

Washingtonian

<https://www.washingtonian.com/2018/12/07/do-you-work-for-one-of-washingtons-most-charitable-companies/>

Do You Work for One of Washington's Most Charitable Companies?

18 firms that are making a difference.

Written by [Susannah Herrada](#) | Published on December 7, 2018

Within days of the inauguration of **President Trump**, [VolunteerMatch](#)—an online platform pairing volunteers with nonprofits—experienced one of the busiest days in its 20-year history, with a 76-percent jump in website traffic. Financial giving in general similarly spiked, in a phenomenon that some dubbed “rage philanthropy.” Organizations including the [ACLU](#) reported record single-day donations within 24 hours of the 2016 election.

Fast-forward to today. Although volunteerism is apparently still up, this year's new tax laws—which decrease incentives to make charitable donations—may curtail the small individual contributions that many nonprofits rely on. The conservative Washington think tank [American Enterprise Institute predicts](#) that total losses will be \$16.3 billion to \$17.2 billion in 2018.

Which perhaps makes efforts by Washington-area companies to raise awareness and encourage philanthropy even more important. Many socially responsible businesses here have made giving a part of their culture since their beginnings—and the ones we spoke with don't seem to be scaling back donations, volunteer efforts, or pro bono work.

We set out to find truly philanthropic companies in the region, with help from local sources such as the [Catalogue for Philanthropy](#). A list of just 18 Washington companies giving back, of course, can't cover the many firms doing so much for our community. Some of the area's largest employers—including Deloitte, Ernst & Young, and Lockheed Martin—do sizable work in terms of overall donations and volunteer help. But for this list, we looked for altruistic work by local businesses of all sizes—especially those that may not make headlines.

[excerpt]

Raffa

This accounting group—now known as Raffa-Marcum's Nonprofit and Social Sector Group after a recent merger—gives its DC office unlimited paid leave for volunteering. In 2017, that meant the staff—a little more than 200 people—clocked 14,000-plus volunteer hours, at an average of almost 60 hours a person. Giving back, says CEO Tom Raffa, “is embedded in who we are and what we do.” With other local business leaders, he started Companies for Causes, a nonprofit working to boost graduation rates at DC's Eastern Senior High School. Even after the merger, he says, the office will continue its high level of community engagement—which also included, in 2017, almost \$300,000 in cash donations and about \$2.5 million worth of pro bono work.

This article appears in the [December 2018](#) issue of Washingtonian.