



YEAR in
REVIEW
2015

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT COUNCIL



What are Community Investment Councils?

HMH's Community Investment Councils (CICs) are cross-functional employee groups that utilize funding, training, resources, and support from the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) team to help engage colleagues in volunteer opportunities and charitable campaigns to improve communities nearby and around the world. CICs also help execute global employee programs on a local scale, such as HMH Volunteer Week and the Curiosity Series. HMH is proud to support CICs in 12 major offices and distribution centers across the U.S. and Ireland as part of our CSR program. CICs not only provide a platform for HMH employees to give back to the communities in which they live and work, but also help strengthen office culture and provide members with professional development opportunities. Over the last five years, the CIC initiative has earned a *PR News*' CSR Awards honorable mention, been featured in *Corporate Responsibility* magazine, and received mention on NBC's *Today*® Show.

What do CICs do?

CICs plan and execute employee-run volunteer projects and donate to local nonprofit organizations, both in the form of grants and in-kind book donations. Throughout 2015, CICs organized a myriad of volunteer projects, including a summer themed in-classroom field trip, an extreme community makeover, and a walk-a-thon to support mental health awareness, all of which you can read about in this report. CICs also help drive most of the engagement during HMH's annual Volunteer Week. In 2015 over **1,200** employees from **17** HMH offices volunteered over **5,000** hours during the 4th Annual HMH Volunteer Week, which took place October 19–25, 2015.



Over
1,200
Employees



Over **5,000**
Volunteer Hours



What does CIC impact look like?

CIC-led initiatives make a significant impact on our local communities, and nonprofit organizations are grateful for the support CICs are able to lend:

As Room to Grow's Early Learning Partner, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt makes a real impact on the families we serve. In addition to donating books for the infants and toddlers in our program, more than 55 employees donated their time this fall helping us process incoming donations and making them available to the families in our program. Room to Grow is incredibly grateful for the support that HMH's CIC provides and we are excited to continue this partnership in the future. Thank You!

- Room to Grow

In addition to the impact CICs make in the community, HMH employees also benefit from professional development and enriched sense of community and comradery that CIC membership yields. CIC members are passionate about their involvement:

Serving as CIC chair has provided me with tremendous opportunity to get to know my community better, build relationships with HMH's community partners, and see our products and programs in action! It also brought me into the classroom (to read with students) for the first time in about 15 years—an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

- Orlando CIC 2015 Chair Robyn Hoover

AUSTIN

Executive Champion	Rhonda Haynes
Chair	Jeanette Cacciola
Members	Cheryl Alvarado
	Cecili Blair
	Morgan Clark
	Matthew Crain
	Carlie Dos Santos
	Mychael Ferris
	Heather Gandy
	Betsy Harris
	Neel Heisel
	Megan Herron
	Pamela Moldenhauer
	Melissa Robinette
	Carla Shiflet
	Kim Soriano
	Amy Taulman
	Tajauna Treadway

BookSpring Castle Build

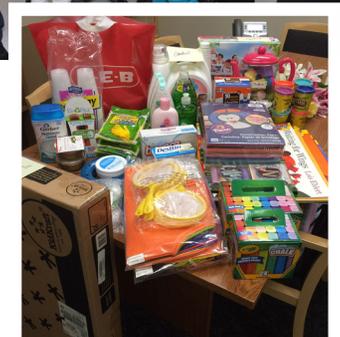
Austin CIC members took part in a literacy-focused project with BookSpring, an organization whose mission is to provide reading experiences, tools, and books to children and their families so they can develop a desire to read and succeed in school and life. Volunteers put their creativity skills to the test in constructing and painting a large cardboard castle to be used in BookSpring’s mobile “Reading is Fundamental” program to travel to school libraries in communities in need. Large fantasy items like the castle HMH volunteers created are used in motivational and engaging activities to encourage kids to embrace reading. As a follow up to the castle build project, Austin CIC volunteers also read stories aloud and handed out new books to children at the McBee Elementary School.



Goodwill Excel Center Partnership

The Austin CIC partnered with the Excel Center at Goodwill of Central Texas on several activities in 2015. The Goodwill Excel Center is the first free, public charter high school in Texas for adults 17–50, specializing in learning plans, life coaches, and support services to help students ensure success.

The CIC aided the organization with several book donations: first donating dozens of books to the English Department, library and Exploration Center supply room. Thanks to these donations, 30 children received their own copies of *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed* and *Little Blue Truck* as holiday gifts, while over 50 books stayed in the library. Furthermore, two donated Nextbook tablets were used as program incentives for students who won reading challenges.



