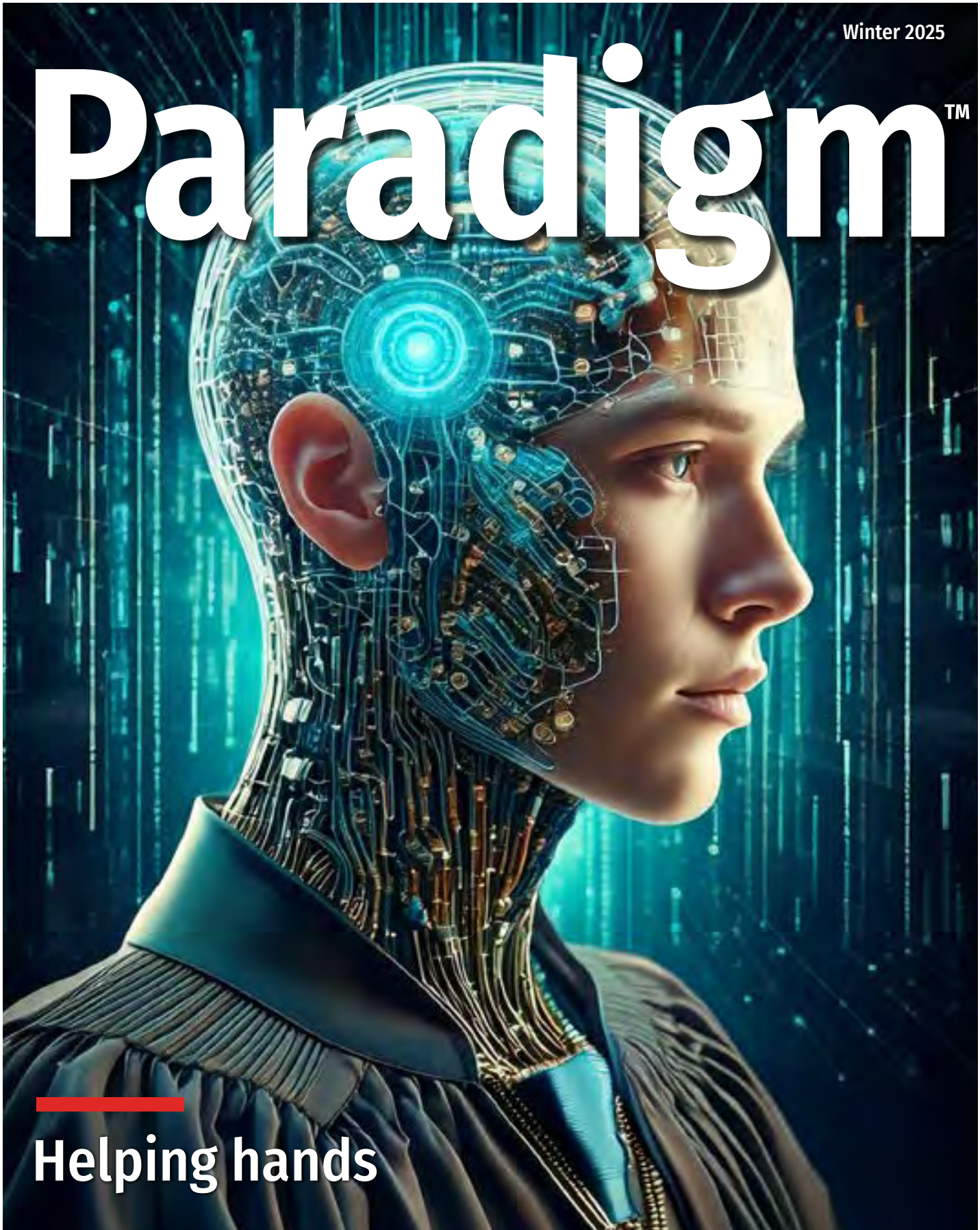


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Helping hands

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Primerus firms embrace annual Global Day of Service

By Tom Kirvan

Member Firm Charity Participation:

Beresford Booth Lawyers	Homage Senior Services
Coleman & Horowitz, LLP	Terry's House
Collins & Lacy, P.C.	Oliver Gospel Mission
Demorest Law Firm, PLLC	Forgotten Harvest
Earp Cohn P.C.	Adopt A Family Event
Gordon Arata	New Orleans Women & Children's Center
Greenberg Glusker	BOMA of Greater Los Angeles Toy Drive
Mandelbaum Barrett PC	Thanksgiving Food Drive, Build a Bike, Toy Drive
Sayer Regan & Thayer, LLP	Lucy's Hearth
Thomas Paschos & Associates, P.C.	Sisters of Charity
Wideman Malek, P.L.	Timmy V's Toys for Kids

Community Service is the last of the Sixth Pillars, and yet that standing does not lessen its importance to the mission of Primerus, according to Florida attorney Mark Warzecha, who for the past four years has served as chair of the Community Service Board for the international alliance of law firms.

