

Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Recognizes California High School, Boys & Girls Club with Inclusion Champion Awards

Awards recognize efforts to fully include young people with disabilities

CYPRESS, California, September 30, 2011—The Boys & Girls Clubs of Cypress and Esperanza High School in Irvine are among 20 organizations selected by Mitsubishi Electric employee volunteers to receive Inclusion Champion Awards from the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation.

Esperanza High School was selected for its efforts to place students with disabilities in summer internships in companies, including Mitsubishi Electric Visual Solutions America in Irvine, to gain practical work experience in the community.

“We chose the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cypress as it worked to implement the national Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s Embracing Inclusion Program,” said Nicole Johnson, chair of the ACTiVE volunteer committee at Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA in Cypress.

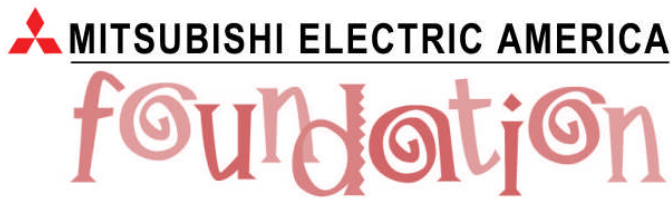
The national program, which is funded in part by the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, aims to make all kids feel welcome at Clubs across the country.

A total of 20 Inclusion Champion Awards, which encompasses a trophy and a \$1,000 grant, have been presented throughout the United States in honor of the Foundation’s 20th anniversary. Since 1991, the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation has been working to make changes for the better in the lives of youth with disabilities through its grant and employee volunteer programs.

“The Inclusion Champion Award is designed to recognize some of the outstanding organizations the Foundation has worked with over the past 20 years,” says Kevin R. Webb, director of the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation. “These groups have developed successful models to fully include young people with disabilities in society.”

Changes for the Better...for children and youth with disabilities

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Cypress will receive their award at a luncheon at Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA, Inc. in Cypress on October 5, 2011. Esperanza High School will be recognized at a separate ceremony at Mitsubishi Electric Visual Solutions America, Inc. in Irvine on October 6, 2011.

In addition to Esperanza High School and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cypress, awards were presented to:

- American Association of People with Disabilities, Washington, DC
- Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, Lexington, Kentucky
- Cincinnati Children's Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Crayons to Computers, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Girl Scouts of the USA with Wilderness Inquiry, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Kids Included Together-San Diego, California
- Lekotek, Atlanta, Georgia
- Locks of Love, West Palm Beach, Florida
- Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities, Bethesda, Maryland
- Miracle League of Southwestern Pennsylvania
- Murray O. Kennedy School, Winder, Georgia
- National Inclusion Project I am Norm Campaign, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Partners for Youth with Disabilities-Boston, Massachusetts
- Redford Union School, Redford, Michigan
- Special Education District of Lake County, Lake County, Illinois
- TechBridge Girls, Oakland, California
- Tech-Link, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- The Corps Network, Washington, DC

For more information, visit the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation's fully accessible, award-winning website at www.meaf.org.

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