Positively impact communities: that’s our mission. That mission is on clear display during our annual Community Service Project (CSP), and this year was no exception. In fact, this may have been our biggest impact on a community yet. With nearly 400 employees and partners on hand, we helped transform a community. With new paint, new windows, a new ball field and repaired gazebos, we supported Yabucoa, a community in Puerto Rico devastated by Hurricane Maria. I am incredibly proud of what we were able to accomplish in just one day.

If the pages of this newsletter were only filled with the impact of one amazing day in Yabucoa, I would be proud of Red River. But that is far from the case. Every day, our employees are finding ways to have a positive impact in communities all over the country.

Our impact is felt by veterans, as we sponsor opportunities to help them overcome challenges as they transition to civilian life. Our impact is felt by students, as we push them to explore their curiosity and envision future careers. Our offices have organized food drives and jacket drives. Our employees have volunteered with organizations and communities large and small, from coast to coast.

I invite you to read this issue and see just how Red River and the Red River Charitable Foundation are living up to our mission. And when you’re done reading, I invite you to find your way to positively impact your community.
At this year’s national conference in Puerto Rico, we traveled to Yabocua, where nearly 1500 homes were destroyed by Hurricane Maria. Together, we provided much-needed support for the people as they worked to rebuild their community and prepare for whatever the future holds. In order to best help the residents, we divided into 34 teams to address different areas of need: residents’ homes, the beachfront, the baseball field and the basketball court.

We helped the people prepare for future storms by installing hurricane windows and exterior doors, repairing, power-washing and painting homes, removing debris and landscaping. Our teams tackling the beachfront engaged in re-beautification efforts ranging from rebuilding community gazebos to planting new trees. We revitalized the focal point of the community youth—the baseball field—by installing a fence, seeding the field, landscaping and painting the stadium and awning. We also repaired the basketball court, another popular community attraction, painting the courts, poles and bleachers and installing new nets.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

387
EMPLOYEES & PARTNERS

2 MILES
OF BEACH CLEANED & TRASH REMOVED

36
TRUCKLOADS OF DEBRIS

170
GALLONS OF PAINT

54
TREES PLANTED

400 FT
OF FENCE
CSP PHOTOS
This year’s recipient is Richard Ackerman, Vice President of Managed Services. Here are some ways Richard gives back to the community:

- Speaking with the many student groups that come through HQ to hear about IT careers and workforce readiness
- Contributing to the PTC payroll donation deduction plan
- Serving as an active participant in our Annual Golf Classic and our Rock Your Camo 5K fundraisers
- Creating Think SMART, our hands-on IT and business summer learning program for high school students
- Supporting the University of New Hampshire’s Capstone program
- Creating the Red River Academy, an accelerated training program for new hires
- Serving as a Board member and active liaison between us and the Claremont MakerSpace
- Volunteering his time helping disabled veterans at sled hockey and skiing at the New England Winter Sports Clinic

Richard received $1,000 to donate to a charity of his choice. He decided to split the award between the Claremont MakerSpace and Ice Vets. Members of the Boston Bruins Foundation were at Momentum to surprise Richard with a David Pastrnak jersey.

To learn more about these valued partners, visit https://claremonttmakerspace.org, https://www.facebook.com/icevets/ and https://www.nhl.com/bruins/community/foundation
This year’s recipient, Grace Choi, was nominated by Thomas Ramirez, Chief Architect from our Sacramento office. Grace founded Eunoia, a non-profit organization to help teens in need. Their motto is simple: “Help teens, impact lives.” Eunoia strives to make a difference in the local community it serves by helping disadvantaged teens and encouraging people to give back to the community. They accomplish their mission through reading programs, benefit concerts, school supply drives, clothing drives, and hosting dinners for people at family shelters and teen pregnancy help centers.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors were so impressed with Grace’s enthusiasm, dedication, creativity and passion and are thrilled to honor her great work with a $4,000 donation to Eunoia! To learn more visit https://www.facebook.com/eunoianonprofit/
HOLIDAY GIVING RECAP

Each year we make it our company-wide mission to give back during the holiday season. This year, employees generously donated time, money and goods to make the holiday season a little brighter for others.

During this year’s holiday season, the Claremont office went caroling at nursing homes and at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction, Vermont. They also orchestrated the Giving Tree program. They picked two Claremont families in need and set up a tree in the office, decorated with tags detailing items on the families’ wish lists. The Claremont office also participated in Blessings Bags for Homeless Veterans and provided the VA Medical Center with over 150 bags stuffed with hats, gloves, socks, snacks, toiletries and emergency sleeping bags.
RESTON

This holiday season, the Reston office participated in a blanket drive in support of Serving Our Willing Warriors in Haymarket, Virginia. When families stay at the Warrior Retreat, children often become attached to the special plush blankets and take them home. Employees from the Reston Office also partnered with Cisco to visit the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to dress up as elves, decorate the hospital and bring gifts to over 125 children and staff.

