

Citizens of the world.

Meet some of the many Boeing employees who give their time, talents to charities

Visited an aquarium? Watched a Special Olympics competition? These are two of the many places where you might find Boeing teammates supporting their communities.

A growing number of employees are applying their knowledge and job skills to volunteer efforts outside work. By doing so, they're helping build stronger, more vibrant communities, according to Patrice Mingo, director of strategic programs for Global Corporate Citizenship. "Boeing people generously contribute their time, expertise and money to local charities and nonprofit groups," Mingo said, referring to the many projects employees participate in—often held under the auspices of Employee Volunteer Councils—and to the monetary contributions they make to the Employees Community Funds of Boeing.

Traditional volunteering remains a valuable initiative, Mingo said, but Boeing is evolving toward a more skills-based volunteering mindset: strategically applying much-needed skills and talents to nonprofits seeking hands-on expertise. "Volunteering is a strong driver toward 'One Boeing.' As world citizens, we can focus less on our differences and more on how we leverage our unique skills and talents to make positive change in our communities," Mingo said.

For National Volunteer Week—which takes place April 19–25 in the United States—*Boeing Frontiers* looks at some of the many employees who contribute their skills to drive positive change in their communities.

— Geoff Potter

Katie Lewis

Environment, Health and Safety – Renton, Wash.

Volunteer organizations: Washington Alliance for Better Schools, an after-school math and science program for grade-school students; the Washington State University Imagine Tomorrow energy competition; and Inner City Outings, an outreach program of the Sierra Club providing opportunities for youth to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world.

Volunteer work: I want to get kids excited about—or at least give them the opportunity to explore—science and the natural world. This is my first year with WABS, where I co-teach a weekly after-school science program. For two years, I've been involved with the Imagine Tomorrow "Power Your Future" competition, in which teams of high school students address challenges related to sustainable solutions for energy and the environment.

How does your job translate to volunteerism? Through the Boeing leadership attribute to inspire others—together with the fundamental EHS principles to promote and support the well-being of our communities and to take responsibility for environmental protection and excellence.

Most rewarding part of volunteer work: Seeing students' interest and excitement for the sciences and natural world grow. With kids, it's an early investment with lifelong results.

Advice on volunteering: We're all busy, so choose a volunteer position that requires a reasonable amount of commitment for your situation.

— Katherine Sopranos

MARIAN LOCKHART/BOEING

BOEING 波音

Michael Paone

Commercial Aviation Services – Beijing

Volunteer organization: Special Olympics East Asia, which offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition in Olympic-type summer and winter sports.

Volunteer work: I help establish the strategy for Boeing China's Special Olympics support. Our first major project was to establish bocce teams in Beijing and throughout China. The sponsorship led to a significant Chinese presence at the 2007 Special Olympics summer games in Shanghai. Now that bocce is well established in China, this year we're focusing on getting soccer better established there. I also provide volunteer assistance.

How does your job translate to volunteerism? Managing people and projects and speaking in front of large audiences are skills I use while working with the Special Olympics. Charitable organizations can't survive without volunteers. Volunteers with special skills are very important to the success of any charity.

Most rewarding part of volunteer work: Attending events and experiencing the joy athletes feel when they are victorious and the sorrow they feel when they are not. The pure emotions are inspirational.

Advice on volunteering: Making time to volunteer is a tough choice, but once you do, the feeling of accomplishment more than makes up for the effort.

– Katherine Sopranos





Kim Armstrong

Learning, Training and Development – Long Beach, Calif.

Volunteer organization: Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, Calif., whose mission is to instill a sense of wonder, respect and stewardship for the Pacific Ocean, its inhabitants and ecosystems.

Volunteer work: I've been dedicated to the aquarium for seven years, assisting the Veterinary Services and Education departments. I help shape the aquarium's education strategy, which is to expand e-learning into the community—specifically to get youths excited about science, technology, ecology and health. I've worked on many interesting projects to help the aquarium operate more efficiently, such as helping teams plan a new animal care center and creating a computerized data-analysis system for animal collection and care records.

How does your job translate to volunteerism? I wanted to stretch myself and align with an area where I could provide my talent and really make a difference. Working with the aquarium, I leverage my skills and experience in education, computer research and data analysis, communications, instructional and curriculum design, and Lean+ learning and training. My work with the aquarium aims to economically and efficiently improve learning and development solutions.

Most rewarding part of volunteer work: Knowing that my contributions make a difference—not only in the health and well-being of the animals but also in the educational experiences that the aquarium's visitors will have. Nonprofits can't afford to staff their organizations with every skill they need, and they depend on volunteers to help fulfill their missions. Volunteers bring a gift of their time and talents, and organizations really value their contributions.

Advice on volunteering: Even if it is just a few hours a month, every volunteer makes a difference. Go with your passion.

– Katherine Sopranos

PAUL PINNER/BOEING



Scott Strickland

Space Exploration, Integrated Defense Systems – Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

Volunteer organization: FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics, a nonprofit dedicated to inspiring the next generation of engineers and innovators.

Volunteer work: I've been involved with FIRST for 12 years, helping high school students with the complex process of designing, building and testing a robot for national FIRST competitions. I'm working with students from Titusville High School and Astronaut High School in Titusville, Fla. The students get to observe what I do as an engineer while the team solves difficult design problems. How would a student know what an aerospace engineer does? Teachers do a great job of teaching, but experts in the business can help expose students to problem-solving methods, tools and a career path.

How does your job translate to volunteerism?

My mechanical design skills and experience translate directly to helping the team build a robot. In turn, I think my experience on the FIRST team helps me be a better leader. Setting goals, watching the big picture and engaging team members are skills that apply to both my Boeing job and mentoring a FIRST team.

Most rewarding part of volunteer work: The friendships developed with mentors and students—and seeing students from the team pursue an engineering career. I'm still in contact with some students from over 10 years ago.

Advice on volunteering: Find something you enjoy doing and you are more likely to stick to it. Involve your family, if possible.

– Katherine Sopranos

KEVIN GILL/INDYNE