

# community engagement



# A Message from our CEO:



*"Social responsibility is one of Praxair's core values and our employees work hard every day to help make our planet more productive. I salute all of our employees who are making an impact in our communities."*

— Steve Angel

At Praxair, our employees truly care about giving back to our global communities.

Over the past year, they have invested nearly 63,000 hours of their own time by participating in more than 200 community engagement projects that benefitted more than 326,000 people around the world. Social responsibility is one of Praxair's core values, and our employees work hard every day to help make our planet more productive.

From planting thousands of trees around the world, to delivering oxygen to sick children in Mexico, to providing food and shelter to victims of hurricane Sandy, we are firmly committed to helping our friends and neighbors in our global communities.

The following pages highlight just a few examples of Praxair's strong commitment to community engagement. Each picture represents the hands and the hearts of caring employees who are making a difference around the world. Engaging with our communities is not just something we do; it is part of who we are as a company.

Sincerely,

Steve Angel

A handwritten signature of Steve Angel in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letters of 'Steve' and 'Angel' being capitalized and prominent.

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

**326,300** BENEFICIARIES GLOBALLY

**20,000 lbs**   
of CLOTHING DONATED

 **202** PROJECTS

**213,000 LBS**  
of food donated

14,586 individual instances  
OF VOLUNTEERISM

**62,598** volunteer  
hours contributed

Supported 69,846 STUDENTS

**31%** OF PROJECTS  
were multisite  
ENDEAVORS

**221** SITES PARTICIPATED

**12 BENEFICIARIES**  
for every 1 employee (12:1)

**3,800 TREES**  
planted through community  
engagement efforts 

**\$1.5 million** CASH & IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS  
BY EMPLOYEES AND FACILITIES

# Community Engagement at Praxair

Employee volunteerism is the backbone of our community engagement program. Our programs are global in scope and benefit hundreds of thousands. In 2013:

- 221 Praxair sites around the world participated in community engagement projects, a 33 percent increase over 2012.
- Employees participated in 202 global projects, engaged in 14,586 individual instances of volunteerism and amassed approximately 63,000 service hours.

Most importantly, these efforts positively affected the lives of those in our communities.

- Community engagement projects benefitted more than 326,000 people globally — that is more than 12 beneficiaries for every Praxair employee.

In addition to volunteering, community engagement efforts are supported by Praxair’s Global Giving Program through the funding of employee volunteer grants. Our facilities and employees also directly contributed approximately \$1.5 million in monetary and in-kind support through our community engagement efforts.

Our community engagement projects result in a variety of benefits for many stakeholders. Some projects, for example, directly impact basic needs while others build long-term skills. Praxair continues to measure the results of our community engagement efforts using a methodology developed by the London Benchmarking Group. Key metrics are assessed for each project, and highlights of some outcome measurements are included below.

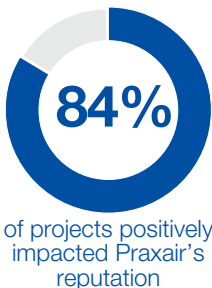
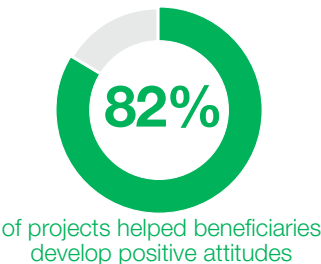
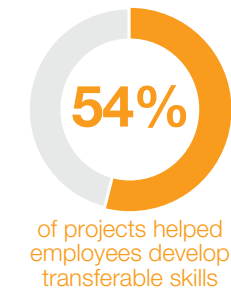
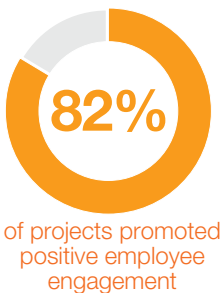
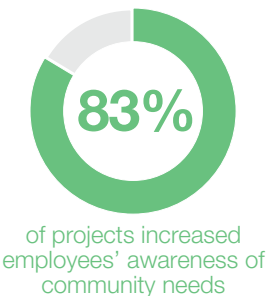
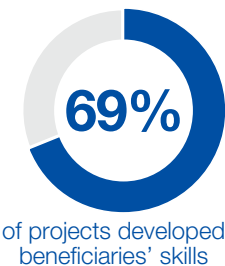
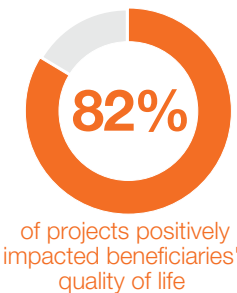
## The Community Engagement Awards\*

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

The 27 projects in this publication are our global finalists and they are prime examples of our community engagement efforts. Global finalists are nominated by each Praxair business and/or region, which also selects a business/regional winner.

Four global winners and a Chairman’s Award are presented at Praxair’s Global Leadership Conference in January of each year.

