community engagement
A Message from Senior Vice President Anne Roby

In 2009, Steve Angel challenged the organization to demonstrate our personal commitment to our communities. By launching the Community Engagement Award, he wanted to recognize the many ways in which Praxair people were already giving back and to challenge others in our company to replicate these great efforts around the world. Five years later, we have a truly global program, with 380 sites participating in 244 projects. In 2014 alone, more than 335,000 people have benefited from the generosity of our employees, who have contributed more than 78,000 volunteer hours. Over the course of the last five years, Praxair employees have made a positive impact on the lives of nearly 1.5 million people by supporting STEM education, renovating homes and schools, planting trees, stuffing teddy bears and donating to domestic violence shelters.

I am proud of our employees’ dedication and the impact their generosity has had on the lives of so many people. I am pleased to share with you some examples of grassroots efforts and profiles of the Praxair people who have championed these efforts. I am also happy to share how our strategic community engagement initiatives have helped Praxair to share our expertise, engage employees and deepen our culture of giving back to our communities.

We look forward to continuing to work with our communities through projects that affirm our mission of making our planet more productive.

Sincerely,

ANNE K. ROBY
Praxair Senior Vice President
Community Engagement at Praxair

Social responsibility is a core value at Praxair, and our community engagement program works in concert with our mission of making our planet more productive.

The community engagement program at Praxair comprises both corporate-led and employee-led projects across the globe. All Praxair community engagement projects result in a variety of benefits for many stakeholders, both external and internal, and support the strategic direction of the program, which is to:

- Complement Praxair’s mission and confirm our commitment to sustaining the local communities where we live and work
- Create meaningful, long-term impact in the core focus areas of education, diversity, environment, health/wellness and community support
- Promote positive employee engagement

Corporate-led community engagement initiatives are strategically directed and enable employees to engage, build camaraderie and support local communities through opportunities, such as Earth Week and events associated with Praxair conferences and meetings. Larger outreach efforts, including Praxair’s workforce development program, pair Praxair’s business and community stakeholders side-by-side to implement creative solutions that address shared challenges.

Employee-led community engagement, including employee volunteerism, is a key component of the program and is in its sixth year as a formal effort. Strong levels of employee volunteerism continued in 2014 through projects in local communities. A record number of 380 Praxair sites participated in volunteer projects in 2014.

The company’s 244 projects represented approximately 14,000 individual acts of volunteerism and 78,000 service hours. In addition to their time, employees directly contributed and raised more than $1.3 million to support these projects, many of which are also supported by Praxair’s Global Giving Program.

Community impact from such projects is a key consideration throughout the project lifecycle. Needs assessment is a consideration for every employee-led community engagement volunteer effort, and projects are encouraged in each of the core focus areas. Outcomes are assessed after project completion. In 2014, employee community engagement projects benefitted nearly 336,000 people globally—more than 12 beneficiaries for every Praxair employee.

Praxair’s community engagement program continues to have a positive impact on our communities, on the company’s reputation and on the development of employees.
335,946 beneficiaries globally

244 projects completed

20,000 pounds of clothing donated

217,900 lbs of food donated

14,023 individual instances of volunteerism

45,282 students supported

380 sites participating

78,059 hours contributed

$1.3 million cash & in-kind contributions by employees and facilities

14,541 trees planted through community engagement efforts

34% of projects are multi-site endeavors

12 beneficiaries for every 1 employee (12:1)
Community Engagement at Meetings

Employees around the globe have taken the Praxair spirit of volunteerism everywhere they go—literally.

More and more, community engagement is incorporated into large company meetings and conferences.

Employees volunteer their time during these events and the company “matches” their efforts with a donation from the Praxair Global Giving Program.

For instance, Praxair executives participated in a community engagement event during the company’s annual Global Leadership Conference. The Lessons from Leaders project invited executives to share their most valuable leadership lessons, which were then shared with college students. A matching donation was provided to a mentoring program for Danbury public schools located near Praxair’s corporate headquarters. Similarly, a project was organized at Praxair Asia’s 2014 Leadership Conference.