SACRAMENTO

The Sacramento office continued the long-standing tradition of supporting the Families Are Us Giving Tree Program for Stanford Youth Solutions, a non-profit that empowers young people and their families to solve serious challenges and stay together.

AUSTIN

This year, Austin area employees supported the Adopt a Soldier Program and sent care packages to a platoon stationed in Kuwait.
RED RIVER CARES

Red River Cares is an employee benefit program that rewards employees who positively transform their communities by donating time or money to a cause of their choice. Here are some of our employees who have taken advantage of this benefit.

NEBRASKA - Sean Kerrigan is a recent Red River Cares recipient. He loves supporting Omaha Street School in Nebraska, which offers students who have been removed from other schools with a second chance. Red River Cares donated to the Omaha Street School to help students on the basketball team so they can learn to play the sport, as well as the value of teamwork in a positive environment.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Adam Gilman is involved with the Hopkinton Youth Sports Association, a volunteer-operated organization providing children with an opportunity to play a variety of team sports and learn about the value of teamwork. Throughout the year, Adam coaches baseball, basketball and soccer teams. Red River Cares donated to the Hopkinton Youth Sports Association to provide future basketball teams with new reversible jerseys for practices and games.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Brenda Castor supports Northern Lights Athletics, a cheerleading program that teaches children gymnastics and the importance of being a good person. To help Northern Lights raise money, Brenda has volunteered at a community kitchen, donated money and participated in a Valentine’s Day fundraiser. Red River Cares donated to Northern Lights Athletics to help send Brenda’s daughter and her teammates to Florida for a competition.
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CYBER DEFENSE COMPETITION

AT CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

RRCF was a proud sponsor of the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition at Champlain College, and we sent three of our engineers to join in on the action. This event brought together 10 reputable and highly talented college teams from seven states in a high-stakes competition against a Red Team of professional hackers. After the event, our engineers were able to meet with students to discuss the competition experience and share with them Red River’s mission and values.

“I attended the conference all day Friday and sat in on some wonderful in-depth presentations on various aspects of networking and cybersecurity put on by event student participants. All of these students exhibited a breadth of knowledge and excitement for the work they are doing in the cyber security field. On Friday evening there was a reception for the event sponsors hosted by the College. Champlain College’s President, Don Lockman, and I spoke for a bit about Red River as well as the RRCF, and he was very thankful for our sponsorship of the event.” – A.J. Murray, Network Deployment Engineer, Burlington, VT
On February 19, Avery Parkes, Eric Parrott and Kevin Stone visited a STEM camp at Hypertherm in Lebanon, New Hampshire to give a presentation to 10 Lebanon middle school students and two of their teachers. Avery created a lesson in web site design that the three presented to the students. Together, they explained the basic layout of a website and progressed to connecting several outside sources (APIs) to return the weather for a given zip code. Throughout the lesson, they discussed HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Afterwards, they published the lesson on GitHub and gave the students the URL, allowing them to download the code and continue learning.

**ERIC PARROTT, SOFTWARE DEVELOPER**

“It was a fun morning and a pleasant surprise to see such young students show a genuine curiosity and interest in programming.”

**avery parks, WEB DEVELOPER**

“Presenting at STEM camp was a rewarding experience. I enjoyed sharing what it means to me to be a developer and answering their questions about webpages.”

**KEVIN STONE, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

“I love having the opportunity to talk with the next generation of STEM students and giving them ideas for future career choices.”
Richard Ackerman and his team hosted a course at the Claremont MakerSpace on useful computer commands. The MakerSpace is a community-oriented creative hub designed to help people bring their ideas to life. This was a great team-building event, which gave everyone the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zone and use tools that they don't normally have access to. Ackerman and his team were able work with the attendees to explore unique skills and abilities that they didn't know they had.

Did you know we have a special scholarship for veterans and active service members to join the MakerSpace?

You can learn more and apply at https://claremontmakerspace.org/special-programs/
Every year, Red River is a major corporate sponsor for the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Held in Snowmass Village, Colorado, the Winter Sports Clinic provides nearly 400 disabled veterans with the opportunity to participate in adaptive sports, including skiing, sled hockey, scuba diving, rock wall climbing, education and other activities. This year, RRCF sponsored five veterans and their caregivers to attend the event and sent a handful of Red River employees to volunteer.
This was the second year in a row that I’ve attended the event and interacted with all the veterans. My favorite part of Winter Sports Clinic is registration—you get there early in the morning and help the veterans gather all the materials they need throughout the week. You see the same veterans you’ve seen for years, and the joy you feel when you see them again with their big smiles and hugs is indescribable. I’ve built strong friendships with some of the veterans we continue to sponsor each year. I stay in touch with most of them throughout the year, and we always look forward to meeting again at WSC.

