

## IAVE Global Corporate Volunteer Council and Research Working Group on Disaster Volunteering Highlights - 2016

The Global Volunteer Council (GCVC) marked its tenth year in 2016 with a wide array of activities. Here are some highlights.

We started the year in mid March with a regional meeting in **New York City**. Members braved the St. Patrick's Day parade and convened for lunch and a roundtable discussion hosted by Mavel Jones at MetLife's headquarters.

The first full meeting of the year took place in May in the German Parliament's offices, the Reichstag, in **Berlin**. Jorge Mayer of EDP and Ilan Vuddamalay of C&A presented their organizations' global volunteer initiatives. Michael Evason of IBM and Kim Kerry Tyerman of Adobe led a discussion on how to create a non-HQ centric employee volunteer program. The group discussed how they plan to tie their programs to the SDGs and individual member challenges were considered during a "Peer Assist" session. After the meeting members were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Reichstag.



IAVE also hosted a **special forum** in Berlin on the **corporate volunteer response to the refugee challenge**. The forum was inspired by the work of the Research Working Group on Disaster Volunteering. Research Working Group members from Google (Hector Mujica), RBC (Tanya Bell), Telefonica (Lula Ballarino), and UPS (Hans Peter Teufers), were joined by GCVC members from IBM (Michael Evason), Ritz Carlton (Franziska Streipert), and Siemens (Eyad El-Khouly), plus other corporate and NGO representatives to share how employees are volunteering to aide refugees. A summary of the program can be found at <https://www.iave.org/iaveforum2016>. Thanks to UPS for overall support of the Forum and assistance in engaging key European stakeholders including members of the German parliament.



In June Janet Lawson hosted GCVC members at the Ford Resource and Engagement Center in **Detroit**. Janet shared Ford's innovative Global Employee Volunteer Program including their 30 under 30 program that leverages the power and energy of Millennials. Sarah Middleton of Pimco and Melissa Buchanan of Wells Fargo led a discussion and illustrated how they work with their learning and development colleagues and affinity groups. Jeff Terry presented Amway's volunteer program and representatives from Mercy Corps and Taproot talked about their collaborations with employee volunteers.

**Mexico City** was the site of the 24th IAVE World Volunteer Conference with over 1,000 participants from over 50 countries. A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the IAVE Global Corporate Volunteering Awards presented by GVCV Chairman, Ed Martinez. Susan Portugal of Bank of America accepted the overall global corporate volunteering award; Sue Alexander and her team at HSBC and Alexandra van der Ploeg of SAP were winners of the inspiring practice award; Grupo Modelo was recognized for its extensive employee volunteer program in Mexico with Marcela Cristo accepting the award. Google received an Honorable Mention for its overall Global Volunteering Program. Summaries of the winning programs including short videos are available at: <https://www.iave.org/corporations/corporate-awards>.



GVCV members met at Google's new offices in **Mexico City**. For a portion of the meeting members were joined by the Conference Board Global Social Investing Council for in-depth discussions on corporate volunteering in Mexico and Latin America. The group also learned about Cemefi's corporate social responsibility certification program and discussed with UNICEF representatives how they might engage corporate volunteers in a meaningful way.

In addition to in-person meetings, members gathered to hear a detailed presentation by Raaida Mannaa via webinar on the art of storytelling – specifically for volunteer programs. A dialogue on corporate volunteering to support the SDGs beginning with gender equity featured Sujata Narayan of Equinix and Malika Harrison of S&P Global sharing their programs and engaging participants in a spirited dialogue hosted by Monica Galiano.

Throughout the year members posed questions for member feedback. When significant data was gathered (i.e. websites by country for volunteer opportunities, approaches to fundraising charity walks, etc.) we compiled the information and posted it to our website.

Several companies joined GVCV in 2016 including: Discovery (South Africa), Equinix (US), FEMSA (Mexico), Marriott (US), S&P Global (US), and Siemens AG (Germany). Many new faces emerged to represent their companies on GVCV including: Monica Bomani (Abbott), Suzanne van de Raadt (Alcoa), Bryleigh Louglin (Amway), Carol McCauley (Chevron), Rita Monteiro (EDP), Courtney Martin (INTEL), Jennifer Chavez Rubio (Medtronic), Nicki Allen and Tu Rinsche (Ritz Carlton). For a complete directory see: <https://www.iave.org/gcvc-documents> (password: i70GVCV)

In addition to the Forum on volunteering to help refugees, the Research Working Group on Disaster Volunteering met in Geneva in February as part of UN Humanitarian Partnership Week for discussions on how to improve responses to humanitarian crises. They also met in Mexico City in November to hear a presentation by Francisco Moro on Telefonica employees' response to the Ecuador earthquakes. Led by Ed Martinez of UPS and Andy Andrea of UN OCHA, the group discussed the UN's Connecting Business Initiative. UNICEF representatives were present to determine how companies might collaborate with each other and with UNICEF. The Research Working Group is establishing a new work plan for 2017 and is accepting new members.

Because measuring the impact of corporate volunteering, particularly against the UN Sustainable Development Goals, is important to many GVCV members, IAVE became a Founding Stakeholder of IMPACT 2030 and Kenn Allen, Senior Consultant to IAVE, chairs the measurement task force. Kenn will be working with many GVCV members, and promises to keep us up to date on that aspect of the initiative.