As a part of the company’s annual Productivity Day events globally, all businesses and regions are encouraged to adopt a community engagement project. This year’s Productivity event, led by Global Operations Excellence (GOE) and other employees from the Praxair Technology Center, paired 100 volunteers with approximately 100 neighbors to renovate a nearby community center and to provide science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skill development.

As a part of Technology Day events, R&D employees provided lessons to students to encourage science and exploration, and funds were used to provide students with science kits to combat the summer learning gap.

Results indicate that these engagements build camaraderie among employees and have an immediate impact on the beneficiary organization and community. They also have a “domino effect” that lasts indefinitely. Many participants in these events often take the inspiration and model for conducting volunteer events back to their local sites—furthering the culture of community engagement throughout the company.

“Fostering a culture of engagement is one of GOE’s key goals—achieved, in part, through community partnerships. Our exceptional employees share their time, creativity and diverse talents to help make these projects even more impactful. Recognizing their commitment is critical for us as leaders.”

Eduardo Galvan, Vice President, GOE
Praxair employees are proud of how their community involvement has helped enable the recipients to be better prepared and self-sufficient. In fact, 72 percent of Praxair’s CE projects build beneficiaries’ skills. However, that is just part of the story. Skill building often includes the employees themselves.

Community service has long been a part of Praxair’s Leadership and Technical Orientation Program (LTOP), which helps develop new employees in the U.S. Industrial Gases (USIG) business. Since 2012, community engagement has become more formalized as the new LTOP participants take responsibility for researching, organizing and managing projects for the class. LTOPs volunteer at local organizations during monthly sessions at Praxair sites across the country. These efforts help to augment the employees’ professional growth and have been shown to increase critical competencies, including planning, problem solving and action orientation.

Skills-based community engagement opportunities have also been planned into virtual experiences that bring employees together globally. An example is Praxair’s talent development offerings, which include the Career Development Program (CDP), a course for early-career professionals identified for high leadership potential.

As a follow-up to training to increase decision-making abilities, members of the CDP class had the opportunity to participate in an experience that provided a chance to reinforce their classroom knowledge. As part of a collaboration with a non-profit organization and a college, employees reviewed social entrepreneurship proposals. Not only did the experience offer students a chance to participate in the evaluation of solutions for compelling social problems, but the employees also gained professional insights that will help them at work.

“Community engagement events have always benefited me and the people I have led. Over the last few years, we have challenged LTOPs to significantly increase their community engagement.

“These events will hopefully continue to play a role in their personal and professional development and make them stronger leaders as they progress through their Praxair careers.”

Tyrone Allen, Program Manager, USIG Operations
Kiki Bai

PRAXAIR ASIA — SHANGHAI, CHINA

Sprout Project

For Kiki Bai, it is important to be a role model for her children. So Praxair China’s Sprout Project is especially meaningful to her. “As a mother, I think that our children benefit when they see us spread our love. This fosters warm hearts and teaches them to help others.”

The Sprout Project provides pre-school education for the children of migrant workers in China. Migrant children cannot attend public schools and their parents often cannot afford tuition for private schools. Under Kiki’s leadership, the Praxair China Social Club partnered with the Shanghai Charity Foundation. The Praxair Global Giving Program also made a donation through United Way Worldwide to support the project.

The Praxair team spent more than 1,000 hours renovating two Sprout Project kindergarten classrooms. They painted the gates and walls; decorated play rooms; purchased books, toys and teaching tools; and donated plants to give the rooms green spaces. They also gave presentations on safety, English, etiquette and other topics, including how industrial gases are derived from air and used in daily life. The children painted pictures depicting their interpretation of how air is used, 12 of which were featured in Praxair China’s 2015 company calendar.

“This was the first time we involved so many employees and their families — 113 people — for on-site service,” Kiki said. “It was so gratifying to see the smiles of the children when they saw the changes. The warm hearts and positive energy of our employees let the children see the good and the beauty that can be found in society.”

Kiki is an associate Human Resources manager and has worked at Praxair for 13 years. This was her first year participating in the Sprout Project.
Matt Blanker

PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION, INC. — ANKENY, IOWA

Rebuilding Together

As a new employee, Matt Blanker enthusiastically joined his colleagues to support their community. In his first year of volunteering, he served as crew captain for PDI’s Rebuilding Together team. Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines is an organization that partners with community members to repair and renovate homes for low-income homeowners. PDI has had a team for 13 years.

