

# Outstanding Community Volunteer Service

## Alcoa Fastening Systems

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Eight years ago, Alcoa Fastening Systems began its long relationship with the Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center, when over fifteen Alcoa employees converged on the Klaras Center for Families (KCF) to begin much needed improvements to the children's and adolescents' facility. Not only did Alcoa solicit

construction materials from community businesses but the company also worked with the City of Waco to secure dumpsters to transport construction waste, met with area contractors for plans, and essentially secured and delivered goods to complete every aspect of the project. To this day, Alcoa staff visit and maintain the facility for the benefit of our clients and their families.

Overtime, Alcoa continued its involvement with our agency by lending their support to other projects and events, such as the Annual Fishing Event for Very Special People and the "We Care" Garden Project. An enormous undertaking, one that the Alcoa employees have taken to with fervor and panache, the Annual Fishing Event serves approximately 1,000 persons with developmental delays. Participants are treated to a day of fishing, games, dancing, and food, while an army of Alcoa volunteers take the helm to keep things running smoothly, including pairing each participant with a volunteer to ensure everyone has a great time. In January 2011, the Center celebrated its 23rd Annual Fishing Event for Very Special People and Alcoa was present in full force to ensure not a single participant was overlooked.

As sponsor of the "We Care" Garden Project, situated on the grounds of the agency's day habilitation facility, Alcoa enthusiastically spearheaded the project from its inception. Alcoa volunteers secured goods and services

from over 20 area businesses and individuals, along with obtaining a \$20,000 grant to subsidize building a raised garden. As of this date, over \$150,000 in services and goods have been donated to the "We Care" Garden Project through the active involvement of Alcoa Fastening Systems. Because of the unparalleled dedication and hard work of Alcoa volunteers, 50 individuals with developmental disabilities now have opportunities they would not have had otherwise.

When Alcoa employees volunteer, it is strictly on the employees' personal time and they do not receive any compensation from their company for their efforts. When Alcoa discovers a need within their community, they serve with selflessness and enthusiasm. Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center and its clients are fortunate to have the longstanding, generous support and involvement of Alcoa Fastening Systems.

Alcoa sets the standard in the Waco community on volunteerism by promoting workforce skills development, long-term concentration on community priorities, and employee volunteering to strengthen community impact and build employee morale. For example, Alcoans Coming Together in Our Neighborhoods (ACTION) supports the efforts of employee teams who volunteer their time, energy and skills in service to their community. The Alcoa Foundation matches their ACTION team with grants up to \$3,000, of which Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center has been a recipient. Bravo! supports the efforts of individual employees who volunteer at least 50 hours per year with a local non-profit organization.

Through its numerous contributions to Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center - monetary gifts, over 1,200 volunteer hours to our children's program, fishing event support, and the garden project - Alcoa Fastening Systems exemplifies its commitment to the community. Suffice to say, our Community Center and the people we serve have been hugely impacted by our local Alcoa group, and we are proud and honored to be the beneficiary of Alcoa's selfless dedication.

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***Nominated by Heart of Texas Region MHMR Center***