



Winter 2010

## 🌀 New Toolkit Promotes Inclusion and Employment

Quintin Williams joined the Utah Conservation Corps two summers ago, where he participated in a summer of service doing conservation work. He hoped this experience would help him gain vocational and leadership skills so he could find meaningful employment after graduation.

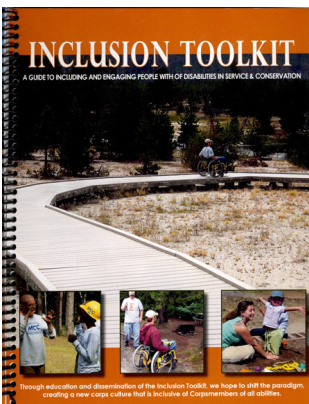
Prior to joining the Corps, Quintin, who is completely blind, only worked in unsatisfying jobs working with other people who are blind. As a member of an inclusive crew, Quintin worked alongside people with various backgrounds and abilities helping to build a universally designed community garden, and conducting accessibility assessment surveys for the U.S. Forest Service. Quintin used humor with his crewmates to break down barriers and honestly communicate about differences in ability, demonstrating a natural leadership that led to his promotion to crew leader last summer.

As crew leader, Quintin helped take a local project national: developing a new nationwide accessibility information database for the Forest Service that will provide the public with information on accessible campsites, facilities and services, as well as help the Forest Service assess areas where improvements are needed. Janet Zeller, director of accessibility for the Forest Service, describes the database as, “a leap forward in helping to make public lands accessible to *all* people.”



Corps Member of the Year Quintin Williams poses with UCC Assistant Director, Kate Stephens.

Quintin was named 2010 Corps Member of the Year by the **Corps Network**, a national association of 143 service and conservation corps around the country. Crediting his experience with the Corps, Quintin now has meaningful employment with the State of Utah, providing Braille translation services. Under a grant from MEAF, the Corps Network recently introduced an Inclusion Toolkit, which will help Corps across the country provide more opportunities for young leaders like Quintin to demonstrate their abilities and get on a path of employment and independence.



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## ☉ Youth Inclusion Voices

While including young people with disabilities in so-called “normal” classrooms and “mainstream” community organizations is becoming more the norm, there is still a long way to go to help ensure that they are accepted and have an opportunity to fully participate. To identify ways to promote the idea of inclusion in schools and the community, MEAF—in partnership with a number of its grantees—brought together 20 youth with and without disabilities to think about how they could promote inclusion among their peers. In one weekend, participants in this “youth summit” came up with an idea to promote inclusion through a national campaign using social media like Facebook. The “Youth Inclusion Voices Taskforce” plans to launch the campaign this summer using films like *Including Samuel* and self-made videos to help ensure *all* youth can fully participate.



Youth Summit participants pose in front of the White House.

## ☉ Get on the M.O.V.E.



The HOPE Committee accepts the 2009 MOVE Award.

It's that time again! MEAF is now accepting nominees for the 2010 M.O.V.E. Award. The M.O.V.E. Award is given annually at the volunteer leadership workshop to the most outstanding employee-initiated volunteer project. MEAF is looking for innovative projects that maximize participation and fill a charitable need. All projects conducted between January 1, 2009 and April 30, 2010 are eligible for nomination. Remember, April is National Volunteer Month and it's a great time to *get on the M.O.V.E.*

The winning committee will receive a crystal trophy and \$1,000 to be donated to the benefiting charity. The nomination deadline is Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Workshop 2010—Heating Up Philanthropy: Volunteerism in High Definition



The annual MEAF volunteer leadership workshop will be co-hosted by the **LOVE Committee**, **MEUS/Suwanee** and **PEACH Committee**, **MDEA/Braselton**, in Atlanta, GA, June 5-7, 2010. Workshop participants will have a chance to share ideas on how to maximize their philanthropic dollars, conduct high impact volunteer projects, and hear from participants in MEAF's National Grant programs.



## Mitsubishi Electric Photo Contest

MEAF is looking for great photos showing **volunteers on the M.O.V.E.!** Submit your photos in one or more of five categories for your chance to win a \$50 donation to your favorite eligible charity.

### Categories:

- Best use of Committee/Company/M.O.V.E. Logo
- Volunteers in Action
- Volunteering with Youth
- Managers on the M.O.V.E.
- Fun Fundraisers

### Contest Rules:

- Submit high-resolution photos in one or more of the 5 categories.
- Photos will be judged on how well they fit the category theme, the composition, and other artistic and technical components.
- You may enter as many photos as you wish.
- Submitters must own the rights to the photo and grant MEAF permission to unlimited use of the photos.
- Photo release forms should be submitted for any youth featured in the photos.
- Submit photos by email to [allison.berg@meus.mea.com](mailto:allison.berg@meus.mea.com) with the phrase "Photo Contest" in the subject line. In your email, please indicate under which category or categories you would like each photo to be considered.

