



March 2016



MEAF Celebrates 25 Years!

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation held its 25th Anniversary Celebration at Gallaudet University on February 24th, followed by a half-day M>PWR Summit on February 25th to discuss strategies to empower young people with disabilities to lead productive lives.

Over the past 25 years MEAF has been focused on improving Access, Inclusion, and Employment Opportunities for youth with disabilities. From our first grant with the Marriott Foundation Bridges from School to Work program, helping Project SEARCH replicate their program across the US, to technology programs at Do-IT with the University of Washington, internship programs with American Association of People with Disabilities and US International Council on Disabilities to mentoring programs with US Business Leadership Network and the Intelligent Lives film with University of New Hampshire.

Thanks to all of you who attended these events to mark the Foundation's quarter-century, and special thanks to all of our presenters and those who assisted with organizing these events.

[Learn more about MEAF's 25th Anniversary Celebration here](#)



Advocates in Disability Award

The ADA is a joint program of The **HSC Foundation** and the **Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation**. The selected recipient, a young adult with a disability, is awarded \$3,000 in recognition of past disability advocacy and will receive up to an additional \$7,000 in funding for a proposed project to benefit the disability community.

[Apply here for the award](#)

[Learn more about the award program](#)

[Meet the 2015 Award Winner Odunola Ojewumi](#)



Project SEARCH in Action

MEAF is proud to support **Project SEARCH** and the replication of their employment program in all 50 states.

Project SEARCH is a unique high school transition program that provides real-life work experience to help youth with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to adult life.

[Check out this video from a Project SEARCH site in Delaware](#)



What Inclusion Means

In 2010, MEAF supported a youth summit where 20 students with and without disabilities came together and came up with the I am Norm Campaign, dedicated to redefining "normal" and promoting inclusion in schools and communities everywhere. The youth went on to speak at conferences as disability leaders and advocates. One participant, **Tia Holmes**, now a college student at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill talks about the importance of inclusion.

[Read it first here](#)



Smoke Alarm Blitz

The **LOVE Committee** from Mitsubishi Electric, US in Suwanee, Georgia is at it again with their 2015 MOVE Award winning project - Smoke Alarm Blitz!

Mitsubishi Electric volunteers work with the local Fire Department to inspect and install working fire alarms in the community helping people with and without disabilities get to safety in their time of need.



Souper Bowl Fundraiser

Volunteers for the **PEACE Committee** at Mitsubishi Electric Automotive America in Northville, Michigan held a SOUPer Bowl fundraiser at the office. Pictured above are some of the lucky soup taste testers!

The PEACE Committee volunteers regularly with Miracle League of Plymouth, Cooke School, and Redford Union Oral Program to ensure kids with disabilities are fully included.



Helping at the Food Bank

17 **VISION Committee** volunteers from Mitsubishi Electric Automation in Vernon Hills, Illinois sorted and packaged food at the Northern Illinois Food Bank this March ensuring Spring is a happy and healthy time for families across the state.

In addition, the committee continues to collect old shoes, which will be reused into playgrounds and other surfaces.

M>PWR Deadlines and Reminders

National Grantees

- Concept Papers due June 1

Mitsubishi Electric Volunteer Committees

- April is National Volunteer Month
- Committee 1st Quarter Reports Due April 6
- Earth Day is April 22

Did you know?

Teen Voices, the global girl news initiative and mentoring program of Women's eNews, is actively recruiting girls with disabilities to write for them. They work with female-identified teens 13-19 years old and publish journalistic reported pieces and first-person essays.

Writers will be paid for their published work. They are specifically looking for pieces on **WORK, COLLEGE, and TRANSITION!**

Want to learn more? Contact Tara at MEAF!

Visit [MEAF's Website](#)