSF's fleet and other equipment through Centralized Leasing Corporation (CLC.)

Last year, approximately 75 percent of associates participated in the campaign. This year, the theme is "Heart 2 Heart!" Stay tuned for the results!



### Foundation Raises \$300,000+ from "Partnership for Good" Campaign

The GSF Foundation recently completed the 2016/2017 "Partnership for Good" Vendor/Supplier campaign.

The campaign, which invites vendors, suppliers and other partners to support the Foundation by providing donations that help children and families in the communities where GSF associates live and work, brought in a total of \$312,300! [READ MORE](#)

## Message from the Executive Director



Every day, our associates give a bit of themselves to make the lives of children and families in need a little better and easier. As I write this, our volunteers across 28 local communities are delivering backpacks and school supplies to more than 13,000 kids who need them the most.

It takes a special group of individuals who go above and beyond to plan events and engage partners and fellow associates to make programs like Back(pack) to School happen. One such person was Darwin McDonald, former local committee chair and former backpack chair and GSF Senior Customer Service Representative at GSF Lexington, South Carolina.

Our GSF family unexpectedly lost Darwin on August 13, and he is survived by his wife Debbie McDonald and children Robert McDonald and Kimberlyn McDonald. He also leaves behind many fellow associates who were touched by his generous and positive spirit during his 11 years with us.

I first met Darwin on my first visit to Lexington nearly two years ago, my first facility visit outside of California. His authentic passion for our mission came through in how he talked about our Foundation. I last saw him during my visit this spring, and we had a chance to talk about his family and his work supporting our customers. His passion for them was clearly evident as well.

Thank you, Darwin, for your service and dedication to our Foundation. You exemplified our mission and brought joy to many kids in need in your community. We already miss you and hold you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,  
Anna Lisa Lukes



*Darwin McDonald, generously donating backpacks to children in need.*

[Make a Donation!](#)

Check out the GSF Foundation on Facebook!