“I love the fact that Praxair does things like this for the community and I wanted to show my support,” Matt said. “When I volunteered and got the captain position, I was very excited and a little nervous. But after meeting with the homeowner, Dorothy, I could see what an impact we would have on her home and her life.”

The PDI team painted the outside of the house and cleared trash and trees out of the yard. They installed a new countertop and cabinets in the kitchen, along with a new sink because the old one had leaked into the basement. They also repaired the porch screen to keep out insects and repaired the fence so that the homeowner’s grandchildren could play safely in the yard.

“I could tell we really made a difference just by the way that Dorothy smiled and felt after we had finished. I was glad to see someone so appreciative of something that we had done with our time. There were even people from her church who stopped by after services and were so pleased with the renovations,” Matt added.

*Matt is an account manager and has been a Praxair employee for one year. This was his first year volunteering with Rebuilding Together.*
Tania Castorena
PRAXAIR MEXICO — MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Runners for a Cause

Tania Castorena’s desire to help others doesn’t stop. Neither does she.

With Runners for a Cause, Tania combined her passion for running with her enthusiasm for community service. “Participation in this activity gives me a lot of satisfaction because it brings physical and personal benefits to our lives and allows us to support important social causes,” she said.

Runners for a Cause is an initiative of the Praxair Mexico Runners Club, which participates in local races that support various social and environmental causes. Tania’s inspiration for the activity came from Mexico’s running community. “I saw that some local companies promoted sports among their employees and their families by inviting them to participate in short distance races. I thought this was something Praxair Mexico could also become involved in,” she said.

The project provides employees with different ways to engage in community service while promoting personal health and well-being. To date, runners and their families have participated in 23 races supporting such causes as education, breast cancer, the environment and the rights of indigenous people.

“It’s very rewarding for me and for our team to extend support to the causes Praxair promotes,” Tania said.

Tania is a point of sales commercial leader and has worked at Praxair for eight years. This was her first year as one of the Runners for a Cause.
Residents of Niagara Falls learned about truck safety during a first-time community collaboration.

Kyle Dulian
U.S. INDUSTRIAL GASES — NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

Touch a Truck

Praxair employees often seek opportunities to live the mission and to engage with local communities. Such a conversation between colleagues was the catalyst for Kyle Dulian’s involvement in a one-day event with lasting impact.

“One of our drivers, Tom Siegrist, told me that the Niagara Falls Fire Department was hosting a community awareness campaign. I thought this would be a great opportunity to educate the community about what Praxair does and about trucking in general,” Kyle said. That was the start of Touch a Truck for Praxair’s Niagara Falls plant.

Kyle organized the informal program focused on trucking operations and trucking safety. Praxair provided a trailer for training purposes to the community awareness event. Praxair employees talked to attendees about safety topics, such as blind spots. In addition to receiving balloons from employees, children had their pictures taken beside the Praxair truck and had the opportunity to sit in the cab.

“People were able to see the truck up close and personal and to ask the driver questions about trucking and what Praxair hauls in these vehicles,” Kyle said. “I feel this will help people respect the trucks when they see them on the road. Hopefully, it will help everyone to be safer.”

Kyle is a distribution supervisor and has been a Praxair employee for seven years. Kyle helped to organize the new Touch a Truck program.
Danny Jordan

PRAXAIR SURFACE TECHNOLOGIES — SWINDON, ENGLAND

GO4SET

Danny Jordan had a desire to give young people exposure to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. “I wanted to help them understand the opportunities that a career in STEM might provide.”

Go for Science, Engineering and Technology (GO4SET) provided that opportunity. GO4SET is a mentoring program with local schools that is designed to get children excited about careers in science and engineering. Praxair worked with students on environmentally-themed projects for six months. Danny served as the project management expert.

“This is an opportunity for us to grow the next generation of engineers,” Danny said. “In the future, some of these students may be applying their learnings as Praxair employees.”

The Swindon teams work with one to two schools per year. Each project team consists of two PST employees, six to eight students (ages 12–14) and a teacher. Projects have included creating an eco-friendly classroom for students with disabilities and designing a community sports center that has energy-saving elements. These projects also provide students with valuable life skills.

