

One fine day

How Boeing volunteers around the world helped communities and changed lives

By Geoff Potter

It was a "One Boeing" kind of day.

In communities on three continents, more than 1,600 Boeing employees, their families and friends volunteered their personal time and skills to touch lives at schools, workplaces, homes and even homeless shelters during the company's first Global Day of Service on July 17.

"Employees from across the enterprise came together on the same day for a common purpose, and they touched the lives of people around the world," said Patrice Mingo, Boeing director of strategic employee programs. The success of the global event exceeded expectations, she said.

Timed to commemorate the founding of The Boeing Company on July 15, 1916, the new, signature event put an exclamation point on Boeing's evolving volunteer program, which was launched by the Employee Volunteer Council and Global Corporate Citizenship

earlier this year. The purpose is to connect employee volunteers worldwide and maximize their positive impact in communities.

Beyond the six pilot Global Day of Services sites, other Boeing employees also participated. In Kansas, for example, volunteers gathered at the Wichita Art Museum to educate the public about the arts. They helped operate an art studio for kids and hosted an ice cream social that drew 1,200 attendees.

Here's a brief look at what was accomplished at those six sites:

IN ST. LOUIS, more than 200 Boeing volunteers worked with nonprofit Rebuilding Together to

repair houses. The teams poured concrete, replaced porch columns, painted, redid siding, cleaned up yards and much more to help poor,



PHOTOS: (Below and top left inset) In Puget Sound, volunteers help build new Habitat for Humanity houses. JESSICA OYANAGI/BOEING

(Insets, top middle and right) With Rebuilding Together, volunteers repair the houses of poor, disabled and elderly homeowners in St. Louis. RICHARD RAU/BOEING

(Above) In Seoul, Korea, volunteers serve meals, and wash up afterward, at the Rise Again homeless center. KEVIN KELLY/BOEING





PHOTOS: (Below) Volunteers head out to start working on California wetlands restoration. BOB SCHNEIDER/BOEING (Insets, from left) In Australia, volunteers weed and plant a high school's new Boeing Garden. KAREN CLARKE/BOEING Together with students and staff, volunteers help decorate a Tokyo school for its 25th anniversary fundraiser. MITSUKO TAKAHASHI/BOEING

disabled and elderly homeowners continue to live independently.

"This was my first leap into volunteer work of any kind, and it was a little overwhelming at times, but it was worth every moment," said Shanán Smith, a Lean+ facilitator who helped lead 74 Engineering, Operations & Technology employees that day.

"Watching people come together and bring their knowledge and abilities to lift the burdens of homeowners in need was an experience beyond words," Smith added.

IN KOREA, 15 volunteers, including Boeing Defense, Space & Security leaders, employees and their families, prepared and served meals to nearly

170 people at the Rise Again Center, a homeless shelter in Seoul.

IN JAPAN, employees chose to work at Tokyo Shure, which is celebrating 25 years of providing alternative schooling for children and young people. The volunteers helped students and staff decorate the school with handmade signs and origami for a fundraiser marking the anniversary.

IN WASHINGTON STATE, nearly 800 volunteers, many from Boeing Commercial Airplanes, partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build 12 homes at six construction sites across three counties. Other teams helped paint and clean up Puget

Sound schools and child care centers. **IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,** more than 450 Boeing volunteers removed invasive vegetation and trash to help maintain the natural habitat of local wetlands areas.

The teams included members of the Clean & Green Crew, part of the LA Conservation Corps' Young Adult Corps. These are at-risk students who gain job skills training, education and experience working on conservation and service projects.

Together, the volunteers repaired 4,800 square feet (450 square meters) of decomposed granite trail path

and removed 5 acres (2 hectares) of invasive species that included a 700-pound (320-kilogram) palm tree. They also got rid of nearly 12 tons (11 metric tons) of trash.

IN AUSTRALIA, employees joined with members of the Brisbane, Queensland, community to help improve the grounds for Balmoral State High School.

"The neighbors around the school all came out to see what was going on and were pleased to see Boeing's involvement," said James Baker, who led the Australian event. "They even suggested we might like to do their gardens." ■

geoffrey.potter@boeing.com