This year, I went snowmobiling with a veteran named Roger. He’s attended WSC for the last four years, but this was his first-time riding a snowmobile. After the ride, he looked at me and said, “You know what, my hands were shaking the entire time, but I have never felt so free.” Every year, our veterans are so grateful that Red River gives them the opportunity to experience WSC. Red River has truly changed these veterans’ lives. That’s why I believe WSC is a perfect example of what Red River’s culture is all about.
NEW ENGLAND DISABLED VETERANS
WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

RRCF has been a long-time sponsor of this special event held at Mount Sunapee in New Hampshire. Our funding assists veterans with lodging costs and meals during the week. This year, Richard Ackerman volunteered at the event and spent a day skiing with veterans. We also had a great showing of Red River volunteers participating in the sled hockey session. This event is a great way to support and honor those who have served.

ICE VETS SLED HOCKEY

RRCF continues to sponsor the Ice Vets weekly sled hockey clinics. Ice Vets is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that provides adaptive sports opportunities for veterans with disabilities. The Monday clinics are a great volunteering opportunity for our employees. This season we scheduled two games between Red River and the Ice Vets!

“This has been a great chance to help veterans who have served in many global locations. Sled hockey is an excellent way for veterans to participate in adaptive sports and manage personal well-being. Beyond that it’s unbelievably fun, great exercise, and presents a chance to make new friends that share a passion for the game.” - Richard Ackerman, VP of Managed Services

OPERATION HAT TRICK

Operation Hat Trick (OHT), a long-time Red River partner, and the Boston Bruins not only share a love for hockey but also the mission to support the U.S. military and veterans. During the 2018-19 season the Bruins pro shop sold OHT hats and shirts presented by the Red River Charitable Foundation. By the end of the season, $30,000 was raised for OHT, with 100% of the proceeds going to veterans’ organizations around the United States.

Tell me a little about your time in boot camp/basic training. Nothing really eventful. Mostly educational. Not fun while there but a lot of laughs looking back.

Where did you serve the majority of time in service? Overseas in Spain, England and Korea.

Which medals or citations are you most honored to have received, and why? Desert Shield and Desert Storm Campaign Medals. It was a great experience working on the A-10 and being responsible for combat sortie generation of aircraft. Also, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor.

Tell me a funny story you experienced that could only happen in the military. I was tasked with guard duty on a cargo plane for our classified equipment for a deployment. The plane broke and had to be fixed, and I got stuck on the plane. 24 hours later my supervisor remembered I was guarding on the plane and sent relief. I slept on a cargo net in the shop suspended on our equipment racks.

How did your military experience affect your life today? It defines my life and everything I do. Every job I have had since I was 21 was either in the military or directly supporting the military mission and now the Veteran Corps.
VETERAN EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

JOHN HACKNEY, PROJECT MANAGER

In which branch did you serve and when?
The United States Navy.

Tell me a little about your time in boot camp/basic training. I did boot camp at Great Lakes in Nov/Dec/Jan/Feb. It was very cold. I learned how to freeze dry laundry and saw the use of air guns to give shots.

Tell me about some of the special people you met. Master Chief Wall. When I was checking in to the site where I was stationed he came up to me and said, “Are you the boy from West Virginia?” All I could think was how bad this was going to be, but his next words were, “I’m from West Virginia, just listen to what I tell you and you will be fine.” There was an angel in the Chief.

What was the best and worst ‘military’ food you were served, and why? The Navy always had great food.

Tell me a funny story you experienced that could only happen in the military. When the whole company got a shot and then marched with a limp altogether—that was funny to watch.

How did your military experience affect your life today? It is a part of me and the training I got in the Navy still serves me well.
In which branch did you serve and when? Air National Guard. May 2009 – May 2016

Tell me a little about your time in boot camp/basic training. Lot of yelling, push-ups, running and cleaning. Mental games.

Where did you serve the majority of time in service? 103 Air Wing, Connecticut

Which medals or citations are you most honored to have received, and why? Honor Graduate – USAF BMT

Tell me a funny story you experienced that could only happen in the military. Had a 6 hour C-130 flight where I had fallen asleep and woke up to find I had drooled all over the shoulder of the guy next to me. He was a full bird Colonel.

How did your military experience affect your life today? Greater respect for those who have served, just knowing the huge commitment, even at the part-time level.
The 13th Annual Charity Golf Classic will take place July 18th at The Quechee Club in Vermont. The largest fundraiser of the year for the RRCF, this event includes a celebration of our STEM scholarship winners for 2019. The day before the golf tournament begins, partners will join us at HQ for Engage 2019! Partners come to discover fresh opportunities, network and collaborate on ways to grow their business. To learn more or to register to play visit: https://redrivercharitablefoundation.com/events/golf-classic/
RRCF Mission
Red River Charitable Foundation (RRCF) is a 501(c)(3), charitable organization with a dual mandate and mission. RRCF promotes and encourages students to continue their studies in the fields of science and technology as well as supporting US military veterans transitioning to civilian life.

RRCF BOARD MEMBERS
- Rick Bolduc
- Gina Burke
- Dan McGee
- Nancy Merrill
- Shawn Monty
- Bill Sailer
- Jeff Sessions
- Kim Vacca

Have a question for the Director?
Email kim.vacca@redriver.com

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