BOSTON

- Executive Champion** Gary Gentel
- Chair** Lisa Kimball
- Members** Christopher Andreotes
- Linda Beauregard
- Abby Brinn
- Hillary Creedon
- Taylor Foley
- Gail McDermott
- Leila Meglio
- Ryan Nichols
- Elizabeth Schultz-Mcguire

Back to School Supply Drive, benefiting Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston

Many Boston youth returned to school a bit more prepared this year thanks to Boston HMH employees. The Boston CIC hosted a successful summer long back-to-school supply drive to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB), an organization that works tirelessly to ensure all young people in the community have the opportunity to realize their full potential. Employees picked an apple from a tree mural and shopped for requested school supplies that were featured on the reverse side of the apple. Donated items were collected for weeks. The drive was a huge success: not only was the CIC able to donate more than 20 large boxes of supplies to the BGCB, but they were also able to make a \$1,000 donation based on proceeds from an in-house school supply sale.

“My Curious Summer Day” at the Whittier School

In July the Boston CIC sponsored a unique in-school field trip for students at the Whittier Elementary School in Everett, Massachusetts, called “My Curious Summer Day!” The PERC, submitted and hosted by HMH Boston employee and active volunteer Joyce Laidley, put more than 15 volunteers in collaboration with teachers to engage over 80 Grade 2 students in summer-themed learning activities like *Under the Sea Exploration*, *Curious Creatures* and *Summer Safety*. Volunteers used HMH’s *Peterson Field Guides* series to help students identify shells they found on the beach, and the event also included a reading corner full of HMH titles like *Curious George*®. Curious George himself even made a special appearance at the end of the day! Volunteers and students were interviewed by local news staff and the Everett Public Schools’ Superintendent.



DENVER

Executive Champion	Amy Smith
Chair	Christine Kuznia
Members	Brooke Little

Curious George School Visits

The Denver CIC—along with Curious George—went to two local schools, Wyatt Elementary and the Serenity Center, where they visited classrooms and donated over 70 *Curious George* books. Wyatt Elementary in Downtown Denver primarily serves children from low income families, and the Serenity Center is a school for youth with developmental disabilities. Curious George gave out lots of hugs and high fives to kids at both schools. The students were excited to interact with Curious George and so thankful for the donated books!



Extreme Community Makeover Project

Extreme Community Makeover is an organization that coordinates volunteer teams to assist local people in need with projects in their own homes and neighborhoods. These projects build safer environments; cultivate community among residents, neighborhoods, and networks of local resource providers; and connect residents to a path towards healthy, hopeful, and stable lives. For their Extreme Community Makeover, the Denver CIC assisted an 87-year-old legally blind woman with various yard projects. Volunteers painted her steps and assisted with tree removal in her yard. The resident they worked with was extremely grateful and touched by the kindness that the Denver CIC displayed while helping with her projects.



EVANSTON

Chair Erin Metroff

Members Sid Allen-Simpson

Arlinda Campbell

Lisa Crowe

Kimeco Fortson

Ali Nagib

Marsha Nagib

Lindy Peterson

Dan Rogers

Geraldine Stevens

Books and Breakfast at Dewey Elementary

For the second year in a row, Evanston's CIC participated in Dewey Elementary school's Books and Breakfast program, a grassroots initiative created by the Dewey School PTA after realizing a large population of students did not receive breakfast before starting the school day. Books and Breakfast launched as an opportunity to encourage reading and offer homework help for students, all while providing the most important meal of the day. Several HMM volunteers read with students during breakfast and then Curious George and the Man with the Yellow Hat visited a few kindergarten classrooms to read during story time. Students were thrilled not only to have the special visitors for the day, but to also each receive a *Curious George* book to take home!



Literature for All of Us Office Restoration

Literature for All of Us is an organization that uses an innovative book group model to build communities of readers, writers, and critical thinkers in Chicago and Evanston. In 2015, revamping their office to provide a warm and welcoming space for their clients was something that was desperately needed. HMM volunteers stepped up and spent a full day cleaning, painting and transforming the offices and library to create an inviting space where all would feel welcomed and comfortable to explore their love of reading and writing. In addition, HMM donated several copies of non-fiction titles to the Literature for All of Us library.