\*For more information about the Community Engagement Awards program or our projects, please contact Tamara Brown, leader, community engagement, at [tamara\\_brown@praxair.com](mailto:tamara_brown@praxair.com)



# Big Bike Ride for the Heart and Stroke Foundation

Praxair Canada – Mississauga, ON



Praxair Canada employees show off their pedal power on a “Big Bike” built for 30.

## Project Focus: Healthcare

### The Need

It is estimated that one person dies from heart disease in Canada every seven minutes.

### The Response

For the second consecutive year, 30 employees from Praxair’s Mississauga office participated in the Heart and Stroke Foundation’s Big Bike fundraiser by riding together on a bicycle built for 30! Funds from this event are used to support vital heart and stroke research, as well as the Foundation’s health promotion and advocacy programs. As a major supplier of home medical equipment, Praxair Canada’s participation in this event is another

illustration of the company’s commitment to promoting health and wellness for both its employees and local Mississauga communities.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by raising funds for medical research and driving awareness of the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices.

*“High blood pressure, cholesterol and heart disease are prevalent in my family, so participating in the Heart and Stroke Foundation’s Big Bike event is one way that I can help raise awareness for my fellow Canadians. We all get consumed with our day-to-day work activities and it is very humbling to get out and do something for the community.”*

Mahwish Butt, accounting manager,  
Praxair Canada



# Buffalo Public Schools Science & Engineering Program

Corporate Groups – Tonawanda, NY



Buffalo schoolteacher Amy Brackenridge inspects a go-kart in one of the Praxair Technology Center's R&D labs. Brackenridge is one of several teachers who have interned at the PTC over the last four years.

*“Praxair’s commitment sets a national standard for participation by corporate partners in this professional development program for teachers. From the direct and active support of teachers in summer research, to professional staff in the classrooms during the academic year and after-school program support, the contributions are exemplary. Other corporations look to Praxair as a model.”*

Dr. Joe Gardella, professor and John and Frances Larkin Chair of Chemistry, University at Buffalo (SUNY)

## Project Focus: Education

### The Need

In the United States, there is a critical need for improved science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, especially in underserved inner-city schools.

### The Response

In 2009, the Praxair Technology Center (PTC) and the State University of New York at Buffalo partnered to create the Buffalo Public Schools Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Program (ISEP). This National Science Foundation-funded program was designed to improve STEM education in Buffalo middle and high schools through a combination of in-class education, hands-on instruction and summer research projects for teachers. The PTC has supported an after-school science club and offered

summer internships to Buffalo public school teachers to participate in research with Praxair R&D associates. These teachers take their experiences back to the classrooms and integrate them into the curriculum.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by providing teachers with summer internships that allow them to work with researchers and equipment not typically available to them. These teachers develop new concepts to use in the classroom and learn how to demonstrate real-world applications of these concepts to their students. The program’s primary goal is to increase the number of students entering STEM fields.

# CDI Comunidade White Martins

White Martins – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Students participate in a computer skills class at the School for Computer Training and Civics, which is located at White Martins' FEC plant.

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

White Martins' Fábrica de Equipamentos Criogênicos (FEC) plant is located in the Cordovil neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city. Residents of the area lack access to information technology and civics resources, and youth spend much of their idle time on the streets.

### The Response

FEC employees partnered with the Residents Association of the Cordovil Slum, nearby public schools and the Committee for the Democratization of Information Technology (CDI) to launch the School for Computer Training and Civics in 2005. The School, located on Praxair's property, provides both teens and adult students

with basic computer and citizenship skills. Though the CDI operates similar schools in the Rio de Janeiro area, few companies host these schools on their own premises. The school provides a safe haven for both children and adults and helps them develop needed skills. Classes consisting of lectures, debates and role-playing exercises are held twice a week and each course runs for three months. Students graduate with a certificate of completion for employment.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by reducing social inequalities. The school fosters positive societal change by teaching students communications technologies and other crucial job skills.

*"The Computer and Citizenship School Project was founded in 2005 inside our cryogenic equipment plant. The strong commitment of the employees is a crucial reason the project continues to exist and has recently reached the milestone of 1,000 student graduates, which makes all of us in White Martins very proud. The project seeks to provide key skills and computer education to students in our local communities, as well as instill in them a sense of civic pride."*

Julia Lomba, sustainable development coordinator, White Martins

# Community Engagement Family Day

Praxair Asia – Taiwan



The Praxair team and children gather at the end of the day.

*“Even more precious than monetary support, was the project our employees organized that focused on spending quality time with the children. It’s heartwarming to read the children’s letters saying they would like to share the same spirit with others when they grow up.”*

Rose Chiu, asset manager, Praxair  
Chemax Semiconductor Material

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

Many children from low-income families not only have limited access to basic life necessities, but also have few opportunities to participate in leisure activities and engage in cultural enrichment.

