BOEING EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER AT LONG BEACH URBAN FARM

2ND Annual Volunteer Day Brings Extra Hands to Help Prep the Grounds for New Growth

Long Beach, Calif., July 19, 2014 – For the second year in a row, Boeing employees showed up with enthusiasm to volunteer valuable time at The Growing Experience (TGE) Urban Farm located at the Carmelitos Public Housing Development. As part of its Annual Global Month of Service initiative, Boeing employees rolled up their sleeves and jumped right in to provide much-needed assistance.

The highly motivated group made a huge impact during the volunteer workday clearing the land and laying groundwork for TGE’s new half-acre “Urban Food Forest” funded in part by the California Natural Resources Agency, propagating and transplanting vegetable seedlings in the greenhouse, preserving harvests from the farm into pickles and jams, and maintaining the fruit orchard. Volunteers from Boeing worked
alongside staff from TGE and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), which oversees the farm. All projects for the day focused on environmental sustainability, through the creation of a local food system to conserve natural resources, building awareness, or featuring sustainable practices in project implementation.

HACoLA Executive Director, Sean Rogan, stated, “Through the support of community partners, TGE continues to evolve into a model program for low-income communities looking to bring fresh food options to residents’ doorsteps. I am grateful to continue the valuable relationship with Boeing and its employees who contribute their time and hard work to keep TGE looking its best.”

Boeing and its employees recognize TGE as a community resource that provides services which support its goals of community education, awareness, and environmental sustainability. In addition to the volunteer service day, Boeing has supported TGE since 2012 with a Corporate Citizenship Grant to operate programs at the urban farm, community garden, and events for the general public, and has also received funding from the company’s employees through the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California.

“Boeing provides support to the communities where our employees live and work through volunteerism and by teaming with organizations such as The Growing Experience. This effort – helping to create a self-sustainable resource for basic needs such as food – is important to Boeing as we strive to be good corporate neighbors and encourage our employees to give back when they can in meaningful ways,” stated Paul Geery, Vice President, C3 Solutions of Boeing, who served as executive champion at the event.
TGE is an award-winning seven-acre urban farm operated by HACoLA. Carmelitos is home to over 700 low-income families and seniors. TGE has developed into a resource for environmental sustainability and a source of healthy food options for its public housing residents and the greater Long Beach community. Available programs and services at TGE include a community-supported agriculture program, weekly farm stand, mobile produce stand for seniors and residents with disabilities, research/implementation of new agricultural technologies including aquaponics and vertical growing systems, and skills training for underserved youth and young adults.

Through its Global Corporate Citizenship organization, Boeing builds better communities worldwide by giving time, funding, and expertise to improve access to globally competitive learning and skills development, foster creativity, sustain the environment, and improve civic engagement. In 2013, a total of $176 million from The Boeing Company and its employees went to help improve communities across the globe. Visit the Boeing Corporate Citizenship Report for more information.

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing California is an employee-owned and operated nonprofit organization that allows employees to support the needs of their local communities through tax-deductible recurring payroll deductions. One-hundred percent of the dollars contributed are returned to areas where contributors live and work. More than 350 nonprofit organizations benefit from the average $2.1 million in employee contributions each year.

For additional information on TGE, please contact Jimmy Ng, at (562) 984-2917, or visit www.growingexperienclb.org. All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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