GENEVA

- Executive Champions** | Randy Teesdale
Pam Anderson
- Chairs** | Laura Christensen
Michael Lucas
- Members** | Cherry Binetti
Lisa Feltz
Myrna Hasse
Lynnette Malone
Lauren Rittenhouse
Gwen Brewer

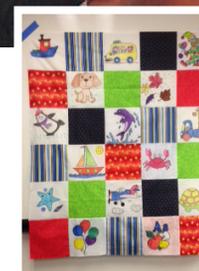
Mooseheart Back to School Bash

In August, the Geneva CIC held a back to school drive for the Mooseheart Child City and School in Batavia, IL. Mooseheart is a home and school for over 200 children and teens in need. CIC members and volunteers purchased school supplies from a list of requested items. The CIC then purchased backpacks and a building-wide “stuffing” event was organized to pack each backpack full of these new supplies. As a team, over 60 volunteers came together to pack 100 backpacks for the students. To cap it off, volunteers attended Mooseheart’s “Back to School Bash” to distribute the backpacks to the students in person.



Project Linus Quilt Project

As part of Volunteer Week, the Geneva CIC took part in a Project Linus quilt project. Volunteers drew pictures onto white fabric squares that were then sewn into quilts by a few employees who are avid quilters. The completed squares and quilts were then sent to the Project Linus organization. Project Linus in turn donates the quilts to children in hospitals and homeless shelters. The hardworking volunteers colored over 180 squares which were sewn into 12 quilts.



INDIANAPOLIS

- Executive Champion** | Matt Hasken
- Chair** | Dave Perryman
- Members** | Terri Anderson
- Angela ElBarassi
- Ruth Guthrie
- Craig Majors
- Erin Orr
- Yue Shen
- Linda Stoeffler
- Brenda Stum

Teachers’ Treasures Sorting & Shopping Event

The Indianapolis CIC volunteered at Teachers’ Treasures, a local organization that works in partnership with local businesses, charitable foundations, neighborhood organizations, and individual contributors to distribute free school supplies to teachers and students in need. Twelve volunteers visited Teachers’ Treasures warehouse to sort donated goods during volunteer week and others volunteered their time to staff the nonprofit’s “Store for Teachers” during a teacher shopping event.



Sole Hope Project

The Indianapolis CIC hosted a “shoe-cutting party” to benefit Sole Hope, an organization that works to combat foot-related diseases and promote healthier communities in Uganda through education, jobs, and medical relief. Sixteen Indianapolis CIC members and employees volunteered their time to cut sets of shoe patterns out of denim, which will be mailed and assembled in Uganda to create much-needed footwear for local children.



ITASCA

Executive Champion	Doug Becker
Chairs	Joseph Adduci Helen Kolettis
Members	Anne Anderson April Carson Richard Kapcia David Simmons Tasha Sisney Kristen Speciale Shawn Viane Beth Wolfe Nancy Wroblewski Christa Yez

Itasca CIC Walks in Support of Mental Health

On a sunny day this past June, Itasca employees participated in the first-ever CIC-sponsored Walk-a-Thon in support of mental health awareness. For a \$5 registration fee, 67 employees walked laps around their office building. All proceeds benefited the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. The CIC awarded prizes for most laps walked and most money raised. Donations from walkers and additional contributions from employees' families and friends made for a total donation of \$2,848!



Habitat for Humanity Project

A dozen Itasca employees volunteered their time over two days during Volunteer Week to complete two landscaping projects for newly renovated Habitat for Humanity homes. HMH volunteers planted bushes and perennial plants, added mulch, and trimmed existing bushes to complete the landscaping. This was the second year in a row that HMH partnered with Habitat for Humanity during Volunteer Week.

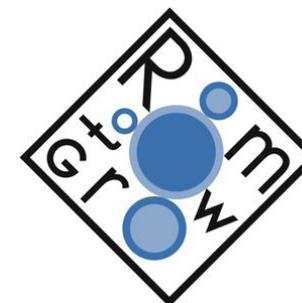


NEW YORK

- Executive Champion** | Laurie Brown
- Chair** | Amy Carlisle
- Members** | Giselle Carpio-Williams
- Stephanie Fletcher
- Hayley Gonnason

Room to Grow

A group of volunteers organized by the New York CIC visited Room to Grow, a nonprofit with a mission to enrich the lives of babies born into poverty throughout their critical first three years of development. Room to Grow provides holistic support to children and their families, including the opportunity to “shop” for baby clothes and other items (including HMH books!). Volunteers folded and sorted many of the donated items, helping Room to Grow maintain the boutique look of their space.



Goddard Community Center Trivia Night

The New York CIC helped organize a trivia night, hosted by the hilarious and entertaining HMH author-illustrator Sergio Ruzzier. Attendees made a \$10 donation, which served their entry fee for a night of snacks, drinks and intense trivia competition. All proceeds of the event went to benefit the Goddard Riverside Community Center, which is one of New York City’s leading health and human services organizations, providing basic needs assistance to local children and families.



