

Community Service 2011 Company of the Week: Assurant Employee Benefits Week of June 19, 2011

Assurant Employee Benefits' Change Your World Program Starts Small, but Makes Big, Lasting Impact

Every year, Assurant Employee Benefits' Community Involvement Committee selects a diverse group of non-profit organizations to support with monetary donations, supply drives and volunteer efforts. Recently, we began giving our entire employee population the chance to have a more direct say in the groups we support. We asked: "If you had a small budget and a short time frame, what would you do to *Change Your World*?"

To date, eight employee-led *Change Your World* teams have been selected and given the same charge: get busy, get creative and give back to the community.



Midwest PAWS team members, selling treats to employees.

Program guidelines

- Small teams (less than 10 people, to keep the scale of the projects comparable)
- \$100 in seed money (teams are encouraged to find inventive ways to grow their budgets)
- Soliciting monetary donations from co-workers is prohibited

Highlights

- Rummage sale for **Hands of Hope** and **Haniel's Home of Hope**, raised over \$1,000 and a stockpile of clothing and houseware donations (the unsold merchandise)
- **Hope Rocks Food Pantry** (which provides nutritious meals for the less fortunate) received a freezer and shelving
- Kansas City's **Child Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA)** received volunteer assistance with advertising and auction item donations for a fundraising event
- **Animal's Best Friends and Pets for Life** received hosting help and auction donations for a fundraising fiesta and doggy fashion show
- **Hope Lodge** was given fresh landscaping, a gazebo, and an ice cream social
- **Northland Early Education Center** was given refreshments, decorations and gift bags for the pre-school graduating class of 2010
- **Midwest PAWS** received a barrel full of supplies (through company-wide pet supply drive), and \$1,800 (through a doggy- and human-treat bake sale and a silent auction)
- **The Whole Person** received volunteer help for their Cast-N-Blast event and a \$100 donation to offset the cost of transportation.



Hope Lodge Team Members, landscaping.

Our Hope Lodge project received a nod in the *Kansas City Star*, and *The Change Your World* program also garnered national press in *Insurance Newscast* and *National Underwriter*. Most recently, *Change Your World* was awarded the national Communitas Award of Excellence in Community Service in two categories.



The Whole Person team, at Cast-N-Blast (an outdoor sporting event for the disabled).

To learn more about the supported organizations' missions, please visit the sites below.

Hands of Hope

<http://handsofhopepc.com/index-2.html>

Haniel's Home of Hope

<http://www.hanielshome.org/>

CAPA

<http://www.childabuseprevention.org/>

Animal's Best Friend

<http://www.animalsbestfriends.org/>

Pets for Life

<http://www.kcpetsforlife.com/>

Hope Lodge

http://www5.cancer.org/docroot/subsite/hopelodge/mo_kansascity/kc_index.asp

Northland Early Education Center
<http://neeckids.org/>

Midwest PAWS
<http://www.midwestpaws.org/>

The Whole Person
<http://www.thewholeperson.org/>

Congratulations Assurant Employee Benefits!