Trees & Technology

Due to economic circumstance or disability -- or sometimes both -- many children don’t have a chance to take part in outdoor activities. MEPPI employees set out to remedy this situation for youth with severe disabilities. They formed a partnership with the Woodlands Foundation, a nature preserve and youth center near Pittsburgh that offers summer camp and year-round activities with a wide range of accommodations so that kids of all abilities can take part. Some of MEPPI’s contributions to the Woodlands have combined product donations with volunteerism, such as donating and installing energy-efficient heating & cooling equipment in camp cabins and setting up an accessible computer lab. To date, MEPPI has invested nearly $88,000, including MEAF Matching Grants, along with 350 volunteer hours.

New Energy for an Old Friend

The Early Learning Institute (TELI) serves more than 1500 children and their families each year in inclusive educational programs. A long-time community partner of TELI, MEPPI has provided nearly $90,000 (including MEAF matches) and 2,000 volunteer hours to support TELI’s in-home services and speech and language programs for developmentally delayed children in the community. For more than a decade, HOPE Committee volunteers created and hosted the Tour de Sewickley bicycle race, raising a community-wide total of over $70,000 (including MEAF matches) to support TELI. Looking for “new energy” in 2008, the HOPE Committee developed a year-long series of fundraising events, including a Poker Walk, Hallway Golf Tournament, and the “HOPE in the Kitchen Cookbook” to benefit their old friend, TELI. This “New Energy for an Old Friend” approach earned HOPE the MEAF 2009 Volunteer Project of the Year Award.

Angels in the Outfield

In May 2009, HOPE Committee volunteers attended a “miraculous” opening day at the new Miracle League ballfield in Cranberry, PA. Miracle League provides opportunities for children with disabilities to experience the joy of baseball along with volunteer “angels in the outfield.” MEPPI’s $25,000 donation (including MEAF matches) helped make this field of dreams possible.

BACKGROUND

The HOPE Philanthropy Committee is a dedicated group of Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc. employees in Warrendale, PA. It is one of 11 Mitsubishi Electric company locations in the U.S. with a philanthropy committee that organizes fundraisers and volunteer activities to support charities in the local community.

The Committee is supported by the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF), which matches donations raised and hours given by employee volunteers. MEAF’s mission is to help young people with disabilities maximize their potential and participation in society, and the HOPE Committee supports this mission through its community-based efforts. For more information visit: www.MEAF.org.

HOPE at a glance

Company: Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.
Location: Warrendale, PA
Committee Name: HOPE - Helping Our Partners Exceed
Established: 1994
Company Donations: $261,788
MEAF Matches: $286,347
TOTAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT TO DATE: $548,135 + 3,564 VOLUNTEER HOURS