### The Response

In August 2013, employees and family members at Praxair’s facility in Taiwan partnered with the World Peace League to organize a museum trip for low-income families. The League improves the lives of low-income children by working with partners who provide funds for their care. Praxair has worked with this organization for several years providing meals to children. But the employees wanted to make a more direct connection with the children, so they

organized a family day. Each child was paired with a Praxair employee or family and spent a fun and enriching day touring a museum and going to a 3D movie. Not only did the employees and children enjoy the event, but they also learned a lot about each other.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by working to ensure that all children in Praxair’s local communities are loved and cared for.



# Cottage Grove Block Party

Praxair Distribution, Inc. – South Bend, IN



PDI employee and Lots of Hope founder Nancy Tetzlaff, left, and her sister, Linda Wolfe, were among the many volunteers at the block party.

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

South Bend's Near Northwest Neighborhood is an urban area in need of renewal. Abandoned and vacant homes and empty, trash-filled lots are a concern to many residents, as is overall safety. There is also a need for stronger relationships between residents and police and other government officials as they all work to improve the neighborhood.

### The Response

Praxair Distribution, Inc. (PDI) employees volunteered at the first-ever neighborhood block party sponsored by Lots of Hope, a nonprofit organization founded by PDI Sales and Marketing Specialist Nancy Tetzlaff. Its goal is to transform vacant lots in the Near Northwest Neighborhood from eyesores into gardens, playgrounds and

green spaces. The block party was an opportunity for neighborhood residents to get to know each other, strengthen important relationships with local public safety and government officials, as well as Lots of Hope representatives. This fun and open atmosphere encouraged greater collaboration and generated ideas for improving the neighborhood. In addition, through Praxair's Global Giving Program, ten neighborhood children were provided funds to attend summer camp at a local community center.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by building better neighborhoods in order to build a better world. Transforming five vacant lots in the Near Northwest Neighborhood is a first step toward that goal.

*"Lots of Hope sponsored its first-ever block party, breaking down barriers in the neighborhood and bringing together neighbors for an afternoon of fun, learning and companionship."*

Nancy J. Tetzlaff, marketing and sales specialist,  
Praxair Distribution, Inc.

# Earth Week

## Praxair Canada – Multiple Locations



Praxair Canada employees took part in a shoreline clean-up in Mississauga, Ontario, one of many Earth Week activities sponsored by Praxair.

*“It was a great experience to participate in this year’s Earth Week project. This was a great opportunity to make a positive difference by giving something back.”*

Thomas Morrell, Western Canadian standard plant lead tech and coordinator, Praxair Canada, Inc.

### Project Focus: Environment

#### The Need

We all depend on our planet’s finite store of natural resources, which are increasingly under stress from population growth and continued development.

#### The Response

Praxair Canada hosted an earth-friendly competition across all of its business groups during Earth Week 2013. Employees participated in a variety of projects, including: shoreline clean-up, waste removal at Praxair facilities and in nearby parks and schools, recycling programs, bike riding to work initiatives, an Earth Week logo competition and increased efforts to reduce paper and energy consumption. Employees also planted 175 trees as part of Mississauga’s One Million Trees project

and released young hatchery-raised white sturgeon into the Columbia River through the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative. The events were such a success last year that employee participation more than doubled in 2013. In addition, for each employee and business location that participated in Earth Week, Praxair Canada made a donation to the United Way, raising a total of \$8,530.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by helping employees and communities raise their social and environmental awareness and improve the health of the local ecosystem.

# Feed My Starving Children

U.S. Industrial Gases – Inver Grove Heights, MN



U.S. Industrial Gases employees package healthy meals for children in more than 70 countries.

## Project Focus: Healthcare

### The Need

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

### The Response

Employees from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, partnered with Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), a nonprofit organization that provides healthy meals to children worldwide. The organization has provided over 153 million meals, helping to alleviate hunger and malnutrition for children in underdeveloped regions in approximately 70 countries. Praxair's Central Region Safety Leadership Team organized a project in which 16 employees joined volunteers from other organizations to package healthy meals containing rice, vegetables and

vitamins. In just one hour, the volunteers packaged enough meals to feed 70 children for one year.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by providing children with the daily vitamins and nutrients they need to grow healthy and strong.

*"This organization has partnered with scientists from several large food companies to develop standard meal packages to fulfill comprehensive nutrition needs for people in developing countries. In 2012, over 660,000 volunteers packaged 153 million meals. FMSC ensures that the food is safely distributed to those in need. While it feeds the nutritional needs of starving people, it also feeds the spirits of its volunteers."*

Joe Couche, operations director,  
U.S. Industrial Gases

# Free Eye Care Clinic Camp

Praxair Surface Technologies – Coimbatore, India



Praxair Surface Technologies employees sponsored a free eye care clinic for local residents who could not afford needed medical services.

*“Aravind Eye Hospital told us that this was one of the best Free Camps in which they have participated.”*

Anik Sengupta, business manager,  
Praxair Surface Technologies

## Project Focus: Healthcare

### The Need

The area near the Praxair Surface Technologies (PST) location in Coimbatore, India, is economically disadvantaged. Many of the local residents cannot afford to visit eye doctors or receive needed treatment, including surgery.