“We review every stage of the project, offering support and guidance and ensuring that the team sets realistic goals and makes progress toward achieving them,” Danny said. “We encourage them to be creative, but realistic, and teach them that when mistakes happen, they need to work together and take responsibility as a team.”

Danny is the plant manager at PST’s Swindon facility and has been a Praxair employee for 23 years. He has been involved with GO4SET for three years.
Jacqueline Pipa
PRAXAIR EUROPE — DUSSELDORF, GERMANY

SchulStartSponsor

As a mother of three, education and children’s issues are especially important to Jacqueline Pipa. “When my twins started school this year, I became more aware of what kids need and how expensive those supplies can be,” Jacqueline said.

This led her to coordinate a new initiative, SchulStartSponsor (School Start Sponsor), which provides school supplies to needy children at Straßenkinder e.V., an organization that offers a variety of services to homeless and socially disadvantaged children. Praxair Germany has supported Straßenkinder through multiple projects since 2011.

Praxair held a donation drive and collected enough supplies to support 40 students. Praxair employees were also able to provide Straßenkinder with additional materials for homework support and private tutoring.

“I’m happy we were able to fulfill all the children’s wishes and some of the needs of the organization,” Jacqueline said. “I think we all have a duty to support children wherever and however we can because they are our future. A good education is the key to helping them achieve success.”

Jacqueline is a marketing assistant and has worked at Praxair for nine years. This was her first year being involved with SchulStartSponsor.
Ann Seyboldt's own love for technology led her to volunteer and to take on a leadership role to foster opportunities for the next generation. “I got involved with Computers for Children because I have a passion for giving young people a chance to experience where technology successes can take them, and CFC routinely gives high-need students that chance,” she said. “Youth earn our computers with sweat equity, and with that, they have their own experiences of success with technology.”

Computers for Children (CFC) is a technology resource for high-risk populations in the Buffalo-Niagara community that provides computers and training to youth as well as their families. Ann serves as president of the organization’s board of directors. Through Ann’s leadership, Praxair’s Global Giving Program has provided funding for the development of summer and after-school programs, at which students learn about technology. Ann’s enthusiasm has also attracted more employees to volunteer with the organization.

The Praxair Technology Center has also donated laptops to CFC to refurbish and use in after-school programs. “It’s not about donating equipment; it’s about changing lives,” Ann said. “When I see young people excited about learning with technology, it gives me more satisfaction than I can express in words. It’s a big smile inside knowing our community is a little less divided and that more children have a chance at success.”

Ann is a business analyst within R&D Technology and has been a Praxair employee for 10 years. She has volunteered with CFC for four years.
Tom Siklos joined the Becel Ride for Heart to honor his son, Danny, who passed away from myocarditis at the age of 24. Myocarditis is a rare disease that affects healthy babies, children, youth and adults, often causing heart damage that can lead to heart failure and death. “I got involved with the Becel Ride for Heart to raise awareness of the symptoms of myocarditis and to train family doctors, so that other parents don’t have to face the same tragedy our family had to face,” Tom said.

The Becel Ride for Heart is an annual fundraiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Tom served as captain of the 15-member Praxair Canada team.

The Praxair team raised $7,000 and received an additional $10,000 from the Praxair Global Giving Program, making Praxair’s team one of the top 25 earning teams at the event. Tom personally raised $2,600, making him a VIP—Very Important Philanthropist—a designation given to riders who raise $1,000 or more.

“The Ride was a great experience for the whole team,” Tom said. “Our support will help the Heart and Stroke Foundation to achieve its 2020 goal of reducing Canadians’ rate of death from heart disease and stroke by 25 percent. Danny, who was involved with a number of charities despite his young age, would be proud of our achievements.”

Tom Siklos, left, participated in the Becel Ride for Heart to honor his son.

Tom is a design project engineer and has worked at Praxair for 24 years. He has been involved with the Becel Ride for Heart for two years.
Hilton Silva
WHITE MARTINS — IGUATAMA, BRAZIL

Green Basket in the 21st Century

For Hilton Silva, coming to the White Martins office provides a unique opportunity to enrich the lives of his neighbors.