**DEADLINE: Friday, May 14**

## Help for Haiti

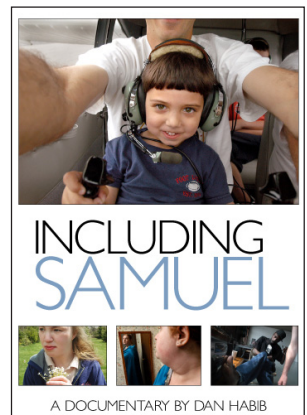
The recent devastating earthquake in Haiti left more than 200,000 dead and countless others injured. As with other disasters in the past, the generosity of Mitsubishi Electric employees showed as they organized drives to collect food and clothing, and donated \$10,000 to organizations providing relief efforts. MEAF matched these donations with \$5000 to the American Red Cross, Save the Children and CARE. **Thank you to all the Mitsubishi Electric employees who were able to help during this tragic time.**



## Question Box

### How can employees at my company learn more about inclusion?

While members of your company's philanthropy committees may be knowledgeable about the inclusion of people with disabilities, how can you spread the message to the rest of the company? A fun and interactive way to get the word out is to host an **Including Samuel Workshop**. *Including Samuel* is an award-winning documentary by photojournalist Dan Habib chronicling the efforts of the Habib family to ensure that their son, Samuel, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, is fully included in the community. The video makes a great starting point for a discussion about inclusion. The **VISION Committee** at **MEAU/Vernon Hills** recently held a successful Including Samuel Workshop for company employees. Led by two representatives from local disability organizations, the workshop was filled with great discussions, including the impact that inclusion has on Mitsubishi Electric companies. If you would like more information on holding an Including Samuel Workshop, please contact MEAF Employee Representative Tara Havlicek at [tara.havlicek@meau.com](mailto:tara.havlicek@meau.com). To obtain a copy of the *Including Samuel* DVD, please contact Allison Berg at [allison.berg@meus.mea.com](mailto:allison.berg@meus.mea.com). A free screening toolkit can be downloaded at [www.includingsamuel.com](http://www.includingsamuel.com).



## Introducing MEAF Intern Kerrie Drushella



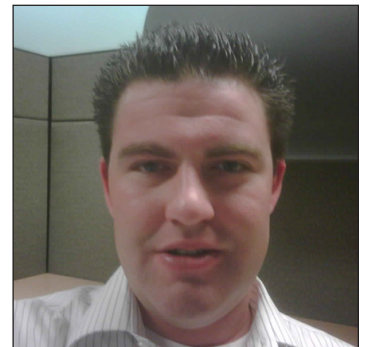
MEAF Communications Intern Kerrie Drushella

This spring, MEAF welcomed its newest intern, Kerrie Drushella. Kerrie is interning with MEAF through The Washington Center, a non-profit organization that places undergraduate and graduate students in various internships throughout Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. Throughout her time with MEAF, Kerrie hopes to learn all she can about philanthropic foundations in order to help decide what she wants to do with her degree in Health Care Management when she graduates from Stonehill College in May of 2011. Internships are a great way of applying concepts learned about in the classroom to the "real world" and here at MEAF, we hope to help

Kerrie learn all she can about the behind-the-scenes of our foundation and working to help improve the lives of people with disabilities.

The MEAF internship is one of many opportunities designed to help students gain employment skills:

- **MEUS/Cypress** is looking forward to its fourth consecutive year of providing a summer internship for a young person with a disability. Interns have worked in various departments, including accounting, corporate communications, and the Elevator/Escalator Division. Last year's intern, Joshua Bietsch, was hired as a full-time employee after his internship ended!
- **MDEA/Irvine** offered opportunities for high school students with disabilities to intern in their facility last summer.
- **MEAU/Vernon Hills** hosts a yearly Disability Mentoring Day for students in special education to gain insight into employment options.
- And the ninth class of **MEAF/AAPD Congressional Interns** will come to DC to participate in MEAF's signature program on Capitol Hill this summer.



Former MEUS intern - and new full-time employee - Joshua Bietsch.

If you know a promising high school or college student with a disability, encourage them to participate in an internship to gain practical experience to put them on the path to employment: AAPD: [www.aapd.com/AAPDInternship/conginternship.html](http://www.aapd.com/AAPDInternship/conginternship.html). The Washington Center: [www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu).

MEAF Staff: Kevin Webb: Director | Allison Berg: Program Assistant | Kerrie Drushella: Communications Intern