### The Response

In collaboration with the Aravind Eye Hospital, PST employees sponsored a free event that provided medical vision services for the local community. The clinic offered free eye exams and replacement eyeglasses at a minimal cost. The project also provided free cataract surgeries to several patients. In total, the project benefitted 300 people. All of the site's employees participated in the effort and visited with each surgery patient.

In addition to providing eye care services, employees also distributed food and clothing to many of the patients as well as to children at a local orphanage.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by improving the vision, health and welfare of many individuals through access to needed services that they could not otherwise afford.

# Hands Across Europe

## Praxair Europe – Multiple Locations



The Praxair Oevel team show their support for cancer research.

### Project Focus: Healthcare

#### The Need

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Europe, affecting people across the continent.

#### The Response

Several Praxair Europe locations joined together to develop “Hands Across Europe — United in the Fight Against Cancer,” a pan-European program to raise money for cancer research and treatment. Working with teams in each of its businesses, Praxair Europe decided to support local cancer organizations that focus on research into possible cures, have programs that help children suffering from the disease, or provide support to cancer patients and their families. Employee efforts included: fundraising to support research, a coffee

cup sale to support cancer organizations and hospitals, a blood drive and participation in a “Race for the Cure” event. Hands Across Europe benefitted cancer research organizations in six European countries and plans are already in place to continue the program into the future.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by directly supporting the fight against cancer through the strong support and development of relationships with cancer-focused organizations in local communities.

*“I am very proud to have been a part of Team Rynkeby Trekanten, a group of 52 riders who set off on a week-long 1,287 kilometer trip to raise funds for children with cancer. We started in Kolding, Denmark, and ended at the Eiffel Tower in Paris. It was a wonderful experience to participate in this joint project to support the Children’s Cancer Foundation.”*

Steffen Jensen, sales manager,  
Yara Praxair, Denmark



# Hanji Art for Special Olympics

Praxair Asia – Korea



Financial Planning and Analysis Manager Yeonchul Kim shows a Special Olympian how to fold hanji.

*“It was a very special event and we were happy to help enrich the lives of these special individuals and our own employees.”*

JS Park, associate director, Human Resources, Legal and Compliance, Praxair Korea

## Project Focus: Diversity

### The Need

Adults and children with mental disabilities often lack opportunities to take part in organized physical fitness programs and events, to regularly socialize with others in their communities and to develop new skills.

### The Response

At the 2013 World Winter Games in Pyeongchang, 27 Praxair Korea employees and their families helped U.S. Special Olympians create hanji art. Hanji is a traditional type of Korean paper made from the country’s native mulberry tree. The volunteers taught the athletes about hanji and how to cut and paste it into beautiful art, without using paint or a brush. This event

gave the athletes a better understanding of Korean culture and helped them improve their socialization skills.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by helping the Special Olympics provide quality sports training and athletic competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and promoting teamwork and cultural understanding among employees and athletes.

# Happy Half Chicken Project

White Martins – Copesul, Brazil



White Martins employees, from left, Anderson Jardim, Cid Garcia, Wilson Rogério, Natanael Souza, Cléo dos Santos (contractor) and João Veaneí roast chickens for dinners purchased by the community.

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

Homeless children worldwide are at greater risk to succumb to harmful influences such as drugs and juvenile delinquency.

### The Response

Employees at the White Martins Copesul plant joined a communitywide challenge to sell 25,000 roasted chicken dinners to benefit Casa Alberta, a local youth shelter focused on educating and advocating for at-risk youth. The shelter does not have many permanent volunteers and needed community support to help these children become contributing members of society. Praxair volunteers stepped in and reached out to business, civic, religious and military groups to sell these Happy Half Chicken meals. The funds raised were used to build

a new headquarters for the shelter and purchase needed supplies.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by providing a safe environment in which children can learn and grow free from harmful influences.

*“I have been participating in Casa Alberta activities since its start in 1996. Throughout this time, I have followed several cases of child victims of crime and/or domestic violence and have seen, firsthand, the real problems of society. This is a relevant cause that moves and mobilizes our employees throughout the year. Our main goal is to ensure the welfare of the children and help them get ready to face the challenges of adult life.”*

Jorge Marinoni, liquid production manager, White Martins

# Héroes por la Salud: Heroes for Health

Praxair Mexico and Costa Rica – Multiple Locations



Volunteers from Praxair Mexico's Monterrey office and local elementary school students are all smiles after participating in a mini-Olympics and health conference at the school.

*“We thank Praxair for the donation of five oxygen concentrators, which will give terminally ill children the opportunity to live their last months at home.”*

Eugenia Lozano, director, Deseos Compartidos, an organization that fulfills the wishes of terminally ill children

## Project Focus: Healthcare

### The Need

In Mexico, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is the sixth leading cause of death and more than 20 million people in the country have been diagnosed with this condition. Mexico also ranks first worldwide in obesity, while in Costa Rica, 21 percent of children are overweight.