“I was excited to participate in this project because it helps us improve peoples’ quality of life through nutrition and increases the company’s involvement with the community,” he said.

White Martins’ Green Basket project provides low-income families with weekly “green baskets” of fruits and vegetables to ensure that they have healthy, nutritious food. The food is grown in a garden on the Iguatama plant’s property, which is maintained by employee volunteers. The food is then gathered and distributed to children, the elderly, schools and hospitals near the plant.

Created 10 years ago to support Brazil’s Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) program, the Green Basket project incorporates sustainable gardening methods such as hydroponics and composting. Approximately 500 baskets are distributed weekly, and approximately 240,000 baskets have been distributed over the course of the program.

Hilton said that in addition to the satisfaction he receives from volunteering, the project has also helped him develop interpersonal skills and increased his awareness of social and environmental issues. “This project has special meaning to me because you can help so many people by donating just a few hours as a volunteer,” he said.

Hilton is the support administrative chief and has been working at Praxair for 29 years. He has been involved with the Green Basket project since its creation 10 years ago.
One of the core focus areas for community engagement is the environment. Employee environmental engagement is consistent with Praxair’s mission of making our planet more productive. Since 2012, Praxair has held a global celebration of Earth Week. Not only has this provided an observance of sustainable practices, but the annual celebration has also provided numerous instances of service to local communities. Greening Our Communities was Praxair’s global theme for 2014.

Site Engagement

Sites are encouraged to sponsor activities during the week of the celebration. Many of these efforts make it easier for employees to support their communities while practicing Earth-friendly behavior to reinforce the value of repurposing and reusing items. As a result, sites often work with local organizations and conduct drives for clothing, household articles, eyeglasses and electronics. These articles address such diverse needs as homelessness, workforce readiness and domestic violence. Additionally, many sites participate in planting activities to green their local communities. For example, PST's Concord, N.H. facility planted 250 lupines this year. The project was part of an ongoing collaboration with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and added to more than 600 earlier transplants.

Individual Acts of Engagement

Praxair employees are also encouraged to share their personal acts of environmental responsibility with other employees via the company’s intranet. Many employees volunteered at local schools during the week to talk about environmental responsibility. In 2014, approximately 2,500 employees inspired fellow employees by sharing their personal actions. As a result, funds were provided by Praxair’s Global Giving Program to plant 2,500 trees in communities with a significant need for forestation.
Bringing Smiles to Children
PRAXAIR EUROPE — RUSSIA

THE NEED
Though public institutions help meet their basic needs, orphaned and abandoned children often lack the love and support a family provides.

THE RESPONSE
Volunteers from two of Praxair Russia’s plants participated in the “Hands Across Europe 2014 - Bringing Smiles to Children” campaign. Employees from Praxair’s NTMK site held a tree planting event with the children at the Nizhny Tagil Special Children’s Home. Together, they planted lilac shrubs, juneberry, apple trees and flowers in the Children’s Home orchard. Employees from the Bor plant held a donation drive to support abandoned and orphaned children at a local hospital. The proceeds were used to purchase heaters for the neonatal unit, microwave ovens and sterilizers for baby bottles and pacifiers, a crib, diapers, shampoo and clothes. Employees then visited the hospital to distribute the items and visit with the children.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By bringing smiles and happiness to children in need.

“The best memory I have is of the smiles and happy eyes of the children. We were very touched when they called us new friends.”
Lydia Zorina, operations department business assistant, NTMK site
The Need
Many low-income families and families with disabled children are unable to afford basic school supplies and the costs of higher education.

The Response
Praxair Korea held a charity art auction to raise money to assist low-income and disabled children. SB Seo, president of Praxair Korea and an artist, donated 40 of his works for the auction. Praxair’s business partners, customers, employees and others supported the auction, raising funds which were matched by Praxair’s Global Giving Program. The funds were used to support more than 400 low-income and disabled children and teenagers, as well as unemployed immigrant women and to provide them with such necessities as baby carriages, art supplies and tuition.

Making Our Planet More Productive
By helping those in need access school necessities and education.

“I was impressed by both Mr. Seo’s love for art and his love for his neighbors. By selling his art, he is helping families in need.”