ORLANDO

- Executive Champions** James T Diamond
- Hazel Hughes
- Chair** Robyn Hoover
- Members** Ivelisse Baba-Portalatin
- Stephanie Bize
- Jennifer Buko
- Christy Buonomo
- Sara Buren
- Rebecca Elliott
- Matthew Harris
- Teneka Harris
- Angela Hottal
- Vivian Kerstein
- Jennifer Kovacs
- Barbara Loiseau
- Jeanne Morile
- Mary Murphy
- Marylia Nieves
- Stephanie Ortt
- Brandy Perdue
- Judith Roberts
- Chelsie Sloan
- Terri Taylor
- Beth Zefo

“Shop for Shoes” Event

The Orlando CIC hosted a “Shop for Shoes” awareness event to raise funds to purchase shoes for students at local Fern Creek Elementary. Employees contributed homemade baked goods and crafts that Orlando employees could purchase, to in turn “shop for shoes.” More than \$2,800 was raised to purchase shoes for Fern Creek Elementary students. During the event, employees were encouraged to participate in games (Jenga, a coloring contest, and a scavenger hunt) which aligned with HMH’s Corporate Social Responsibility focus areas. The good deeds did not stop there; the Orlando CIC went on to organize a clothing and shoe drive to supply additional much-needed items for Fern Creek Elementary School’s clothing pantry.

Baskets for Books with the Orlando Magic

On March 5, HMH partnered with the Orlando Magic to kick off the Baskets for Books campaign at the Orlando Public Library. Through the Baskets for Books program, one book is donated to the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County for every point scored by the Orlando Magic at each home game. HMH contributed 4,500 books that were distributed to over 13 Early Learning Centers throughout Orange County during the 2014–2015 season. Hazel Hughes, HMH Senior Vice President Sales Finance and Operations, inspired the 40 preschoolers present at the kickoff to be curious, passionate learners. During the event, Curious George (played by Chelsie Sloan, HMH Events Coordinator), gave the children many high fives and Orlando Magic players and HMH volunteers sat with the children to read *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*.



PORTSMOUTH

Executive Champion	Stephen Perepeluk
Chair	Chelsea Kenyon
Members	Veronica Bennett
	Marie Calvi
	Thomas Carr
	Sonja Chapman
	Kelly Ernest
	Brenda Gaudet
	Michelle Guy
	Deborah Hinkley
	Erik Ickes
	Natalie Pavlov
	Erin St. Hilaire

K-Ready Kids Backpack Drive

Heinemann employees in Portsmouth held their annual Lunch for Literacy to benefit the United Way of the Greater Seacoast’s “K-Ready Kids” program. K-Ready Kids is a program that supplies backpacks and materials (school supplies, calendars, parent resource packets) to local NH children entering kindergarten. Heinemann’s Lunch for Literacy allows employees the opportunity to support K-Ready Kids: in exchange for a small, suggested donation, colleagues sample a smörgåsbord of offerings from local restaurants, including Agave Mexican Bistro, Flatbread Company, and Robert’s Maine Grill. The lunch was a resounding success, with \$920 raised for United Way! With the funds raised, members of the Portsmouth CIC purchased supplies for the backpacks and later held an assembly event, providing emergent readers with over 2,000 donated books.



Soup-off for Together We Rise

The Portsmouth CIC organized a “soup-off” competition to benefit Together We Rise, a non-profit organization that helps bring comfort to children entering the foster care system by providing them with “sweet cases;” a duffel bag filled with basic needs items. During the soup challenge, employees sampled and voted on their favorite home-made soup for a \$5 suggested donation. Winners of the competition received awards and proceeds of the event went to purchase items to create sweet cases. The soup-off was so successful volunteers were able to assemble 20 cases for local foster care youth served by Together We Rise. Each sweet case included: a duffel bag, hygiene kit, blanket, coloring book, crayons, journal, stuffed animal, and of course, a *Curious George* book!

TROY

- Executive Champion** | Tom Joyce
- Chairs** | Mary Harke
Sarah Rigby
- Members** | Paula Cox
Karla Creech
Shannon Hartle
Tammy Mathews
Lynette McLeod
Sarah Rigby
Sarah Walter

Sole Hope Project

Akin to their colleagues in Indianapolis, the Troy CIC also hosted a “shoe-cutting party” to benefit Sole Hope, to combat foot-related diseases and promote healthier communities in Uganda through education, jobs and medical relief. Volunteers in Troy cut 200 sets of shoe patterns out of cloth to be mailed and assembled in Uganda.



Backpack Project

Troy CIC members devoted hours of their time to sort and pack donated school supplies to benefit local students. In total, the volunteers stuffed 75 backpacks full of school supplies—the donated backpacks and new supplies went to local students at various Lincoln County schools in Missouri.



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