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McAdam Landscaping Establishes Donation Program

Landscape design/build firm gives back 3% to 5% to local groups

One of New Lenox's newest neighbors is striving to become one of its best neighbors, too.

In March, McAdam Landscaping will begin donating a portion of its sales to non-profit organizations in the region.

The initiative will last for at least 12 months, said Scott McAdam, the company's president.

"This is just one way to show how serious we are about playing an active—and proactive—role in the community," said McAdam, who has resided in Lemont since 1990. "We're excited to partner with the many worthy causes serving individuals and families throughout the region."

McAdam is donating 3 percent of gross sales on projects with a price of up to \$10,000; 4 percent for work between \$10,001 and \$25,000; and 5 percent for any engagement that exceeds \$25,000.

In December, the landscape design/build firm purchased a 5 ½ -acre parcel at 18039 Gougar Road in New Lenox. The site is the former headquarters of Forever Green Landscaping.

The money-back program applies to the following communities: New Lenox, Frankfort, Mokena, Joliet, Lockport, Manhattan and Orland Park.

A job done in New Lenox, for example, would result in McAdam making a charitable contribution, in the customer's name, to a non-profit group in New Lenox that is designated by the customer. The donation would occur within 30 days of the project bill being paid in full.

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If a customer does not state a preference, then McAdam will earmark the money between the New Lenox Rotary Club and the United Way of Will County.

Eric Wesel, the Rotary Club's president, welcomed the program.

"We're excited. It's a neat way to help support the communities that McAdam Landscaping does business in," said Wesel. "They're coming in to be part of the community, not just be a business in the community."

McAdam has been a member of the Oak Park-River Forest Rotary Club since 1995. He is a regular visitor to the New Lenox Rotary Club.

Mike Hennessy, president and CEO of the United Way of Will County, said McAdam's program will help the 45 agencies supported by the organization. Many other businesses are generous contributors, Hennessy added, and the organization's goal this year is to raise \$3.92 million.

"We're grateful for any company that wants to help us," said Hennessy. "We appreciate every dollar."

Over the next year, McAdam hopes to perform at least \$300,000 worth of business in the seven communities included in the program. Depending on the size of the individual projects, that volume would result in \$9,000 to \$15,000 in charitable contributions.

About 30 miles northeast of its new site, McAdam Landscaping has a 4-acre Forest Park headquarters that includes a Garden Center. McAdam has 20 full-time employees and a part-time workforce that climbs to 85 in the summer.

In New Lenox, six employees will staff the location by early April, said McAdam. He projected that figure would climb to 20 to 25 within three years.

Over the course of nearly 30 years, Scott McAdam has grown his company from a small lawn-care operation run out of his parents' River Forest home to a multimillion-dollar force as a full-service contractor in the residential, commercial and municipal realms.

The company is online at www.mcadamlandscape.com.

More Information About Scott McAdam

Scott McAdam served as president of the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA) in 1992/1993 and an unprecedented second term in 1998/1999. In February 2001, he received the ILCA 's Man of the Year Award.

He is a supporting member of the Chicago-Department of Environment Green Corp Program. He served for six years as a member of the University of Illinois (Champaign) Horticultural Advisory Board.

He also served on the boards of the Illinois Turfgrass Association and the Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show, and has testified, as an expert witness, regarding landscape ordinances for the City of Chicago.

He serves on the landscape division board of the American Nursery and Landscape Association (ANLA) and serves as the Senator for ANLA representing Illinois. He also serves on the Illinois Green Industry Association's legislative committee.

In 2004, McAdam helped form the Fund for Excellence for the University of Illinois, College of Aces with the department heads and one other industry partner. To date this fund has generated more than \$50,000 in cash and pledges to further the education of students at the University of Illinois. For more background, visit <http://mcadamlandscape.com/mc-staff-scott.html>