

Volunteers Help Museums and Day Care Centers



Volunteers gathered in front of the Museum Earth and People in Sofia at the official opening of the campaign.

Employees from numerous AmCham member companies together with their children joined the spring volunteer day on Saturday, May 19, 2012, organized by AmCham and BCAF. Some 23 companies and about 600 employees decided to work out the day in different ways for the benefit of society. Except for supporting the employees to be volunteers, businesses buy the necessary materials - paints, gloves, seeds and more.

This year 27 host organizations in Varna, Gabrovo, Plovdiv, Sliven, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Skravena, Dren and Bogrov village took part in the initiative. Eight of the host organizations were museums - two in Plovdiv and six in Sofia. They invited the volunteers to participate in cleaning, refreshing, handing out leaflets on the day preceding the Night of the museums. Volunteers worked also in 20 non-profit organizations and refined the urban environment. They assisted in day care centers for children and young people with disabilities.

The official opening took place at Sofia Museum "Earth and People." Susan Sutton, deputy chief of the U.S. mission and Elitsa Barakova, BCAF, welcomed a large group of enthusiastic employees of AAS, Auto France, HP and Vivacom

who cleaned the surroundings of the museum, uprooted the sprouted grass and planted shrubs.

Twenty-six volunteers from ContourGlobal Maritsa East 3 AD, some of them accompanied by their families, took the initiative in Sofia and Stara Zagora. Each participant devoted four working hours to causes that were important for society.

As in previous years, 20 employees of the company in Stara Zagora cleaned, along with customers, yard and adjacent alleys of the day centre for adults with mental disabilities and mental disorders "Saints Cosmas and Damian."

Once decorative shrubs were planted, the volunteers played with kites made at the care center together with the patients. With their regular visits and communication with patients at the centre the employees ContourGlobal contribute to better adaptation and integration of the disadvantaged people into society.

Company volunteers in Sofia cleaned the surroundings of the secondary vocational school with a kindergarten for deaf children "Prof. Dr. Decho Denev."

Then the group created an organic garden in the schoolyard.

The volunteer days have been organized for five years already every spring and autumn. ■

Volunteers from Companies:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| AAS | 10 |
| Aims Human Capital | 6 |
| Experian | 20 |
| HP | 35 |
| IBS | 7 |
| ISG technology Ltd. | 25 |
| Japan Tobacco | |
| International Bulgaria | 48 |
| MSD | 18 |
| Siemens | 60 |
| VMWare | 10 |
| Worley Parsons | 5 |
| American College of Sofia | 15 |
| Astral Holidays | 20 |
| Auto France | 45 |
| Balkan Star Automotive EOOD | 20 |
| Vivacom | 45 |
| COLLIERS International Bulgaria | 9 |
| ContourGlobal Maritsa East 3 AD | 45 |
| Maya Tour | 4 |
| Neochimiki Bulgaria | 15 |
| Overgas | 155 |
| Eurobank EFG Bulgaria | 10 |
| Radisson Blu Grand Hotel | 20 |



Large group of enthusiastic employees of AAS, Auto France, HP and Vivacom worked in the Museum Earth and People.



Volunteers from ContourGlobal Maritsa East 3 AD helped in projects in Sofia and Stara Zagora.



Susan Sutton, deputy chief of US mission to Bulgaria elaborated on the philosophy of volunteering and its positive effects on children when they come together with their parents.