



TreePeople works with Los Angeles Girl Scouts to plant trees in Los Angeles County, Calif. These volunteers joined more than 600 other scouts at a “tree jamboree” planting in the San Fernando Valley’s O’Melveny Park. The organization has partnered with ECF for almost 25 years. STEPHEN READMOND PHOTO

Giving big

BY LIZ LANE

When it comes to helping those in need, Boeing employees have big hearts that are collectively beating at the rate of \$1 billion and counting. That’s how much Boeing employees have provided in charitable donations. Over the past 10 years, annual contributions have totaled at least \$30 million, despite an employee base that’s decreased about 30 percent during this span.

Contributions from employees in the Puget Sound region just passed the \$500 million mark. St. Louis employees, who recently celebrated 60 years of giving, donate about \$2.4 million per year, making them one of the city’s top philanthropic funding sources. Employees at other Boeing sites also are helping people in their communities.

It’s all done through Employees Community Fund of The Boeing Company, which actually is a collection of individual site-based funds throughout the enterprise. Many of these funds will begin their annual fundraising campaign this month.

ECF is the world’s largest employee-owned and -operated entity of its kind, and it’s been a part of Boeing for a long time. In fact, the earliest form of the employee-giving program was founded in 1947, and it has empowered employees to improve their local communities ever since.

Employees make tax-deductible donations to ECF through recurring

How Boeing employees change the world, one life at a time, through their contributions to ECF

payroll deductions or one-time gifts. These funds are distributed to non-profit organizations either via an employee-elected board or committee from a pooled fund, or directly through designated giving. Most important, because Boeing assumes all administrative and promotional costs, *every cent* goes directly to the charities.

A HISTORY OF HOPE

ECF represents hope and opportunity for the countless people whose lives are being changed every day through the services of the nonprofit organizations the fund supports. Today, more than 4,000 nonprofits count on ECF for funding every year. Dollar by dollar, the program is changing the world—one life at a time.

Pennsylvania’s City Team Ministries uses ECF funds to help those most in need in their area. The group provides services such as disaster response, food, shelter and employment services, alcohol and drug addiction recovery programs, a child-sponsorship program, and more. It’s grown to become a significant resource that helps poor Pennsylvanians break the multigenerational poverty cycle.

In Phoenix, Boeing employees are supporting Homeward Bound, a housing and social services program for homeless families and victims of domestic violence. With 162 living units, the organization houses close to 600 people, most of whom are children. The group’s philoso-

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phy is to provide a hand up, not handouts—so program recipients help pay for the services they receive. It’s definitely working. Since its inception in 1990, Homeward Bound has helped thousands of children and their families become self-sufficient.

Dave Bowman, Integrated Defense Systems vice president/general manager, Global Mobility Systems, and Long Beach, Calif., site leader, is an ECF advocate. “ECF is the people of Boeing giving personally, together, to provide meaningful support in our communities for present and future generations to come,” he said.

The money that is donated in a city or region stays in that area, supporting causes that relate to health and human services, arts and culture, education and the environment.

TreePeople, a Los Angeles-based non-profit environmental organization, has partnered with ECF for almost 25 years. The group will use recent ECF donations to launch the Urban Forestry Watershed Education project. This program will teach residents how to maintain a healthy and sustainable urban environment by appropriately adapting and caring for home, neighborhood, park and school landscapes.

“The ECF has been one of our most extraordinary partners, because their approach of employee leadership delivers the critical energy—both money and volunteers—that helps solve or ease our community’s most pressing issues,” said TreePeople President Andy Lipkis. “They can do this because Boeing’s employees have their fingers on the pulse and pain of their communities.”

START MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Although employees can sign up to donate at any time through TotalAccess (via “My Community Giving”), there’s no time like the present to start making a difference—especially since about half of all current ECF donors will retire in the next 10 years.

“It’s critical to the future of ECF that those employees who do not participate get involved,” said Patrice Mingo, Global Corporate Citizenship director. She noted that if every eligible Boeing employee who isn’t currently

a member would donate just the \$5 per paycheck minimum, the overall Fund would increase by \$10 million.

“Boeing employees who give find they really enjoy the experience and are amazed by what can be accomplished through pooling their funds with fellow employees,” she said. “Employees usually become long-time supporters once they take that first plunge.”

Tony Tumminello, counsel for Boeing in Mesa, Ariz., is one of these supporters. “ECF is uniquely positioned to enable Boeing employees to make a genuine impact in the community,” he said. “It provides a simple yet powerful means for employees to give back and demonstrate leadership in living the Boeing values.”

It’s easy to get started. Employees can make tax-deductible donations to ECF-pooled funds and/or earmark their contributions for eligible nonprofits of their choice through designated giving.

The inherent value of the pooled fund is its potential to solve community problems. It enables donors to pool their contributions so they collectively can make a larger contribution, compared to what they might be able to give individually.

Grants from ECF-pooled funds are made by employee-elected boards and committees following a self-established set of grant-making guidelines. Potential grantees use an online system to apply for funding in support of a project or program. Board and committee members carefully evaluate the grant applications and make site visits before approving grants. Suggestions from ECF participants for nonprofits to support are always welcome.

Designated giving allows employees to make individual contributions to eligible non-profit organizations other than ECF. Unlike ECF pooled-fund grants, these individual contributions usually are applied to the nonprofits’ overall operating funds.

“It’s important to note that employees can do both if they wish: give to a pooled fund and another nonprofit of their choice,” Mingo said. “Either way, our communities are helped.”

Along with employee volunteerism and

Still generous, after 57 years

“When it comes out of your paycheck, you don’t even miss it,” said Diana Rhea, a Boeing employee for 65 years and a member of the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound since 1951. Rhea began working as a clerk-typist in the parts-ordering group at Boeing in 1942. Today she works on the Renton, Wash., 737 line in the panel-maintenance group.

As the Puget Sound ECF commemorates passing the \$500 million mark of employee and retiree donations to local communities since its inception, Rhea celebrates 57 years of giving. “It just makes you feel good,” she said. “I wish more people would help.”

corporate philanthropic investments, ECF is an integral part of Boeing’s identity as a good corporate citizen and neighbor. For as little as \$5 a paycheck, employees can make positive changes that will ripple throughout their communities. Small investments that yield big paybacks: That’s what it’s all about. ■

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