

## January 2014

- [Employee Support for Disaster Relief Around the Globe Overwhelming](#)
- [High School Choir and Drama Program 'Sings' Thanks to Volunteer of the Year](#)
- [Sue Cooke's Avnet Story](#)
- [Volunteers Help Kids with Disabilities, Earn Discounts to Art Events](#)
- [Employees Make Holidays Merrier Around the World](#)
- [Matching Grant Helps Children's Wish Foundation of Canada](#)
- [Leader's Volunteer Spirit Lives Up to Her Name](#)

## October 2013

- [EBV Packs a Lot of Outreach into Each Quarter](#)
- [Avnet Event Mix Now Available: Just Add Employees](#)
- [Small Branches Achieve Big Results](#)
- [Silica and Avnet Abacus Tee Up £1,680 for Hospice](#)
- [Avnet Interns Set Record at St. Mary's Food Bank](#)
- [Silica Pounds the Pavement for Good Cause](#)

## Summer 2013

- [Avnet Germany Continues to Support African Children](#)
- [Employees Dig Deep for Colorado Animals](#)
- [San Antonio Employees Lend Helping Hands to Homeless](#)
- [Avnet Team Goes on Field Trip with Science Students](#)
- [Avnet and NetApp Race to Cure Cancer](#)
- [150 Volunteers Spruce up Arizona School](#)
- [Full Speed Ahead for Avnet Tempe](#)
- [Avnet Asia Has Midas Touch](#)
- [Avnet Detroit Rallies Customers and Suppliers to Support Local School](#)
- [Avnet Argentina and Partners Team up for Flood Relief](#)
- [Avnet France and Silica Go the Distance for Emilie](#)

## January 2014

### Employee Support for Disaster Relief Around the Globe Overwhelming

Employees supported each other across domestic and international boundaries following several disasters that impacted friends and colleagues affected by the Colorado floods, the Yarnell Hill Fire in Arizona, and one of the worst Philippines typhoons on record.

Philippines colleagues were grateful to ring in 2014 with more than \$12,000 earned in support of victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Employee donations for victims of the tropical storms that hit the Philippines in early November reached \$12,875, triggering a dollar-for-dollar match from Avnet, Inc. "Avnet is grateful its employees in the area are safe, and appreciates those who supported this incredible effort," said Teri Radosevich, vice president of community relations and public affairs.

Thanks to generous employee support, more than \$385 was raised through donations to the Red Cross for victims of the Colorado floods.

Phoenix-area employees in three Avnet locations took the June 2013 Yarnell tragedy to heart with some grassroots activities that enticed their colleagues to give back with some small "incentives." Employees paid to dress casually during a two-week Jeans Days Campaign and dedicated time to baking and selling home-made goodies.

The combined events raised nearly \$2,600 in two weeks. With a matching grant from Avnet Cares, the total raised for these two employee-driven activities reached more than \$5,000. Employees also donated nearly \$500 to the American Red Cross.

### High School Choir and Drama Program 'Sings' Thanks to Volunteer of the Year

Toni Ramsey's talent for giving back and love of music and kids, have benefitted hundreds of students at Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe, Ariz., who now have access to a more robust choir and drama program, thanks to her leadership.

When she's not managing employee engagement and community events for TS Americas, she's finding new innovative ways to raise funds for the Title 1 school which is home to students with more than 40 home languages. A volunteer and board member for the past seven years, Toni's passion for helping students continues even after her two children have graduated from the school.

Her efforts have led to the creation of a new program that allows sponsorships and business advertising for the program to be tax deductible, with 50 percent of the donation or payment for advertising going toward helping a choir student go on a tour/competition trip. In just two years, she's increased sponsorship dollars by 45 percent. She also coordinates the students' sold-out Broadway show, writes press releases applies for grants and builds relationships with community newspapers to maximize promotion for the show.