### The Response

Praxair Mexico's Monterrey office organized a program to help elementary school children in low-income areas who were suffering from respiratory diseases. The employees focused on increasing the children's access to medical attention and promoting physical activity. Praxair Mexico donated a dozen medical products to children in need and arranged special

pricing for local nonprofit organizations that provide such products to low-income families. Working with several local health and education organizations, Praxair also launched programs at 46 elementary schools located near company sites in Mexico and Costa Rica. In addition, many Praxair employees volunteered at these schools, helping to promote the benefits of healthy eating and exercise.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by promoting behaviors that improve physical fitness and providing support to improve children's overall health and quality of life.

# Hurricane Sandy Relief — Care Kits

Corporate Groups – Danbury, CT



Thanks to the efforts of Danbury employees, more than 60 “care kits” were distributed to Hurricane Sandy victims in Connecticut.

## Project Focus: Disaster Relief

### The Need

Many Connecticut residents were displaced from their homes due to severe flooding resulting from Hurricane Sandy. Many of those affected were housed in shelters without any of their personal belongings.

### The Response

Employees at Praxair’s corporate headquarters in Danbury, Connecticut hosted a drive to provide grooming necessities to shelters assisting local victims of Hurricane Sandy. Over 60 “care kits” containing towels, washcloths, toiletries and bandages were donated to Heart to Heart International, a global organization that provides medical education, delivers medical aid and assists communities in crisis.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by providing Hurricane Sandy victims with some of the basic essentials that they needed during and after this devastating natural disaster.

*“The team really pulled together quickly to make this happen and support those suffering in our area.”*

Melissa Andros, executive assistant,  
Praxair, Inc.

# Hurricane Sandy Relief — Food & Clothing

Corporate Groups – Burr Ridge, IL



Praxair Chicago Center employees Myrna Rodriguez, left, and Meghan Alroth, right, pose with some of the items donated by employees to benefit Hurricane Sandy victims in New Jersey.

*"We immediately wanted to help. Partnering with the food bank allowed us to help those impacted many miles away."*

Myrna Rodriguez, site manager,  
Corporate General Services, Burr Ridge

## Project Focus: Disaster Relief

### The Need

Many people in New Jersey suffered significant devastation due to Hurricane Sandy. They lost friends and family, homes, personal belongings and, in some cases, everything they owned.

### The Response

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, employees at the Praxair Chicago Center (PCC) collected almost 700 pounds of clothing, food, blankets and other items critical to recovery. Through the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, this food and clothing was distributed to residents who had suffered losses during the hurricane. More than 200 adults and children were

provided with provisions to help them rebuild their lives.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by providing Hurricane Sandy victims with some of the basic essentials needed to recover from this natural disaster.



# Karner Blue Butterfly Project

Praxair Surface Technologies – Concord, NH



Mike Wall and Ryan Hinckley plant lupine as part of PST's efforts to restore the habitat of the Karner blue butterfly on Praxair property.

## Project Focus: Environment

### The Need

The population of the Karner blue butterfly declined from 3,000 in 1983 to fewer than 100 by 1994. The decline was primarily caused by the loss of wild blue lupine, a food source for the developing caterpillars.

### The Response

Part of the Praxair Surface Technologies (PST) property in Concord, New Hampshire, is the last known location in the Northeast of the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. PST employees partnered with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to take a proactive role in restoring the butterfly population on its land. PST employees cleared timber and brush and planted over 600 native lupine and other nectar plants, which serve as food sources

for the butterflies. Praxair's Global Giving Program also provided funds to purchase lupine plants for Concord schoolchildren as part of the "Kids for Karners" program. As the program continues, PST employees hope to plant up to 15 acres of lupine in order to restore the butterflies' habitat and eventually increase the population of the species.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by working to increase the population of an endangered species and the ecosystem on which it depends.

*"The amount of work that was completed by Praxair in such a short period would have taken a week or more for our limited staff to complete. The plantings doubled the amount of existing habitat, which will support the butterflies that are released from the captive breeding program."*

John Kanter, coordinator of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Nongame and Endangered Species Program

# Love Express: 1,500 Hearts and 1,500 Smiles

Praxair China – Multiple Locations



A student reads a letter from a Praxair China employee after receiving school supplies and other donated items.

*“Please accept our sincere appreciation for your love. We believe, with your spirit of love and charity, our children will overcome these difficulties, grow up and become talented people.”*

Excerpt from the Fengxian Town Primary School thank you letter

## Project Focus: Disaster Relief

### The Need

In April 2013, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit the Ya'an Sichuan province, a mountainous area in China. More than 400,000 people were impacted by the earthquake, including thousands of children who lost their homes and schools.

