Dillon's workers sort through clothing donations Saturday at the store's Day of Caring at Stepping Stone Shelter. Human resources director Rene Clodfelter said the day is part of a corporate initiative, and the store is looking to provide assistance on a monthly basis to community agencies. L&T photo/Robert Pierce

By ROBERT PIERCE

• Leader & Times

Liberal's Stepping Stone Shelter receives a variety of donations throughout the year, and while organizing those donations is done by some of the volunteers at the shelter, manpower and time are still needed from the outside to help.

The shelter got some of that assistance from employees of one of the community's grocery stores Saturday.

Dillon's workers spent about four hours Saturday organizing clothing and other items in Stepping Stone's basement as part of the store's Day of Caring.

Dillon's Human Resources Director René Clodfelter said the Liberal grocery store is heavily involved with United Way, and Saturday's was a way of paying shoppers back.

"It's kind of tie-in with getting involved in the community, showing our presence, thanking the community for shopping with us," she said. "We want to give something back to them. We are a hometown store."

Store manager Mindy Wyckoff said organizations such as Stepping Stone rely on people from outside to come in and do work such as what employees did Saturday.

"They don't have the manpower or the hours, the money to put towards it," she said.

Clodfelter and Wyckoff said Dillon's had done a Day of Caring in the past, and after discontinuing for a while, Clodfelter said store officials are hoping to make it a monthly event.

"Usually, they have commodities that need dating to be put up," she said of Stepping Stone. "This is one of their biggest things. They get a lot of stuff in. It kind of helps to go through and weed out what shouldn't have been brought in to begin with. When families or single people that live here are finally able to get a place to live, this provides them with some start up stuff, linens, furniture, clothes for a job."

Clodfelter said the Day of Caring is part of a corporate effort from Dillon's.

"We're in District 1, and all of the stores in the Dillon's division are participating in a Day of Caring," she said.

Clodfelter said Dillon's simply wants "to give back to the community, and we want to do it as a store," and they will work with other agencies besides Stepping Stone.

"Our goal is to become a little more involved in the community as a store and to work with some other agencies in assisting them with some of the help they need," she said. "Budget cutbacks have really hurt a lot. They always say it's better to give than to receive, and it is."