That point was driven home during the organization's Global Day of Service, an annual event in early December where Primerus firms showcased various opportunities to "give back, come

together, and be part of something bigger," Warzecha shared.

"It's a time to highlight the outreach efforts by Primerus firms in their respective communities," Warzecha said. "It is tied to the United Nations International Volunteer Day, which is celebrated annually on December 5."

Like the UN observance, the Primerus event is meant to promote the spirit of volunteerism at the local, national, and international levels, "amplifying the

importance of people-led solutions to our common challenges."

Some of those challenges revolve around supplying food and clothing to the homeless or others simply needing assistance to maintain a basic way of life.

"Our firms engage in various community service events – food drives, clothing drives, and toy drives during the holiday season," noted Warzecha, a partner with Wideman Malek, P.L. in the coastal city of Melbourne, Fla. "We also have firms that



Volunteers with the Wideman Malek, P.L. law firm helped at a Toy Day event in December, spreading holiday joy in the Florida community of Melbourne. Those pictured include: (l-r) Alex, Gabi, Derek, and Mark Warzecha along with Kerri Sangeleer, Morgan Black, Dee Gaug, Scott Gaug, Ariana Tellone, Heather Tellone, Tara Carroll, Rachael Langston, and Kelly Swartz. Sitting in the front is Maria Puglisi.

Members of the Demorest Law Firm, PLLC in Royal Oak, Mich. pitched in to help out Forgotten Harvest, an organization dedicated to relieving hunger.



are involved in work at local food pantries to provide meals and others lending help to pack backpacks filled with school supplies for students.”

As an example of its outreach efforts, Wideman Malek annually partners with a local Toys for Kids organization to brighten the holidays for thousands of children in the community.

“The organization provided toys for upward of 3,000 families,” Warzecha indicated. “They’ve been doing it for more than 20 years now and the ‘elves,’ that’s us, the volunteers, go around this big warehouse filling up bags with toys to give to each family in need.

“I actually got my children involved in the effort the last two years,” Warzecha noted. “My 6-year-old does her own ‘shopping’ now, grabbing a bag and filling it with toys.

Florida attorney Mark Warzecha and his three children offered their help to the Toys for Kids charity.



Volunteers from Collins & Lacy, P.C. in Columbia, S.C. offered their support for the Oliver Gospel Mission, which provides aid to the homeless.

When you see the looks on the faces of the families receiving the gifts, it is priceless. It makes all the work worthwhile in helping spread some joy into their lives.”

The Primerus commitment to give back is a year-round proposition and extends beyond a single occurrence, according to Warzecha.

“Whenever we as an organization have a conference – whether it be the International Summit, Global Conference, or a Convocation – we have a community service project tied to it,” he explained. “It might be packing food boxes, cleaning up a beach or park, or building bikes for children. It’s a great team-building exercise that also helps the communities that host our events.”

Warzecha encourages member firms to highlight the community service work that they undertake throughout the year



Members of Greenberg Glusker in Los Angeles participated in a holiday toy drive sponsored by the Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Los Angeles.



Long active in community service programs, the New Jersey law firm of Mandelbaum Barrett PC assisted with various food drives along with a Build a Bike project for area children.



Team members at Beresford Booth Lawyers in Edmonds, Wash. lent their support to Homage Senior Services, a nonprofit that assists the elderly and the disabled.




in hopes that it will inspire others to follow suit.

As an example, he said, the firm of Coleman & Horowitz, LLP in Fresno, Calif. devoted time and manpower to help the Fresno Mission and Community Food Bank. Members of the firm also pitched in on December 7 to serve meals at Terry's House, which is affiliated with the Community Regional Medical Center in Fresno.

"There are a lot of wonderful stories to be told," Warzecha said. "There are a lot of Primerus firms out there who should be tooting their own horn for all the good they do in the community. They need to be recognized for all that they do to help out. Giving back is part of the Primerus DNA. Part of being a 'good lawyer' is the responsibility of giving back to the community in a meaningful way, which we want to emphasize throughout the year, especially in respect to our Global Day of Service."

Warzecha saluted all those who took part in the community service effort, noting how it can bolster employee morale and enhance client connections for Primerus firms.

"It can help build a positive culture for firms, inspiring everyone involved to unite to help the less fortunate in our individual communities," said Warzecha, adding his appreciation for those firms (listed on page 28) that reported their participation in service activities. 



Helpers from Thomas Paschos & Associates, P.C. in Haddonfield, N.J. provided much-needed support for the Missionaries of Charity organization founded by Mother Teresa.



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