April is National Volunteer Month, and Mitsubishi Electric employees make special efforts during the month to organize volunteer projects to support their communities. Since 1994, the VISION Committee has taken part in Global Youth Service Day during April as its volunteer month project. Every year, employees carry out a variety of tasks at the Sunrise Lake Outdoor Education Center (managed by the Northwest Suburban Special Education Association) to get the Center ready for the hundreds of kids with disabilities who will take part in the summer camp. MEAU employees have contributed more than 1200 volunteer hours and $81,600 (including MEAF matches) to support Sunrise Lake and promote youth service.

Mentoring for Success
Since 1997, the VISION Committee has provided support for the Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL), with more than $74,000 (including MEAF matches) and 500 volunteer hours. These contributions help SEDOL institutions like the John Powers School, a public school for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. For the past few years, MEAU has happily opened its doors to students from SEDOL on Disability Mentoring Day (DMD), which is organized annually in October by the American Association of People with Disabilities. On DMD, MEAU employees’ mentor and coach students with disabilities on what it’s like to work in a state-of-the-art Company. In recognition of these efforts, SEDOL students recently presented MEAU with an “Employer of the Year Award.”

Good Sports + Good Citizenship
Since the committee’s founding in 1994, VISION volunteers have consistently focused their efforts on sports and recreation programs that help develop the whole child. From the regionally inclusive Tricycle Olympics, supporting Special Olympics events to fielding a winning Corporate Challenge volleyball team, MEAU has provided a remarkable $200,000 (including MEAF matches) to support the Special Recreation Association of Central Lake County, Special Leisure Services Foundation and Special Olympics Illinois.

BACKGROUND
The VISION Philanthropy Committee is a dedicated group of Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc. employees in Vernon Hills, IL. 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 VISION Committee supports this mission through its community-based efforts. For more information visit: www.MEAF.org.