### The Response

The Praxair China Social Club organized a relief effort for children affected by the earthquake, helping them return to school with necessary supplies and helping restore a level of normalcy to their lives. The club raised \$20,000 through employee donations from all Praxair China sites as part of a matching gift program. The employees used the funds to purchase 1,500 sets of school bags, raincoats, pencil boxes, safety caps

and stationery, which they delivered to children in the impacted area.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by providing practical support and increasing hope and morale in a local community devastated by a natural disaster.

# LTOP/HyTOP Graduation Project

## U.S. Industrial Gases – Multiple Locations



Praxair employees aided the Nature Consortium by removing an invasive plant species from their property.

### Project Focus: Environment

#### The Need

Rapid growth of invasive plant species threatens the natural environment of public lands. In many cases, environmental organizations do not have the necessary resources to maintain these areas, leaving the invasive plants to thrive.

#### The Response

Employees in Praxair's Leadership Technical Orientation Program (LTOP), Hydrogen Technical Orientation Program (HyTOP) and Praxair Distribution, Inc.'s (PDI) developmental programs, participate in a community engagement activity each time they meet as a group. For one such project, the group volunteered with the Nature Consortium in Seattle, Washington. The Consortium is a grassroots, community

organization that connects people, nature and the arts. Part of the Consortium's nature reserve was overgrown with an invasive plant species and the organization did not have the resources to adequately remove it. The 55-member Praxair team worked in the Consortium's reserve, removing the invasive plant and installing native plants, mulching and removing trash.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by engaging our employees through learning about the importance of environmental stewardship and performing a needed service for a local conservation group.

*"As a new Praxair employee, I did not realize the commitment that the company had to improving the communities surrounding our offices and facilities. Being able to participate in projects such as the one involving the Nature Consortium not only gave me the opportunity to improve the environment but it created a stronger sense of community among my fellow Praxair employees. It was a truly incredible experience and one worth repeating."*

Evan Buckland, plant engineer,  
U.S. Industrial Gases

# MCEA Duck Race

U.S. Industrial Gases – Multiple Locations



Just ducky: Praxair interns get into the spirit of the MCEA duck race.

*“The MCEA Duck race provides a fun, collaborative opportunity that furthers the spirit of community engagement within our employees and helps raise funds for those less fortunate.”*

Brenda Johnston, director of finance,  
U.S. Hydrogen

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

Homelessness and the threat of homelessness are often tied to a lack of job skills and limited opportunities for critical skills development. Job training and emergency resources are necessary to help provide the skills people need to succeed and combat homelessness.

### The Response

Praxair interns at the Sierra Pines office in Texas worked closely with the Montgomery County Emergency Association (MCEA), an organization that provides emergency assistance and job skills training to those in need. The MCEA hosts an annual “duck race” fundraiser. For a \$1 donation, participants adopt a rubber duck, which is then dropped, with all other adopted

ducks, down a two-story waterslide into a pool. Approximately 10,000 ducks “swim” toward a finish line at the opposite end of the pool. Participants win prizes based on how their duck finishes. The Sierra Pines interns organized several events to sell ducks prior to the race, raising \$4,200 for the cause. These funds were used to support MCEA programs and to provide emergency assistance to families on the verge of homelessness.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by aiding the MCEA, which helps people achieve self-sufficiency and provides skills training to ensure their continued success.

# Oxygenate Your Life 6K Race

Praxair Mexico – Saltillo



Leonardo de Jesus Perez, right, a bronze medalist at the 2012 Paralympics in London, poses for a picture with Praxair Mexico National Retail Manager Obed Vazquez.

## Project Focus: Diversity

### The Need

In Mexico, opportunities for people with disabilities to engage in sporting activities, especially running, are not commonly available due to a lack of events and safe sporting environments.

### The Response

Praxair Mexico employees in Saltillo, Coahuila, organized a 6K race to benefit three local associations that promote sports activities for people with disabilities. About 300 runners, including those with disabilities, Praxair employees and their families, customers and suppliers participated in the event. Leonardo de Jesus Perez, a London 2012 Paralympic medalist, was a special

guest and addressed the runners with an inspiring speech before the start of the event.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by creating activities that raise awareness of sporting opportunities for disabled athletes and by promoting health and wellness inside and outside of Praxair.

*“This is a great opportunity to promote inclusion and physical activity while generating self-confidence for those with disabilities.”*

Mariel Jimenez, communications and social responsibility manager, Praxair Mexico



# Project Recriar

White Martins – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



White Martins employee Rosangela Magallon, right, with her friend Elizete Santana show off the holiday gifts that were distributed to children in at-risk neighborhoods.

*“I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to send these kids down the right path. The joy they show when they get their gifts shows how small actions can lead to long-term benefits.”*

Bruno Gomes, regional gas operations manager, White Martins

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

Drug trafficking and violence are prevalent in the Morro de Juramento community in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Many of the children have poor literacy skills and spend their after-school hours on the streets, where they are susceptible to criminal influences.

