MEAF e-NEWS January-February 2014

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MEAF 2013 Year in Review

MEAF is pleased to share our 2013 year in review, which includes highlights from Mitsubishi Electric employee volunteers and our national grantees.

Thank you for making Changes for the Better in the lives of youth with disabilities.

MEAF 2013 Year in Review

Now Accepting Applications

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation is currently accepting applications for national projects that begin in January 2015 or later.

Proposed projects should respond to MEAF’s vision to empower youth with disabilities to lead productive lives.

MEAF announces $1.5 Million in Grants!

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation announces $1,457,242 in new and continuing grants, as part of its national M>PWR Initiative designed to empower youth with disabilities and veterans with disabilities so they can lead productive lives.

Check out the article below to learn more about the Initiative, and read the press release to learn more about this year's national grant projects.

M>PWR Initiative

MEAF is pleased to announce the launch of the M>PWR initiative focused on empowering youth and veterans with disabilities to obtain competitive employment.
The deadline to submit applications is June 1st.

Learn about our priorities and guidelines, take the eligibility quiz, and apply for a National Grant!

ASAN Announces 2014 Summer Leadership Academy

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network, with support from the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, is inviting Autistic students to participate in the Autism Campus Inclusion project's 2014 Summer Leadership Academy in Washington DC June 8 - 14.

If you are a current college undergraduate student who identifies on the Autism Spectrum, including Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, with a strong interest in Disability Rights and Autistic Rights movements, you are encouraged to apply for this leadership training program. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a higher education institute or college in the United States, with at least one year left after completion of the leadership training.

Deadline is February 22.

Apply for the ACI 2014 Summer Leadership Academy

Over the course of the next three years in lead up to the Foundation's 25th anniversary, MEAF will bring together a network of: students, colleagues from local non-profits identified by Mitsubishi Electric Employee Volunteers, representatives from our National grantee projects, as well as local employers and community leaders to participate in regional M>PWR Summits to share best practices for securing inclusive employment.

The first regional summit will be hosted in Chicago, Illinois in April 2014 featuring the Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities Bridges from School to Work transition program, along with the Special Education District of Lake County mentoring and student-run business employment preparation programs.

The goal of the summits is to get one step closer to a day when hiring someone with a disability in the workplace is standard practice and not the exception.

Learn more about M>PWR

Spreading Holiday Cheer

As 2013 came to a close Mitsubishi Electric Employee Volunteers gave back to their local communities and spread holiday cheer by donating toys to children in need.
Tayla, an intern from **Partners for Youth with Disabilities**, returned to **Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs** to work over the holidays!

MASH volunteers from **MEAA/Maysville, KY** raise money for **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)** with their Holiday Cheer baskets!

The **PEACE Committee from MEAA/Northville, MI** collected toys for **Toys for Tots**. MEAF staff, **Tara Havlicek**, and her family also joined in the fun donating to Toys for Tots in Illinois!

The **LIFT Committee from MEUS/San Diego, CA** collected toys for **Promises 2 Kids** with donations from employees and customers.

The **HOPE Team at MEVSA/Cypress, CA** and the **VISION Committee at MEAU/Vernon Hills, IL** also donated toys and gift cards to local organizations to bring cheer to children of all ages.

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**Deadlines and Reminders**

**National Grants**
- Applications Due June 1
- Full Proposals Due July 1
Want to see more?
Check out MEAF's new social media sites.
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Mitsubishi Electric Volunteer Committees
Workshop Participant Names Due March 5

M>PWR Initiative
Chicago, IL - April 2nd
Cincinnati, OH - June 5th (tentative)
Long Beach, CA - July 1st (tentative)