



The following Neenan Co. employees participated in drives for United Way and for American Cancer Society. Front row: Michael Romero, Michele Fenwick, Michelle Fraser. Middle row: Jim Kanter, Heather Ludwig, Pam Hollis, John Drigot. Back row: Robert Lucero, Bill Pigg, Ann Marie Jackson

Photo by Peter Heacox

Neenan promotes company and personal altruism **WINNER**

By **KEVIN DARST**
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The givers get. That, along with the idea of abundance, is the ideal the Neenan Company lives by, say employees of the construction firm.

"The idea is that there's enough for everybody," said Jim Kanter, project manager at Neenan for four years.

Neenan is this year's winner of the Best Corporate Citizen category in the Coloradoan's annual Best in Business awards. Neenan was a finalist for the prize last year and won the award in 2002.

The Fort Collins-based company gives to community organizations, raises \$25,000-\$35,000 a year for the American Cancer Society through a softball tournament and pushes employees to get involved in similar efforts.

It does so while preaching to its employees that there is enough — profits, primarily — to go around and that, in the end, the givers get.

Kanter, 40, hadn't done much of that before going to work at Neenan.

"It's pervasive," Kanter said of the company's culture. "Before Neenan, I hadn't participated. I hadn't been asked."

David Shigekane, Neenan's director of sales and marketing, joined the company about 10 years ago and organizes the softball tournament that raises tens of thousands of dollars for cancer efforts.

In an industry shackled by a "lack of ethics" where "the almighty buck" rules, Neenan allows employees to "live with integrity," Shigekane said.

"There's not that compromise at work where you have to compromise who you are," said Shigekane, who oversees the company's charitable budget.

When times were lean for the company in the early 2000s, it never cut its charitable budget, Shigekane said. And it was during that time that Neenan lost money in donating design and construction for a new \$2.3 million, 10,000-square-foot Respite Care building at 6203 S. Lemay Ave.

"That'll reap rewards later," Shigekane said.

The Neenan Co.

Leader: David Neenan, CEO
Number of employees: 200
Type of business: Architecture and construction
Address: 2620 E. Prospect Rd.
Phone: 493-8747
Web site: www.neenan.com

FINALIST

Front Range Internet Inc.

Leader: Bill Ward, CEO
Number of employees: 45
Type of business: Internet provider
Address: 3350 Eastbrook Drive
Phone: 212-0700
Web site: www.frii.com

FINALIST

Vaught-Frye Architects

Leader: Joe Frye and Frank Vaught, partners
Number of employees: 27 (includes sister company VFRipley Associates)
Type of business: Architecture firm
Address: 401 W. Mountain Avenue
Phone: 221-1191
Web site: www.vaughtfrye.com