To honor Toni's remarkable volunteer effort, after being named "Volunteer of the Year" by Avnet Cares, Marcos de Niza Choir and Drama Parents and Friends Organization received a \$2,500 donation from Avnet. Congratulations, Toni!

### Sue Cooke's Avnet Story

Sue Cooke shares how an Avnet shirt and cap sparked a heartfelt thank you from a couple whose children benefitted from Avnet employees volunteering in the community. [Read her story](#) and others, such as Chris Anding's or Sarah Harvey's, to find out how community outreach makes a difference in the lives of many and ultimately creates a link to Avnet. When you're finished reading, [enter a story of your own](#) and a thank you gift will find its way to you. We have a great story and you are part of it.

## **Volunteers Help Kids with Disabilities, Earn Discounts to Art Events**

Through the Scottsdale Center for Performing Arts, employees in Arizona dedicated time in November to volunteer for the Celebration of the Arts for Children with Disabilities and awarded the organization with a \$2,500 sponsorship. This is an annual field trip event that enables students with mild-to-severe disabilities to participate in arts-and-crafts projects as well as see performances on storytelling, magic shows, music, dance, and even a live outdoor concert. Ronald McDonald also makes an appearance.

Faith Krause, administrative assistant, and Lisa Serrano, employee programs manager, joined the 100 volunteers who made the experience memorable for the children. "We were assigned a school class of 26 children to escort to each of the various art stations, assisting them with each of the projects if they needed help," Faith said. "In all we had five different art projects they were able to create by using their imagination. We also escorted them to a dance exhibition celebrating the 50s before they enjoyed lunch and music on the lawn."

## **Employees Make Holidays Merrier Around the World**

For the eighth consecutive year, Avnet Electronics Marketing (EM) Americas' North Reading, Mass., team's annual Toys for Tots Holiday Event drew a large crowd.

More than 400 customers attended, joined by 100 representatives from 40 suppliers. Together, they and the North Reading team raised \$11,900 for the U.S. Marine Corps-led effort to provide toys to children in need during the holidays. Their efforts qualified for a \$10,000 matching grant from Avnet Cares, bringing the total cash donation to nearly \$22,000. Attendees also brought \$25,000 worth of toys to the event.

EBV employees in Poing, Germany, continued their support of Clemens Maria Children's Home in Putzbrunn, Germany, fulfilling the wishes of orphans living there. The company also collected donations for One Dollar Glasses, a nonprofit organization that aims to provide 150 million people around the world with eyeglasses.

Toys for Tots likewise benefitted from EM employees, suppliers and customers in Sugar Land, Texas, who raised \$3,275 at the branch's 9th annual Toys for Tots Luncheon. Their efforts resulted in a 100 percent matching grant from Avnet Cares, bringing the total to \$6,550 in addition to the many toys attendees brought with them, and making Avnet one of the two top Toys for Tots contributors for Fort Bend County.

The Salvation Army is another organization that received tremendous Avnet support. Avnet Technology Solutions (TS) employees in Tempe, Ariz., filled 109 Christmas Angel wishes, and 24 employees then took advantage of Avnet Cares' [Volunteer Time](#) program to welcome families, direct traffic, bag toys and distribute gifts to families in need on the Thursday before Christmas. Their efforts earned an additional \$1,000 from Avnet Cares' [Dollars for Doers](#) program. Employees at the Global Solutions Center (GSC) and McKemy facilities in Chandler also donated toys and other gifts for the wish tags hung on trees at their buildings.

Knowing a large number of Christmas Angel tags are left on The Salvation Army trees each year, the GSC event also supports the Forgotten Angels program, raising funds through a drawing to fulfill unclaimed wishes. This year's drawing raised more than \$35,000, due in large part to support from TS and its suppliers. As a result, the GSC qualified for a \$10,078 Matching Grant from Avnet Cares and \$2,440 from Dollars for Doers. Donating more than \$47,500 kept Avnet as one of the program's top sponsors for another year, and 11 employees enjoyed going on a Walmart shopping spree to buy the gifts to make many children's Christmases a little brighter.

