

SEASON OF GOODWILL

The staff at **HMC Architects** (Ontario, CA) has always been committed to improving communities through the facilities it designs— hospitals, schools, and civic institutions.

Through a formalized corporate social responsibility program, the firm expanded its impact by providing financial contributions to organizations that share the firm's values, creating a robust scholarship program, and through the volunteering efforts of its employees, says Nick Bryan, public relations manager for the 400-person planning and design firm.

"Ultimately, the firm is committed to harnessing the power of our expertise as planners, architects, and designers to make the world a better place," Bryan says.

This holiday season, the firm has sent e-cards informing recipients they are reaching out to local communities by making charitable donations on their behalf to Architecture for Humanity, Operation Safehouse, Boys and Girls Club of San Diego, Orange County Food Bank, Poverello House, Mustard Seed School and Northern Nevada Food Bank.

In 2008, the firm took its tradition of social responsibility a step further when it founded the Designing Futures Foundation with an initial donation of \$2 million.



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Today, the foundation helps a variety of social causes and industry-specific initiatives each year, including donations to fund research and development impacting health care and education.

"We feel fortunate to have been in a position to establish the Foundation as a way to give back to our clients, communities, and industries that have contributed to our success," says Randy Peterson, CEO and president.

In addition, the Designing Futures Foundation

provides perpetual scholarships and support to deserving, capable students who choose career opportunities in the critical fields of health care, education, architecture, and engineering. In 2010, \$29,000 in scholarships were awarded to 28 students.

As a reflection of HMC's community-based values, employees regularly give of themselves to support a diverse range of community outreach activities, including participation in local events, where teams of architects and engineers create structures solely from food cans that are then donated to local food banks; an annual worldwide where metered parking spaces are transformed into micro-sized community parks for the day; and various toy drives, such as San Diego's Tables for Tots program.

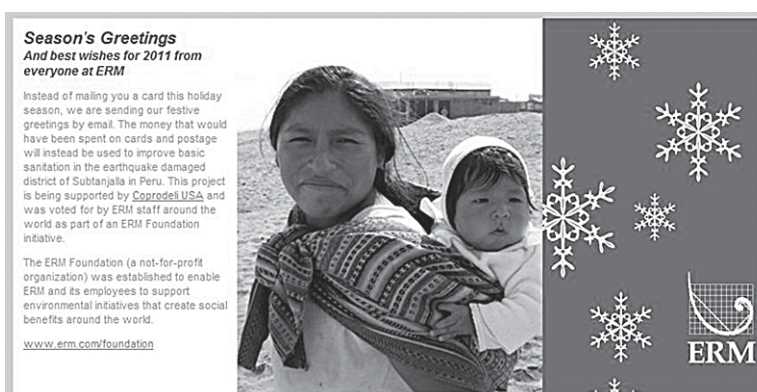
"Many of us who work at HMC consider ourselves fortunate to get the opportunity to build with our communities places to heal, teach, and learn," says Ariane Lehew, vice president of Communications and Community Engagement. "We're moved and inspired to want to do more. Giving back affords us the opportunity to learn more about our communities, and thereby to become better designers with a more rounded, holistic point of view."

FOSTERING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Environmental Resources Management (Houston, Texas), established the ERM Foundation to enable ERMs around the world to make a direct contribution to a more sustainable future through volunteering, raising and donating funds and other forms of practical support for community based environmental projects, says Mary (Pietrocarlo) Korba at ERM, a 3,300-person firm providing environmental, health and safety, risk, and social consulting services.

The ERM Foundation supports environmental projects around the world through the provision of small grants and/or practical support.

Since December 2003, ERM has created an electronic holiday e-card to send to their clients.



Each year an ERM Foundation project has been chosen, and all the firm's offices globally have been asked to donate at least 50 cents per e-card they send out, Korba says.

Programs that receive funding from the ERM Foundation have to demonstrate at least one of the following benefits: carbon reduction,

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biodiversity, water and education.

"We are particularly interested in projects which offer additional social benefits to local communities," Korba says.

Grants are distributed by the Foundation in North America on an annual basis. About two years

ago, the company launched a Low Carbon Initiative as an alternative to off-setting. A key aspect of this program is the Low Carbon Enterprise Fund, which provides finance and technical support for low carbon ventures in the developing world.