



OLD NORTH STATE TRUST, LLC

Who's Helping Whom?

Recently, one of my co-workers (Alyce Phillips) and I had the pleasure of volunteering and participating with the WILMA Network to help build a house for a deserving recipient with Habitat for Humanity. The WILMA network organized a group of 30 women for our group to help put up the frame of the house for this build. WILMA, for those of you who may not know, is a Wilmington area magazine that focuses on women- *women's issues, women's needs, women in the news and news for women*. Obviously, WILMA is so much more than just a magazine, though. It is a wonderful network of women working with women, providing help for, and supporting women throughout our community and helping to enrich the lives of us all. Case in point- organizing this Habitat build that was composed of an all women team, under the direction of Habitat staff contractors, of course. Alyce and I left feeling that we made a difference that day for the life of the family that will be moving into this house. A house that was built out of devotion from a community that wants to take care of one of their own.

At ONST, we believe in helping people. In fact, that's the whole purpose of a trust company. We don't just crunch numbers or pay bills and invest money. We are a group of people dedicated to helping other people. Many times, we become an extension of the family for the clients we work with. The very nature of our client relationships creates a familial type of relationship. The more we know about our clients, the better we can meet their needs and accomplish their goals. Our company motto of putting clients and employees first extends beyond our existing relationships into the communities we serve. We enjoy and are committed to being involved in each of our communities, both from a personal and company level. Most of our employee's volunteer in some capacity, several are members of boards, are involved in a church and we even provide for time away from work to volunteer to support these efforts. That's why, when WILMA called, we answered! Alyce and I showed up early on a Monday morning ready to hammer away and help someone in need, but we quickly found out that we were the ones to be touched by the experience. The day started with a message from representatives from Habitat, WILMA and the homeowner-to-be and her mother. What a treat! I have worked on a Habitat house in the past, but the experience was far different this time. The first time was many years ago and with a different institution. It was far less organized, and the future homeowner was not present. Everyone working was scattered around, unsure of what to do and we didn't seem to accomplish much. It was disappointing. This time couldn't have been more different or more rewarding. Rewarding, not just because we could see the results of our labors, but because we could meet the homeowner and get to know her a little. We thought that we were going to be blessing her, but it turned out to be the other way around. It was an honor to be a part of such an amazing experience. It is also an

honor to work for a company that not only allows our employees to be involved in our communities but encourages us to do so. There are plenty of companies that allow employees time off to volunteer, but at ONST, we are not just allowed, but seriously encouraged to do so. At our company meetings, we discuss the opportunities that we have as individuals and groups to work in the areas in which we live, work and play. We have been provided company T-shirts specifically for volunteer work. We are continuously reminded to send pictures to our Marketing Director to include on our social network pages to share the good news- not so that the person or ONST can get a “slap on the back”, but so that we can truly live up to our motto of taking care of our people. Our people includes clients, employees, and our communities. It’s who we are- ONST: protector of wealth, guardian of legacy!

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