TS employees in Australia also supported The Salvation Army, with the Sydney office filling a carload of gifts for people in need, while six employees in Brisbane helped the nonprofit's Christmas sorting warehouse by sorting, packaging and delivering gifts.

Employees in Milpitas, Calif., collected more than 100 gifts worth \$3,500 for Family Giving Tree (FGT), an organization that distributes gifts to Bay Area children in need. Three employees went the extra mile by shopping for and delivering gifts to the FGT warehouse.

Several locations focused on brightening the holidays for children in hospitals, with the 47th and 46th Street facilities collecting toys and craft items to fill the toy closets at Banner Thunderbird Children's Hospital. More than 140 employees purchased nearly \$4,000 worth of gifts, and many other employees contributed to the \$1,500 cash collected between the two sites. Avnet Cares matched the cash donated, and the locations ultimately filled four cars with items that will comfort and entertain children during their hospital stays throughout the coming year. Additionally, employees received an \$800 Dollars for Doers grant for the 80 hours they spent shopping, sorting and delivering the items.

TS Americas' HP business group employees in Tempe, Ariz., purchased \$3,000 in toys and delivered them to the Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa, Ariz., while in Rochester, N.Y., EMA collected more than 60 toys from employees and suppliers for local charity [Pirate Toy Fund](#), which distributes toys to children in hospitals or outpatient clinics.

Meanwhile, in the Philadelphia area, several members of TS Americas' IBM Solutions Group chose to support St. John's Community Center by donating toys to be distributed to children in need. In Ottawa, Canada, together with Cee Jay Micro, Electro Source, Gidden Morton and Associates, Neutronics Components, Pipe Thompson, SPIR Electronics, Starvoy Technologies and Tech Trek, Avnet raised \$2,900 for Shepherds of Good Hope, qualifying for a 100 percent matching grant plus a \$500 bonus in recognition of the extensive supplier involvement. Employees and supplier representatives presented the record-breaking \$6,300 donation at an event for Hope Living Center residents last month.

## **Matching Grant Helps Children's Wish Foundation of Canada**

In November, employees in Canada awarded \$8,000 to the Children's Wish Foundation, which included a matching grant from Avnet. Each year, thousands of Canadian children between the ages of three and 17 are diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Since its inception, Children's Wish has granted more than 20,000 wishes for children and their families and fulfills approximately 1000 wishes annually. The foundation has never refused a wish to an eligible child.

Following is a list of Avnet employees and the Children's Wish Foundation representative pictured during the November 2013 check presentation. In the back row, Jeff Quennell, Jason Harvey, Brent Bogen, Children's Wish Development Manager Elisha Jackson, Lloyd Good, Trevor Cain, and in the front row, Denene Gallant and Monica Bryan.

If you are currently volunteering or serving on a nonprofit board of directors or committee in the Americas, the organization you support may be eligible to receive an Avnet charitable grant. To be considered for a charitable grant by the Avnet Contributions Council, you must be an active volunteer, board or committee member of a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. To learn more about the Avnet Contributions Council, visit the [community relations](#) web page. Additionally, Avnet Cares offers a [matching grants](#) program. Please visit the matching grants web page for more information.

## **Leader's Volunteer Spirit Lives Up to Her Name**

Linda Love's name is just the beginning of her adoration for giving back. Recently, she spoke from the heart to an audience of more than 125 volunteers about her experience with The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix. The mission of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to assist with feeding, clothing, housing and healing individuals and families who have nowhere else to turn for help.

"I remember the first time I came to St Vincent. I thought to myself, these people are less fortunate than me; probably made one bad decision or some life-altering event happened and it changed their lives forever," Linda said. "Today, I take the initiative to help the organization in a more deliberate way by setting up events with the great employees at Avnet, members of my church, or other groups interested in serving others. The conviction from my experience turned into passion. There is always more I can do."