Kim Moon-soo, governor of Gyeonggi Province
Create a Bear
CORPORATE GROUPS — BURR RIDGE, ILL.

THE NEED
A hospital stay can be a stressful time for both children and their families. Toys and other reminders of home can make a child feel more comfortable.

THE RESPONSE
Burr Ridge employees stuffed and dressed 85 teddy bears which were distributed to sick children at the John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County. Each bear’s outfit reflected the creativity of the employee designing it. Each child also received a birth certificate with their bear so that they could give it a name.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By bringing smiles to the faces of hospitalized children.

“The numerous teddy bears you donated to our pediatric patients were deeply needed and greatly appreciated. Without you, our patients would not have experienced such a nice start to an exciting holiday season.”

Pamela Booras, child life specialist, Cook County Health & Hospitals System

Stuffed with love: The Burr Ridge team poses with the bears they made for the John H. Stroger Hospital.
Deivadan Centre Project
PRAXAIR SURFACE TECHNOLOGIES — COIMBATORE, INDIA

THE NEED
Supporting the daily needs of the elderly and infirm is one of the most severe challenges in India.

THE RESPONSE
On India’s Independence Day, 55 Praxair Surface Technologies (PST) employees and family members visited the Deivadan Centre, a nursing home for elderly women. For more than 50 years, the Deivadan Centre has worked to support the daily needs of the poor. The volunteers served meals to the residents and provided them with gifts of dresses, toiletries and medicine. Several volunteers also made personal donations to the center during the event.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By helping vulnerable people in our community meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

“We are extremely happy that Praxair understands the pain of these elderly women and came forward to support them.”

Mother Superior of the Deivadan Centre

PST employees and their families with Deivadan Centre Mothers Superior.
Earth Week
PRAXAIR CANADA — MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Left to right: Glenn Soule, Tony Schick and Mike Genereaux were among the employees in Canada who participated in the Earth Week Celebration.

THE NEED
Conservation and preservation of natural resources are important to ensure that they are here for future generations.

THE RESPONSE
During Earth Week, Praxair Canada employees participated in a variety of environmental projects. These included clean-up projects at 47 different locations, including streams, parks, rivers, fields and school grounds; an employee jeans day to raise money for the World Wildlife Fund; donations of food and clothing; recycling and carpooling programs; biking to work initiatives; an Earth Week poster competition; and increased efforts to reduce paper and energy consumption. Employees also planted 90 trees as part of the City of Mississauga’s One Million Trees project and engaged in efforts to protect nesting areas for geese.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By helping communities raise their social and environmental awareness and improve the health of Canada’s local ecosystem.

“It gives me a great feeling to know that Praxair and I are doing our part to help the environment.”

Colette Cummings, Safety, Health & Environment and Sustainability administrative specialist
Heroes 2014

PRAXAIR MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA — MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

THE NEED
Approximately 17 million people in Mexico are homeless and 20 percent of households in Costa Rica live in extreme poverty.

THE RESPONSE
Through its “voluntad que construye” program, Praxair Mexico and Costa Rica employees partnered with external organizations to provide transitional housing for those living in slums. The program also provided job skills training to low-income individuals to help them improve their chances of finding employment. Employees participated by constructing homes from prefabricated materials and by leading workshops to help local families improve self-sufficiency.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By fostering grassroots development to improve impoverished communities.

“I am thankful to Praxair for supporting my growth. You have sown a seed to give functionality to my life, and I will eventually harvest the very sweet fruit.”

Mario Rojo Vallejo, program beneficiary

Left to right: Alejandro Cervantes, Mayra Martínez, Emmanuel López, Alejandra Herrera and Diego Borrego helped deliver materials used to construct six houses in Monterrey.
Home of the Voiceless
U.S. INDUSTRIAL GASES — PUERTO RICO

The Praxair Puerto Rico team visited with residents of La Casa de Todos and donated many needed items to the organization.

THE NEED
It is estimated that 52 women daily are victims of domestic violence in Puerto Rico.

