

time delivery and installation. These efforts strengthened our customer relationships and left us with a healthier balance sheet to navigate the uncertainties of the coming year.”

Virco President Doug Virtue elaborated: “As schools look forward toward re-opening, we look forward to supporting them. We’ve taken special care to preserve our capacity by keeping our experienced workforce fully employed while practicing social distancing and doing remote work when possible. Schools play a critically important social role, and by inference, so do our employees. Their collective knowledge is unmatched, and their dedication is inspiring. They did a great job last year under challenging conditions, and I expect their performance to shine even brighter in the coming months.”

DARRAN commits \$200,000 for COVID-19 relief

- ▶ DARRAN Furniture has committed \$200,000 to Americares to support the COVID-19 relief

As the COVID-19 situation continues to progress throughout the globe, DARRAN’s state of business and actions have been to protect the safety of our employees and meet commitments to our customers. DARRAN is manufacturing products and the offices are working on normal operating schedules as the company is designated as an Essential Business.

Just as everyone else, President, Jennifer Cashion, and Vice President, Jeff Hollingsworth have seen the impacts of COVID-19 on the public and healthcare

workers both in the U.S. and worldwide, and decided to commit \$200,000 for COVID-19 relief to the Americares nonprofit organization. In an emergency, Americares provides quality medical aid, disaster relief, and recovery. Americares emergency programs help communities prepare, respond and recover from disasters such as COVID-19. Americares continues to respond to the crisis by educating the public about the virus, sourcing and shipping personal protective equipment and providing mental health and disaster response training resources to protect health workers most at risk. They also have clinics in the US and throughout the world to help respond to the outbreak. Americares reserves only .3% of its donations to administrative costs.

Integra Seating Making Face Covering Kits for Employees, Healthcare Workers and Communities

- ▶ 1,000 face covering kits have been sent to Banner Health in Phoenix, Az., to assist in their efforts to supply more PPE where it’s needed most.

Integra Seating is spearheading an effort to make approximately 12,000 face coverings for its employees and their families, as well as healthcare workers and communities across the country to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Through the use of its Zund machine, the company is cutting individual pieces of a poly/cotton blend fabric to serve as a face covering. The face coverings are being provided as part of the CDC’s recommendation

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for wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are hard to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. In accordance with CDC guidelines, all components in the kit are machine washable using standard laundry detergent and machine dryable.

The coverings are part of a kit, which is being supplied to local and national partners in the effort. These partners, which include churches and other organizations, are recruiting volunteers to sew the face coverings and ensure they get to those most at need – local hospitals, senior homes and other high-risk facilities. Each kit contains sewing directions, a fully assembled face covering for use as a guide, and enough fabric pieces and straps for 50 face coverings. All kits are being donated and shipped free of charge.

Since the effort began in late March, about five Integra employees are dedicating time to the project. Several churches in Southern Wisconsin have partnered with Integra



to receive the kits, sew and distribute the completed face coverings. These churches include: Lakeland Community Church in Williams Bay; Sugar Creek Lutheran in Elkhorn; St. John's Baptist in Delavan; Williams Bay Lutheran; and Christ Lutheran in Sharon. In addition, 1,000 face covering kits have been sent to Banner Health in Phoenix, Az., to assist in their efforts to supply more PPE where it's needed most.

“Like everyone, we are very concerned about the health of our employees, families, friends, and our community as a whole,” said Integra Seating CEO Deena Putnam, who is coordinating the company's efforts. “We want everyone in our company and in our community to be safe and healthy and we hope our efforts help. We are grateful for our partners and all the volunteers. We truly are all in this together.”

Integra is offering the kits to any organization or individual throughout the country that would like to contribute and has the volunteers to sew and distribute the face

coverings where they are needed. Organizations or individuals interested in partnering with Integra can contact Deena Putnam directly at dputnam@integraseating.com or call 800-235-0234.

Playing It Safe - Wilkhahn Increases Its Commitment to Health and Safety

- ▶ In addition to the cloth face masks that the Sewing Department has been making each day, Wilkhahn's product developers are now producing 3D-printed face shields.

Wilkhahn – German manufacturer of innovative office and conference furniture – has further increased its commitment to health and safety. Despite the current situation, the company is pulling out all the stops to produce and ship customers' orders on time, while also ensuring that its workforce is protected. Wherever possible, Wilkhahn employees are finding unique new ways to work from home, and those on the production line that are unable to work from home are given adequate PPE.

In addition to the cloth face masks that the Sewing Department has been making each day, Wilkhahn's product developers are now producing 3D-printed face shields. Designed to provide plenty of "breathing space," these 3D-printed face shields are comfortable to wear and printed, using Wilkhahn's own printers, with a lignin-based biopolymer that can even be recycled organically. Michael Englisch (Design and Development Director) and Carsten Gehner (Advance Development Director) set the wheels in motion to manufacture this practical item of PPE virtually overnight.

Wilkhahn is known for its innovation and design, and is aware of the positive impact of these efforts. Wilkhahn President, Dr. Jochen Hahne (pictured above) explains, "We practice social distancing and wear our Wilkhahn face masks in meetings." He went on to say that the 3D-printed face shields primarily help to establish the new pattern of behavior that is required in our day-to-day lives, by preventing droplet spread and keeping people from touching their faces inadvertently. 