Linda attributes her Avnet volunteer experiences and strong convictions to fueling her desire to continue "paying it forward." She appreciates the opportunity to connect with individuals one-on-one, and listen to their stories (challenges and successes) as they attempt to rebuild the life they desire.

"Ordinary people like you and I can do extraordinary things – can make a difference in someone's life. Just a smile, a word of encouragement, or an act of kindness can make someone's day," Linda said. "I feel fortunate to have been a part of this work and look forward to continuing the journey."

## **October 2013**

### **EBV Packs a Lot of Outreach into Each Quarter**

From flood assistance to brightening a local orphanage to building bathrooms for a school in Africa. In the last few months alone, EBV employees have been very active in the community. The company has a long track record of making a difference around the region.

Most recently, EBV devised a unique way to help people across Europe whose homes were flooded. Employees nominated individuals and families to receive 20 EBV-donated washing machines to replace those damaged when water levels overtook tens of thousands of homes in Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Slovakia. Washing machines were chosen because many people keep them in their basements, which sustain the worst damage during floods. EBV purchased the washing machines and arranged for local delivery.

EBV also supported Poing Junior High School in its efforts to raise money for flood victims; after a morning of running around the track, 350 students were still €2,000 short of their €5,000 goal. The school called local companies to help reach its fundraising goal, and EBV sprang into action.

Another example of EBV's local involvement is the 25 employees who spent a day building a fence, climbing frame and summer house at Inselhaus, a Munich-based orphanage EBV has adopted. Employees also organized lighting in the homework and therapy rooms as well as in the new summer house. Additionally, EBV donated a therapy pony named Ninive to Inselhaus last year.

---

### **Avnet Event Mix Now Available: Just Add Employees**

Just as the invention of the cake mix simplified baking, Avnet has created a charitable event formula to help locations in the United States more easily make a difference in the community.

Already a success in San Antonio and San Diego, the joint Avnet/Game Truck events are expanding to include other Avnet branches or locations interested in showing children how learning can be fun while also creating an interest in technology-oriented careers.

That was certainly the case in San Antonio, where Avnet Technology Solutions (TS) San Antonio teamed with partner Sirius Computer Solutions to host "Planets and Popsicles," an interactive, educational event

that brought a Game Truck mobile gaming vehicle to TS San Antonio's facility to provide educational games.

The team of volunteers, which included 19 Avnet employees and six Sirius volunteers, reached out to several local nonprofit organizations to invite them to the event. In the end, more than 26 fifth and sixth graders and their parents or guardians participated in a variety of educational experiences and activities, including a tour of the solar system in the air-conditioned Game Truck, a rocket demonstration using Alka Seltzer, shooting off air rockets, building edible replicas of the Mars Rover Curiosity, face painting and "Space Camp" games on the Wii systems in the Avnet game room.

Avnet Electronics Marketing (EM) San Diego took a different approach, creating a three-hour event for foster teens living at San Pasqual Academy (SPA), its adopted charity. In addition to providing access to Microsoft video game design programs Kodu and Portal 2, the Game Truck incorporated PC games like Space Lab and Space Camp/Kinect to help the students work on team problem solving, environmental management and creative engineering.

## **Small Branches Achieve Big Results**

Knowing mighty oaks grow from little acorns, small Avnet branches around the United States haven't let their size stop them from accomplishing tremendous things in their communities.

In Carmel, Ind., employees have rallied around Mary Faucett, an account manager who lost her mother and husband to cancer in recent years, by raising more than \$11,300 for the American Cancer Society (ACS) through a variety of events this year.

The most successful was the annual soup cook-off, in which employees, customers and suppliers pay a donation to sample soups prepared by Avnet "chefs," with the winner receiving a \$100 gift card and Avnet apron. This year, 50 supplier representatives, two customers and 16 employees participated, with the bragging rights going to Carol Smith, Avnet Electronics Marketing (EM) sales and marketing representative.

