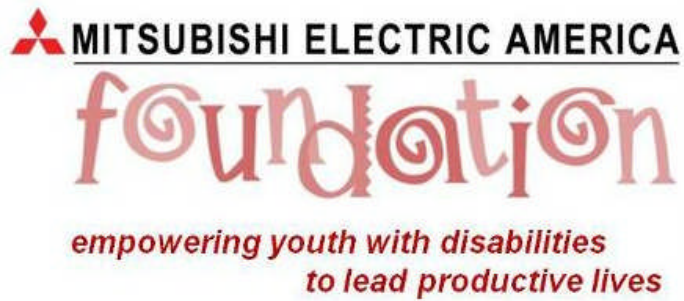


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MEAF e-NEWS

September

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Mitsubishi Electric Volunteers in Action

In August, we told you about four volunteers from two different Mitsubishi Electric volunteer committees who conquered their fears and rappelled down 33 stories while raising money for [Kids Included Together \(KIT\)](#).

Now you can see the LIFT Committee's (MEUS-San Diego) experience through video!



[Watch the video of the LIFT Committee from MEUS/San Diego, CA who raised over \\$3,000 for KIT.](#)

Employing Youth with Disabilities

October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)** and people around the nation are gearing up to provide workplace experiences for youth with disabilities.

MEAF's vision to *empower youth with disabilities to lead productive lives* is directly aligned with NDEAM and its 2012 theme: **"A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"**.



"With only 20% of people with disabilities engaged in the workforce, we have a long way to go to ensure everyone who wants to work, can work," says MEAF's director, Kevin Webb. "MEAF's support for programs to empower young people with disabilities will help ensure that they can fully participate in the workforce when they transition to adulthood."

MEAF supports several national grants that focus on preparing youth with disabilities to enter



MEAF staff member, Tara Havlicek, participated in a 5K for the [SEDOL Foundation](#) on September 15th. The Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) has been a long time partner of the **VISION Committee at MEAU/Vernon Hills** and their annual Disability Mentoring Day.

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the workforce, including the [American Association of People with Disabilities](#) Disability Mentoring Day pipelines of talent program.

National Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) is October 17th, and several Mitsubishi Electric company locations participate in mentoring days throughout the year allowing students to visit different offices and shadow employees. The inclusive experience has been positive for both the student and the mentor.

[Learn about NDEAM and get involved](#)

[Learn about DMD and sign up to be a coordinator](#)

ASAN - Disability Cultural Center

This past August the [Autistic Self-Advocacy Network \(ASAN\)](#) hosted their first *Autism Campus Inclusion Summer Leadership Academy* where seventeen Autistic college students gathered for advocacy training they can bring back to their college campuses.



As a result of this academy students at **Georgetown University** are planning a Disability Cultural Center.

MEAF currently supports ASAN's *Autism Campus Inclusion Initiative* to promote leadership and self-advocacy for Autistic students across the nation. The self-advocacy skills these students learn will help prepare them for life in the workforce.

[Learn about the Disability Cultural Center Planning Here](#)

Inclusive Mentoring with PYD

Kaela Vronsky, Mentoring and National Center Director for [Partners for Youth with Disabilities](#) discusses the importance of inclusive mentoring in the following blog post: *Inclusive Mentoring - A National Perspective*.



MEAF currently supports the *Mentoring for All Initiative* with Partners for Youth with Disabilities to create a training manual for inclusive mentoring throughout [Big Brothers Big Sisters of America](#). Mentoring has shown to be beneficial in helping prepare youth for the workforce.

[Read the entire story](#)

Deadlines and Reminders

Disability Mentoring Day is October 17th.

National Grants

Funding Decisions Made December 1st

Mitsubishi Electric Volunteer Committees

Quarterly Reports Due October 9th

Starfishnet Call is November 14th

Mitsubishi Electric Employees

Starfish Match deadline is December 11th

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