

**BROOKDALE
GIVING TREE
PROGRAM DONATES
500 GIFTS
LINCROFT - Brookdale
Community College students**

and employees collected and donated 400 wrapped presents and more than 100 gift cards as part of the college's 24th annual Giving Tree program. Private donors also contributed funds of more than \$2,000.

The initiative, organized by Brookdale's Employee Volunteer Connection (EVC) and held from Nov. 13 to Nov. 30, allowed students, employees and college departments to sponsor individual children and local families who were unlikely to have gifts to open during the holidays.

This year's program supported children and families served by the Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey, Family and Children's Service of Monmouth County, St. Joseph's Church in Keyport and Brookdale's Displaced Homemaker Program. Additional support was provided to the college's new Helping Hands initiative and the Brookdale Foundation. The initiative was co-chaired by EVC member and Brookdale accounting specialist Helen Vota and Brookdale administrative assistant Ann Marie Alfieri.

The Brookdale Employee Volunteer Connection, established in 1995, includes more than 100 college faculty, staff and administrator who work to rally support and resources for local residents and nonprofits each year. Annual EVC initiatives include the Empty Bowls program, which supports local food pantries and charities, and Project Backpack, which collects school supplies for local children.