Other fundraising events included a concert featuring a bluegrass and gospel band that donated its time, a memory/honor wall and raffle. The Carmel team's efforts culminated in 20 employees, family members and friends participating in Relay for Life, an annual ACS event in which teams spend 24 hours walking to celebrate those who have beaten cancer, as well as to honor those who lost their battles.

## **Silica and Avnet Abacus Tee Up £1,680 for Hospice**

More than 100 customers and suppliers jumped at the chance to hit the links at Silica and Avnet Abacus' 34th annual Avnet U.K. Golf Day.

Sponsored by 26 Silica and Avnet Abacus suppliers, the exclusive event raised £1,680 for the Martlets Hospice in Brighton, England, while giving attendees the opportunity to build relationships and test their golf skills at one of Birmingham's finest golf hotels.

The weekend was capped by a grand evening gala, which included a victory ceremony.

## **Avnet Interns Set Record at St. Mary's Food Bank**

To immerse its 2013 U.S. summer interns in the company's culture, Avnet took them to the bank.

After spending a week listening to representatives from across the company and participating in interactive sessions, the 33 interns, who came from universities as far away as New York, Georgia, Illinois and Oklahoma, visited St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix, Ariz., to package 2,580 bags of food.

Setting a packaging record at St. Mary's Food Bank was only one highlight of the 12-week program. Other achievements included creating Brainshark presentations; developing an internal newsletter; training customer service representatives on 13 vital supplier systems; assisting in creation and integration of an audit; managing social media accounts; researching and implanting new search engine optimization strategies and creating a master parts list for embedded materials.

## **Silica Pounds the Pavement for Good Cause**

When 1,400 people turned out for a team marathon to benefit a local sports club, eight Silica employees were among them.

Abel Vergneaux, Silica's European assets manager, had no trouble rounding up employees from Silica's Massy, France, location to fill two four-runner teams as supporting local organizations and people in need through such events has become a tradition.

The teams were among 350 running in Choisy le Roi on behalf of Asphalte 94 and its mission to promote a healthier, active lifestyle. Each team completed the 42-kilometer course, splitting it up amongst the four runners.

Although helping a good cause was reward enough, runners, their friends and families were treated to an informal barbecue at the end of the day — a nice closing to a hot and sunny day.

## **Summer 2013**

### **Avnet Germany Continues to Support African Children**

Last year Avnet employees in Germany donated money to WEMA-HOME e. V., which was building bathrooms for a school in Benin, Africa. The project was a success and health conditions for these children continue to improve as Avnet continues to support this good cause.

A team of employees recently collected another 2,000 euros to be used to build another bathroom as well as buy school desks.

The ground-breaking ceremony was headed by the principal of the village, who took off his headgear—the highest honor Avnet could receive. The project continues to grow and Avnet will be an integral part of it.

## **Employees Dig Deep for Colorado Animals**

Three years after they began volunteering at The Wild Animal Sanctuary, Avnet employees in Broomfield, Colo., are just as excited as ever to make a difference in the lives of the exotic animals who call it home.

Most recently, a group of 13 employees used five hours of Volunteer Time to create a tree nursery that will provide shade for the animals at America's premier sanctuary for large carnivores for years to come. Even a heavy rainstorm didn't stop them. "We have had so much interest that we have to cap each outing at a certain number and even have a waiting list," says Debbie Poetsch, administrative assistant. "People who attend are excited to share their stories when they come back, creating even more excitement to participate."

This year's efforts qualified for \$800 from Dollars for Doers, which, when combined with a recycling event and Wall of Caring in which employees purchased paw prints for \$5, will pay for Broomfield to "adopt" George the bear and Cisco the bobcat for another year.

"Knowing we are helping George, Cisco and other animals from around the world that have been abused or neglected is a nice feeling," Poetsch says. "The sanctuary survives on donations and volunteers; we are honored to be allowed to help, and appreciate the support Avnet offers that makes it possible."