### The Response

The Recriar project is a partnership between White Martins employees, local businesses and community members to educate at-risk youth and to instill in them ethical, moral and social values. The Recriar project specifically helps these students avoid negative influences while strengthening their educational skills so that they can rise above their economic situation. The project began as a Christmas outreach program to

children living in an at-risk neighborhood near a White Martins plant. Each holiday season, the children received a complete set of clothing and a toy. In 2011, a White Martins employee noticed that some of the children and teens receiving gifts were carrying weapons or working for drug dealers. So in 2012, White Martins expanded the program to include daily after-school tutoring for the children and weekly contributions of groceries for their families. Approximately 200 children and their families have benefitted from the program.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by contributing to the formal education of at-risk youth and strengthening their value and support systems.

# Rebuilding Together

Praxair Distribution, Inc. – Ankeny, IA



PDI employees renovated a house for a local veteran as part of their annual Rebuilding Together project.

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

The cost of necessary housing repairs is a burden for many people facing multiple economic and health challenges.

### The Response

For the past 11 years, Praxair Distribution, Inc.'s (PDI) Shared Services Center in Ankeny, Iowa, has worked with Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines to renovate homes for low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly, disabled and families with dependent children. In 2013, the team refurbished a home for a disabled family whose son served in the Army. The volunteer team included several veterans, including PDI team lead Ryan Riggs, a former Marine. The team performed numerous electrical repairs, including the installation of energy-efficient lighting, a new

switchbox and fire and carbon monoxide detectors. The team also repaired the gutters, house siding, a window and the outside water spigot and patched the driveway. In recognition of the son's military service, the team also installed a new American flag on the home's deck. In addition, PDI employees collaborated with a local hotel chain to provide the family with a room free of charge while their home was being renovated.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by improving the quality of life of local community members through renovating homes for families in need. This project also increased employees' awareness of community needs, specifically those of veterans.

*"This project makes you feel better at the end of the day because you know you just made that family's house a safer and better environment in which to live. It gives the family hope and shows the community that people are willing to assist those who cannot afford it. Putting a smile on someone's face is the greatest accomplishment of all."*

Jialana Kaldenberg, collector,  
Praxair Distribution, Inc.

# Regala Vida, Dona Sangre: Give Life, Donate Blood

Praxair Mexico and Central America – Multiple Locations



Praxair Mexico Legal Manager Alejandro Méndez happily donates blood during a local blood drive.

*“Blood donation is vital for our country and we are proud to help this important cause.”*

Oscar Garza, coordinator, Human Resources, Praxair Mexico

## Project Focus: Healthcare

### The Need

Less than two percent of the Mexican population are blood donors and there is an increasing need for emergency blood supplies in local hospitals and health centers.

### The Response

Praxair Mexico and Praxair Central America organized a blood donor campaign to benefit the National Blood Transfusion Center and the Mexican Red Cross. The campaign included sponsoring blood drives at Praxair sites or at nearby health centers, educating employees about the importance of and requirements for donating blood, and recognizing employees who chose to become donors. As a result, 220 employees gave blood last year.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by promoting a culture of voluntary donation to increase the local blood supply. This program is impacting many in the community, as a single blood donation can benefit up to four people.

# Residential Nursing Facility for the Elderly

Praxair Europe – Russia



Praxair Europe employees renovated several wards at a nursing facility near Moscow.

## Project Focus: Diversity

### The Need

The conditions of nursing facilities in the Moscow area vary greatly with many facilities lacking the funds to make necessary repairs.

### The Response

In the summer of 2013, a team of ten Praxair Europe employees completely renovated several wards at an adult residential nursing facility in Tsyropy, a village outside of Moscow. The wards had not been refurbished in over 15 years and were in dire need of repair. The team worked with a Praxair contractor who supplied the construction materials and performed the electrical work. The team also brightened the rooms with thorough

cleanings, new coats of paint, new flooring and upgrades to the windows and doors. The rooms were all finished off with fresh, new draperies.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by providing the elderly with a clean, comfortable environment and improving their quality of life.

*“It is a privilege to help improve the residents’ quality of life and to make them feel at home.”*

Henar Aycart, senior manager,  
Communications, Praxair Europe

# Sing-along at De Troon

Praxair Europe – Belgium



Tania, left, a De Troon resident, joins Stijn Kraewinkels, a Praxair employee, for a musical act that imitated a popular Flemish singer and DJ.

*“Thank you for the unbelievably fantastic afternoon last Saturday. We laughed, sang, danced, enjoyed the day and were even moved to tears. You offered the people from De Troon a day to remember and gave Praxair employees and their families the opportunity to be a part of this incredible experience.”*

Kristel Dewin, recruitment training and development specialist, Praxair Europe

## Project Focus: Diversity

### The Need

Those with mental disabilities often face multiple disadvantages. Many do not have opportunities for social and cultural engagement in their communities or the chance to simply have fun with their neighbors.

