Long Beach, Calif., July 13, 2013 - As part of its Annual Global Month of Service employee volunteer initiative, Boeing employees rolled up their sleeves to assist with various projects at The Growing Experience (TGE), located at the Carmelitos public housing development.

Boeing selected TGE due to its innovative programs that successfully address the challenges faced by low-income families by providing healthy food access, nutrition education, and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

TGE is an award-winning seven-acre urban farm operated by the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA). Carmelitos is home to over 700 low-income families and seniors, over 40 percent of whom receive some form of government assistance. Over the years, TGE has developed into a resource for environmental sustainability and a source of healthy food options for its public housing residents.
Boeing volunteers participated in exciting projects at TGE such as: helping preserve the farm’s excess apples and squash, which will be included in upcoming community-supported agriculture pick-ups; assisting with ongoing maintenance of the community garden plots by clearing out overgrown plants, amending the soil, and sprucing up the common areas; planting vegetables at the base of fruit trees to maximize space and minimize resources, by simulating a "food forest" in which the trees serve as a canopy for the lower growing vegetables; and finally, landscaping the two courtyards at the Carmelitos senior housing complex with drought-tolerant and low-maintenance plants, to provide an attractive setting for the residents, which will also utilize fewer resources going forward.

Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director, said, “It is such an honor to see The Growing Experience recognized for the excellent work they do. We are grateful to Boeing volunteers for investing their time and hard work to improve the lives of Carmelitos residents and the Long Beach community.”

TGE offers a Farmers Market to the Long Beach community on a weekly basis, providing access to a variety of fresh produce, including specialty items that may not be found in a regular grocery store, and education on how to prepare wonderful dishes that the community will love.

All media should contact Elisa Vásquez, HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762. For information on TGE, please visit www.growingexperiencelb.org.

###