## **San Antonio Employees Lend Helping Hands to Homeless**

When Avnet employees in San Antonio, Texas, learned of an organization that has helped reduce the local homeless population by 80 percent, they wanted to help.

Twenty-three employees recently spent three hours of Volunteer Time at Haven for Hope, which provides, coordinates and delivers care to people experiencing homelessness in the area. Employees sorted and stocked children's books, inventoried toys for Haven for Hope's upcoming Christmas in July event and cleaned up the community garden.

"Everyone who volunteered and got to see the work that is done at Haven for Hope will tell you how impressive and inspiring the organization is," says Jessica Truman, solutions marketing manager.

Employees were so moved by what they experienced that they have organized a drive for gently used towels and clothing, new socks, liquid detergent, baby and art supplies, snacks for kids and pet food. Additionally, the \$600 cash grant they earned for Haven for Hope through Avnet Cares' Dollars for Doers program and \$2,000 raised through jeans passes, a bake sale and employee donations will make a tremendous difference.

## **Avnet Team Goes on Field Trip with Science Students**

Because you're never too old to go on a field trip, Avnet's Tempe communications team boarded a bus with sack lunches in hand to volunteer for the Arizona Nature Conservancy as part of the Conservancy's STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) programs.

The eight-person team spent a day at the Hassayampa River Preserve, serving as "mentor scientists" to Finley Farms Elementary students. Half the team helped students use GPS to explore the area and find six geo-cache boxes containing questions about nature. The students had to decipher the GPS directions, read the map and navigate.

The other half of the team assisted students with water experiments and field investigations, helping them make the connection between plant life, animal life and water and understand how to protect them for the future.

Half-way through the day, the groups broke for lunch and then switched projects so the students had an opportunity to participate in both activities. The data collected and conclusions drawn from field experiments and testing will help students prepare for a one-day symposium where students from across Arizona have an opportunity to present their research findings to their peers.

"The opportunity to interact with the team outside of the typical office setting was priceless. Representing Avnet while giving back to the community in the process was the icing on the cake," says Tonja Viner, communications manager. "I'm grateful for the experience and proud to work for a company that supports activities like this."

## **Avnet and NetApp Race to Cure Cancer**

In an effort to help with the race to cure cancer, Avnet did a little racing of its own.

To celebrate 10 years of a successful partnership with NetApp, the Avnet NetApp team invited NetApp, employees and partners to strap into a real NASCAR racing machine fitted with simulation video and motion equipment so they could feel the speed and take the turns as if they were on the official racetrack. The \$10 donation for a VIP Simulator Pass also included a drawing ticket for a chance to win \$100 to use at a local indoor kart racing center.

The event raised \$300 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, an organization dedicated to raising money and awareness for childhood cancer research. And to make the dollars go a little farther, the team applied for and received a "way to go" grant of \$500 from the Avnet Cares Matching Grants program.

---

## **150 Volunteers Spruce up Arizona School**

How many employees, family and friends does it take to build raised beds for a vegetable garden and a storage box for skateboards and scooters, as well as paint walls, murals, safety circles, tennis courts and basketball backboards?

One hundred fifty did all that and more at Kino Junior High School in Mesa, Ariz., as part of HandsOn Greater Phoenix's annual Serve A Thon for Schools. They also created banners and signs, sorted LEGOS for the school's Gateway to Technology STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program and cleaned all desks in the main building and lecture hall.

It was Avnet's 20th year participating in the program, but it is by no means a rote operation. "Every year we go through the trials of recruiting enough volunteers to be successful," says Lise Moskop, the product segment manager who organized Avnet's involvement this year. "Each year we are blessed with not only enough help, but the inclusion of extended family and friends willing to come and do most anything for the good of the schools and kids. It simply amazes me every year!"

Avnet also volunteered at Kino last year, accomplishing so much that the company was invited back this year. The school is particularly looking forward to planting an urban sustainability garden in the beds Avnet volunteers built. Kino students will donate the crops grown there to a local food bank.