### The Response

For the second consecutive year, Praxair employees planned an afternoon of entertainment with the residents of De Troon, a family residence for the mentally disabled near Praxair Europe’s Belgium facility. A team of employees from Oevel and Olen, along with many of their children and extended family members, worked with the residents to plan, rehearse and perform a talent show at a theater in Vorselaar. In one

act, a Praxair employee and a De Troon resident impersonated a popular Flemish singer and DJ. Other employees and residents performed a variety of different acts and, in the end, everyone joined together to sing and dance polonaises. It was a day of entertainment, socializing and fun.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by creating a day of entertainment during which De Troon residents and Praxair employees bonded, cemented lasting friendships and built new ones. The talent show was a fun way for everyone to connect as a community and for Praxair employees and families to appreciate, first-hand, the positive impact of volunteerism.



# Sister Nemesia's House

Praxair Surface Technologies – Novara, Italy



From left to right, Human Resources Manager Antonella Gatto, Novara General Manager Paolo Minoggio, and Sales Office Manager Simona Fassa present PST's donation to Sister Nemesia.

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

Many people living under the poverty level, including immigrants, the elderly and the homeless do not have sufficient access to shelter, medical services and job skills.

### The Response

Community needs are very visible within Novara, Italy's population of 100,000, and Praxair Surface Technologies (PST) employees wanted to make a positive impact on this community. PST chose to work with Sister Nemesia's House, a shelter for those in need, which also provides medical services and job skills training to approximately 10,000 people each year, most of them women. Employees were encouraged to make donations or provide items, such as powdered milk and diapers,

for the House's residents. The team raised \$1,800 dollars, enough to purchase a one-month supply of medicine, and provided 60 pounds of food to the House.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by helping vulnerable people in our communities meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

*"The PST plant in Novara sought out where they could make the most impact within their own community. In selecting Sister Nemesia's House, they did something that all employees could identify with because it was a medical charity within their own community. Their donations helped provide a full month's worth of medical supplies. I am very proud of their commitment and actions."*

Mark Kleis, engineering & safety director, Praxair Surface Technologies

# A Stone of Love and Hope

U.S. Industrial Gases – Puerto Rico



Thanks to their fundraising efforts, U.S. Industrial Gases employees had the honor of laying the first stone for a new shelter for children with special needs.

*“We would like to thank Praxair for all of their fundraising efforts to help in the construction of one of our biggest dreams, the school. Thank you for the love, respect and solidarity given through this activity; it will live in our memories forever.”*

Claribel Rosa, director, Albergue Nacional Para Impedidos Fisicos

## Project Focus: Education

### The Need

Children with special needs thrive in environments that provide them an opportunity to learn at their own pace. In many cases, parents cannot access such services due to economic limitations.

### The Response

Albergue Nacional Para Impedidos Fisicos (ANIF) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, is an organization that provides educational opportunities for children and teenagers with disabilities or special needs. Using funds raised through its “A Stone of Love and Hope” initiative, ANIF plans to build a school in Santo Domingo that will provide these children with the physical and emotional care they need. Praxair Puerto Rico, through a golf tournament

and cake sale, raised \$46,300 to aid the construction effort and was given the honor of laying the first stone.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by helping provide parents a healthy and secure environment in which their children will receive much-needed special attention and care while they are at work. The school programs will help the children integrate into the community and provide them with the necessary skills to become self-sufficient and independent.

# T.A.K.E.

Praxair Distribution, Inc. – Ankeny, IA



PDI Ankeny's Community Engagement Team: Front row: (from left) Linda Coles, Peggy Tingley and Michelle Davidson. Back Row: (from left) Dawn Wicker, Christy Hart, Katrina Fettkether, Steve Hutchins and Erinn Sommars.

## Project Focus: Community Support

### The Need

Strong communities are the building blocks of a stable society in which everyone contributes. Approximately 500 families in the Ankeny, Iowa, area are estimated to live below the poverty line. In a small town of about 50,000 people, this level of poverty is a visible challenge.

### The Response

Praxair Distribution, Inc.'s (PDI) Shared Services Center in Ankeny holds several annual drives to benefit The Ankeny Clothing Exchange (T.A.K.E.). Praxair employees collect gently used clothing, bedding, baby items, toys and games throughout the year and deliver them to T.A.K.E. Families in need can visit the T.A.K.E. site and "shop" for the items they need free of charge. PDI also

holds special winter clothing and school supply drives to help families who cannot afford to purchase these necessities. Donations around the holidays are greatly appreciated by families who may not be able to provide gifts to their children.

**Making our Planet More Productive** by demonstrating a commitment to social responsibility and significantly helping those in need in our local communities.

*"When I delivered the truckload of donations, people were going through the bags even before we were able to get everything unloaded. They were so appreciative."*

Brad Edenburn, credit and collections assistant, Praxair Distribution, Inc.



*“Putting a smile on someone’s face is the greatest accomplishment of all.”*

*–Jialana Kaldenberg, Praxair Distribution, Inc.*

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