THE RESPONSE
Women and children who are victims of domestic abuse need services to help them escape their abusive situations and rebuild their lives. Early in 2014, Praxair Puerto Rico employees came together and decided to support La Casa de Todos, a non-profit organization that provides shelter, individual counseling, legal assistance and other services to victims of domestic violence. Both employees and family members donated to a fundraising effort for school supplies as well as housekeeping and hygiene items. The funds raised also provided school tuition for eight children. Volunteers visited La Casa de Todos to distribute the items and enjoyed breakfast with the residents.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By helping vulnerable people restart their lives.

"You are the real answer to our prayers. When we pray, we know that God will not come by Himself to provide the staple items, but He does so through companies like Praxair and people like you."

Marcos Santana, La Casa de Todos director. Santana and his brothers were also raised in La Casa de Todos.
Meals from the Heartland
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION, INC. — ANKENY, IOWA

THE NEED
Hunger and malnutrition are global concerns, especially in underdeveloped countries.

THE RESPONSE
As part of Iowa’s Annual Hunger Fight, Praxair Distribution, Inc. (PDI) volunteers joined 15,000 other Iowans to package meals for Meals from the Heartland, an organization that delivers nutritious food to starving people worldwide. Each meal feeds up to six people and consists of a casserole that contains protein, vitamins and rice. The meals are shipped to Blessman Ministries, a charity serving children throughout South Africa. The volunteers were part of a larger effort responsible for packaging more than 5 million meals in four days.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By providing families with the daily vitamins and nutrients they need to grow healthy and strong.

“Whether you contribute toward the cost of the meals or give your time to package, it’s very rewarding to know that with very little effort, you’ve made a difference in reducing hunger locally and throughout the world.”
Christy Hart, Six Sigma Black Belt

Praxair employees and their families helped package more than 5 million meals in four days to support Meals from the Heartland.
The Yara Praxair team helped give hospitalized children a fun adventure at Oscar Borg Fortress.

**THE NEED**
Seriously ill children are often confined to a hospital for a lengthy stay. They do not regularly have the opportunity to enjoy a day of fun and to just be children.

**THE RESPONSE**
Employees from Praxair’s Yara facility teamed up with the Foundation Hospital Children and the Hill Maltese Group, two organizations that help make hospital stays less stressful for children. In celebration of Oscar Borg Day, 14 employees and their families brought hospitalized children on an outing to the historic Oscar Borg Fortress, a coastal site situated on two small islands. The volunteers handed out balloons, prepared and served lunch and helped children to explore trails and have fun.

**MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE**
By bringing smiles and a fun adventure to families who spend most of their days in hospitals.

“There are many severely ill children in Norwegian hospitals. While they receive good nursing care, their lives can still be quite gray. The Oscar Borg outing gave us a chance to give these children something to enjoy through clowns, fun and games.”

Karina Ditlefsen, marketing manager, Yara Praxair
Selective Waste Collection
WHITE MARTINS — BELO HORIZONTE/CONTAGEM

THE NEED
Many economically disadvantaged families in Contagem, Brazil, rely on funds from waste recycling for income. In fact, 55 families rely exclusively on waste recycling to sustain their households.

THE RESPONSE
White Martins’ Belo Horizonte/Contagem site participates in Praxair’s Zero Waste Program. The site joined the Recyclable Waste Collectors Association of Contagem in 2011. This organization creates an income opportunity for "waste collectors" and allows citizens to organize and provide this public service. The site began a recycling program for reusable items such as paper, plastic, cardboard and glass. Employees were encouraged to recycle these items while at work and to also bring in recyclable items from home. The items were then collected by members of the association, who sold them to generate income for their families. Over time, the number of waste pickers who sort and recycle waste from the facility has increased, and their average income has doubled. This project has improved the living conditions of the collectors and has helped White Martins reduce its waste disposal costs.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By preserving the environment and promoting self-sufficiency. Recycling waste diverts it from landfills and reduces the potential contamination of wells and springs. Selling recyclable materials also provides a viable source of income for families living in poverty.

“This project helps people have better livelihoods. It also contributes to the preservation of the environment and the social well-being of the waste collectors’ families.”
Helder Whatson, Contagem employee

White Martins employees Poliana Costa Souza, left, and Eunice Soares drop off recyclable items in the collection bin at Contagem’s site.
Thanksgiving Food Drive
CORPORATE GROUPS — DANBURY, CONN.