## Full Speed Ahead for Avnet Tempe

Perhaps nothing illustrates Newton's First Law of Motion better than Avnet's Tempe, Ariz., facility — the team's efforts to make a difference in the community are in constant motion and show no signs of slowing down.

From playing Fairy Godmother to feeding a wide variety of people in need, employees at the Price Road facility have a tremendous impact on the community all year round.

The facility continued its strategic support of Homeward Bound, an organization that seeks to break multi-generational cycles of homelessness, welfare dependence and domestic violence, with a baby supply drive in May. But it wouldn't be a Price Road event without a fun twist — in this case, a contest for decorating new or gently used playpens that would store the donations and also be donated to Homeward Bound.

The winner was a Hawaiian-themed playpen, but the ultimate winner was Homeward Bound, which received \$115 in cash and gift cards, 520 diapers, 1600 wipes, 11 containers of formula, three pack 'n plays and a few assorted bibs and wash cloths.

An opportunity to wear sports jerseys to work in exchange for a donation to St. Vincent de Paul's Thanksgiving Turkey Tuesday was another fun event the Price Road facility offered, and 81 employees took advantage of it. They raised \$482 in the process, helping the organization purchase turkeys for its Thanksgiving meal for the homeless.

Employees also had fun playing Fairy Godmother to high school juniors and seniors in the Phoenix area, donating more than 130 dresses, 35 pairs of shoes and loads of sparkly jewelry and handbags to help the Tempe Community Council and East Valley Women's League make it possible for students to attend prom. Their efforts earned \$400 from Avnet Cares' Dollars for Doers program, and a \$500 matching grant to the \$730 in cash they collected brought Avnet's total cash donation to \$1,630.

More than 100 homeless veterans viewed the 10 employees and family members who cooked and served them an Italian dinner at the Victory Place shelter like fairy godparents, enjoying the meatballs, pasta, garlic bread and other items they prepared for the second year in a row. They and other homeless in the area stayed a little warmer during the winter thanks to coats and blankets employees donated to Central Arizona Shelter Services. Employees used Volunteer Time to distribute the items they collected.

Employees were mistaken for Santa Claus instead of a fairy godmother by 40 children and 20 senior citizens they helped through the Salvation Army Christmas Angels program, donating gifts that fulfilled their wishes. Even canine and feline wishes came true, thanks to a pet food drive for Friends for Life Animal Rescue that netted \$475 in gift cards as well as more than 20 large bags of pet food, 100 cans of pet food and 60 pet toys and treats.

Children who receive breakfast and lunch at school made it through the winter break with the help of the 96 jars of peanut butter, 62 jars of jelly, 36 boxes of Ritz crackers and 16 containers of Tang employees collected for Positive Impact, and a spring food drive for Tempe Community Action Agency filled three large boxes with 50 cans of food; 40 packages of rice, pasta and boxed meals; 10 boxes of cereal and more than 20 jars of peanut butter and jelly.

Suppliers frequently join the Tempe team's efforts, with NetApp employees and partners paying \$10 to strap into a real NASCAR simulator alongside employees to raise \$300 for St. Baldrick's Foundation. The organization received an additional \$500 from Avnet Cares' Matching Grants program.

Likewise, the Tempe team worked closely with Cisco in selecting Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) as the beneficiary of the silent auction at the companies' joint Avnet + Cisco Executive Symposium, which raised more than \$8,600. FBC reported that the funds were used to purchase iPads, among other items, and shared a story about a 13-year-old blind girl with shaken baby syndrome who moved her hand for the first time in her life to activate an app.

Finley Farms Elementary sixth graders' brains were stimulated in a different way when members of the communications team guided them through water experiments at the Hassayampa River Preserve, helping them make the connection between plant life, animal life and water as well as understand how to protect them for the future. The eight-person team used Volunteer Time to spend a day volunteering as "mentor scientists" for the Arizona Nature Conservancy's STEM program.

