

GENEROUS GIVERS

Fund-raising plan places choice in hands of business

Just throwing money to a charitable organization, then turning the other way, wasn't how Stephanie Novak Hau wanted to contribute to her community.

Hau, president of Chesapeake Environmental Management in Bel Air, said she wanted a more direct connection with her intended beneficiary.

So, earlier this year Hau helped craft Project Lend-a-Hand in collaboration with her local United Way organization.

Rather than directing attention to large companies, Hau suggested focusing on small businesses that want to make a difference. Lend-a-Hand allows small businesses to choose where they want to contribute. Businesses receive a list of giving opportunities, allowing a business to participate in what matters most to its employees.

Lend-a-Hand is also a choice of commitment, meaning businesses can contribute once or as much as they'd like. This freedom allows any small business to have an impact in the community.

Hau's involvement with the United Way — she has been a member of the organization's board for five years — and her company's commitment to philanthropy helped



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Stephanie Novak Hau, Chesapeake Environmental Management

earn Chesapeake Environmental a spot on the *Business Journal's* List of the area's most generous corporate givers.

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