THE NEED
Many people in the Danbury area face economic hardship and struggle to provide warm, nutritious meals for their families.

THE RESPONSE
The Danbury Employee Activity Council held a food drive to benefit the Salvation Army and the Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc., two organizations that aid disadvantaged individuals and families. Employees donated food items and/or made a contribution toward the purchase of gift cards, which were used at local stores to buy turkeys. Two hundred families each received a turkey and enough food for a Thanksgiving dinner. Additionally, a contribution from Praxair's Global Giving Program supported the project.

MAKING OUR PLANET MORE PRODUCTIVE
By helping families meet their basic needs.

“Helping these two groups provide a healthy meal to hundreds of families is a great tradition for the holidays.”
Cheryl Engels, senior business development and strategy manager

Senior Business Development and Strategy Manager Cheryl Engels, right, and Community Action Committee Planner Lacey Byrne, left, pose with boxes of items that Danbury employees donated to help families in need.
Workforce Development in Our Communities

In August 2014, Praxair launched Skills Pipeline, the company’s multifaceted approach to help address the growing need for skilled workers in today’s global economy. The first phase of the workforce development program provided more than $300,000 to attract and develop welding talent in Louisiana.

Praxair Skills Pipeline is a corporate-led community engagement program with funds from the company’s Global Giving Program and is conducted in partnership with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). This workforce development effort is exemplary of the industry-academia-governmental collaborations envisioned for Louisiana’s Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy program.

The program helps address the skilled-crafts gap that exists across the United States, including Louisiana, where Praxair maintains a presence through its many plants and welding stores.

Offered in the greater areas of Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Lake Charles, a key pillar of the program is training 100 new welders through an accelerated American Welding Society curriculum along with additional skill building and career readiness events. Students have access to both LCTCS and Praxair resources to foster a successful launch of their welding careers.

In addition to the scholarships to train and credential these inaugural scholars, Praxair Skills Pipeline also provides:

- Professional development opportunities
- Scholarship support to increase skills and enhance the quality of life for existing welders
- Instructorships to attract new welding teachers

Broadly, due to Praxair’s experience in the welding industry, this community engagement effort has also increased the community’s awareness of opportunities offered by STEM careers, including welding. The program is also realizing early goals for deeper engagement with customers and suppliers.
About the Community Engagement Award

Praxair recognizes excellence in employee-led community engagement efforts through the annual Community Engagement Awards program.

Global finalists are nominated by each Praxair business and/or region, which also selects a business/regional winner. Four global awards and a Chairman’s Award are presented at Praxair’s Global Leadership Conference in January. The projects profiled and pictured within this booklet are among the 28 finalist projects for 2014. They are prime examples of Praxair’s community engagement efforts.

Praxair continues to measure the results of employee-led community engagement projects using a methodology developed by the London Benchmarking Group. Key metrics are assessed for each project (see outcome measurements below). Such input, outputs and outcome metrics are central to the drive for excellence and are key considerations in the annual review of projects for the Community Engagement Awards.

Based upon input from volunteer teams, key outcomes for the 2014 employee-led community engagement projects include:

- 83% of projects positively impacted beneficiaries’ quality of life
- 72% of projects developed beneficiaries’ skills
- 86% of projects increased employees’ awareness of community needs
- 87% of projects promoted positive employee engagement
- 42% of projects helped employees develop transferable skills
- 90% of projects helped beneficiaries develop positive attitudes
- 82% of projects increased employees’ management effectiveness
- 84% of projects positively impacted Praxair’s reputation

During the award process, projects are reviewed in five key areas:

- Need
- Enduring impact
- Ability to replicate globally
- Execution: Method(s) used to address the issue and level of employee engagement
- Degree to which the project complements Praxair’s mission

All project teams are recognized by the CEO, and all finalists receive a keepsake award. Each of the winners receives a substantial cash award from Praxair’s Global Giving Program to be used for the original project, allowing employees’ work to have greater, long-term impact.

For more information about the Community Engagement program or awards, please contact Tamara Brown, director, sustainable development and community engagement, at tamara_brown@praxair.com.
“The best memory I have is of the smiles and happy eyes of the children. We were very touched when they called us new friends.”

— Praxair employee