With one or more projects constantly ongoing, Price Road is one of Avnet's most community-oriented locations. Its efforts — and the passionate people whose tireless efforts make them happen — are an inspiration to the entire company.

## **Avnet Asia Has Midas Touch**

Just as Rumpelstiltskin spun straw into gold, Avnet Asia was able to turn a charitable sponsorship into a golden opportunity.

Avnet Asia sponsored the charity premiere of the movie thriller "Conspirators," giving nearly 400 customers, suppliers, business partners and employees the opportunity to rub shoulders with cast members and media while also raising money for the China Windmill Foundation (CWF), which meets the needs of rural villages through the donation of windmills and well drilling to provide access to clean water.

"We turned the sponsorship into an event for business partners, suppliers, customers and employees that showcased Avnet as a charitable organization," says Jane Neo, vice president of materials management and marketing communications. "While charity was top of our mind and agenda, we also took all opportunities to market Avnet's brand name."

Invitees were delighted to attend the first-of-its-kind industry event, and lined up to walk the red carpet. Stephen Wong, Avnet Asia's president, opened the movie screening with a speech and presented Aaron Kwok and Nick Cheung, two of the movie's leading actors, with a windmill souvenir that represented the event's support of CWF.

The event was the first of what Avnet Asia hopes to be a long partnership with CWF. "We hope to be able to continue to support China Windmill Foundation," Jane says. "This industry is closely related to Avnet business and is a perfect fit."

---

## **Avnet Detroit Rallies Customers and Suppliers to Support Local School**

When Avnet's Plymouth, Mich., branch asked customers and suppliers attending its Embedded World seminar to bring school supplies in lieu of a fee, the response was overwhelming.

The 50 customers and 35 suppliers who attended the event filled 48 backpacks full of supplies for students at Detroit Cristo Rey High School, with customer ADCO Circuits furnishing the backpacks. Moreover, attendees donated an additional \$300 in cash, and Freescale contributed \$1,000, which will be used for student financial aid.

"As I'm sure you tell your customers, having the right materials makes all the difference, so we were delighted with all of the backpacks and school supplies Avnet delivered as well as the cash donation," says Mike Houry, principal of Detroit Cristo Rey High School, the only co-ed Christian school in Detroit. "Our students are working very hard to build a bright future, and your team is helping make that possible."

---

## **Avnet Argentina and Partners Team up for Flood Relief**

When La Plata, Argentina, flooded after heavy rains in April, Avnet Argentina employees sprang into action, collecting diapers, water, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies.

Operating under the motto of "Remember that with little we can do much," they enlisted many business partners, including Ansaco, Cursor Group and Service IT, to provide additional items. Everything collected was donated to Fundamind, a nonprofit organization focused on improving the quality of life of children and families affected by poverty and AIDS. Fundamind then sent the collected items to Club Juventud de City Bell and Catedral de la Plata to help people in need.

## **Avnet France and Silica Go the Distance for Emilie**

Joined by families and friends, Avnet employees in Massy, France, supported the charity organization Pour les yeux d'Emilie for the third consecutive year by participating in a marathon.

The charity run took place during an entire weekend, with teams walking or running for six, 12 and even 24 hours, taking turns to complete the laps on a course in Feucherolles, near Paris. Every team supported a different charity for children; Avnet focused on raising money to help fund 17-year-old Emilie's treatment for cytomegalovirus (CMV), a form of the herpes virus often transmitted in utero, causing serious damage to the fetus.

Twenty Avnet France and Silica employees formed six walking teams and one running team, raising 255 euros, which was calculated by the number of kilometers completed by all participating teams.

"I'm extremely proud of all my sporty Avnet colleagues who join me every year to help the Emilie association in its mission to fight CMV," says Claire Dizes, a senior buyer for Avnet France who organized the teams. "Even former students who worked for us last year came back especially to support us. The team spirit is really overwhelming!"