

## **San Jose Elfun Community Outreach Programs**

The San Jose Elfun organization provides a key forum for local GE employees, retirees, spouses and their families to stay connected and support their community, and these programs with available pictures are described in this report. Following is a summary of these community activities :

- Honor Flight: Elfuns support the Bay Area Honor Flight program which includes flying war veterans in the San Francisco Bay area to Washington DC to visit their war memorials.
- Almaden Valley Elementary School Tutoring: Elfuns provide mentoring and classroom tutoring to Almaden Elementary school students.
- Engineer-for-a-Day with MESA: Elfuns provide a tour and on-site engineering exposure to Mathematics Science Engineering Achievement (MESA) college students at the GEH BWR Services Technology Center.
- Tax Aid: Elfuns provide Tax aid for the elderly and low income people in the San Jose area.
- Surplus Eyeglass Donation: Elfuns together with the Lions Club collect surplus Eyeglasses donated by GEH and Elfun personnel and families, and distribute them to needy people around the world.
- Homeless Shelter Support: Elfuns provide needed toiletries to the local homeless shelter and have also served meals and provided needed maintenance at homeless shelters.

- **Honor Flight**

(Elfun Leaders: Carl Stewart, John Armenta)

The San Jose Elfuns have provided organization, management and support of the Honor Flight Bay Area (HFBA) hub since 2014. HFBA is a non-profit foundation that has transported 535 WWII, Korean and Vietnam war-era veterans to Washington DC to see their memorials over the past 5 years. HFBA is one of 132 Honor Flight Network “hubs” in 46 states whose mission since established in 2005 is to transport U.S. military veterans to Washington DC to see the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice to our country, free of charge. HFBA is one of 132 Honor Flight Network “hubs” in 46 states whose mission since established in 2005 is to transport U.S. military veterans to Washington DC to see the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice to our country, free of charge. Often referred to as a “trip of a lifetime” experience by many of the Honor Flight veteran alumni, a group of 53 veterans and their escorts visit about ten different memorials and other Washington DC area sites on this 3-day trip from San Francisco. Veteran applicants are vetted to travel by a HFBA staff interview and prioritized by age. Typically HFBA schedules two hub trips in the Spring and Fall, during the best weather months for safest travel, a “guardian” escort is assigned to accompany each designated veteran. Because of the senior ages of these veterans, most of whom are in their 80s and 90s, safe travel is a priority and one of the main jobs of the guardian trip escorts is to maintain this safety vigilance. The numbers of WWII and Korean War era veterans interested and able to travel is rapidly declining and will soon be replaced with Vietnam era veterans. More than a seven Elfuns have volunteered for this program and have volunteered an average of more than 600 hours per year during the 2014-2019 years to organize the Honor Flight trips and many have participated as guardian escorts on the trips. The Honor Flight program has been well received by the community and has also received several complimentary articles in the local newspapers.

Elfun Honor Flight Participants and Volunteers



Honor Flight Water Gun Salute



- **Almaden Valley Tutoring**  
(Elfun Leader: Fred Ikemoto)

Almaden Elementary Tutorial Program (AETP) has been an ongoing Elfun sponsored program since 2003. Over the years a group of five to twelve tutors participate in this math program providing tutorial support for Fourth and Fifth Graders at the Almaden Elementary School. Elfun volunteers for AETP have volunteered an average of approximately 150 hours per year during the 2003-2019 academic years. The Elfun organization has also funded various expenses incurred for sustaining various event needs and volunteer's school district expenses.

The AETP tutorial program adjusts its program based on inputs from the students, teacher and tutors. Selection of students participating in the program is determined by the school staff. For this 2019 academic year, the tutorial program consisted of a wide variety of mathematics support for students requiring remedial, grade level proficiency and above grade level challenges. Emphasis on basic math fundamentals through application of algebraic expressions and challenging concept problems. Tutorial tools previously used through the years included Stanford University's EPGY Math Program and Khan Academy's Tutorial Program.

AETP Students and Tutors



- **Engineer-for-a-Day Program with MESA Students**  
(Elfun Leaders: Garrett Harms, Terry Chapman, Yogi Dayal)

The Elfun society sponsors an Engineer-for-a-day program where we host a dozen MESA (Mathematics, Science, Engineering Achievement) students from San Jose State University at the GEH Training facilities in San Jose and talk to several GEH scientists and engineers about engineering in an industrial environment. This is a one-day experience for MESA students to see the behind-the-scenes workings of Industrial companies within Silicon Valley. The goal of the program is to allow MESA students to explore first hand careers, skills and the education they need to succeed in today's technological increasing world. It also gives students the opportunity to connect the dots between education and careers, encouraging them to stay in school, continue learning, and support their understanding of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

#### MESA Students at GEH Facility



- **Tax Aid Program**  
(Elfun Leader: Fred Wassem)

The Elfun society in partnership with the AARP TaxAide program (sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service), provides volunteers that give free tax aid to seniors and low-income people in the San Jose area. The program which started more than 15 years ago, requires each volunteer to receive almost 2 months of training, certification with the IRS, and nearly 3 months of doing the tax returns for seniors in the community. More than a dozen Elfuns have volunteered for this program which requires an annual commitment from each volunteer. Over the years the Elfun volunteers have volunteered more than 800 hours per year and have helped hundreds of seniors and low income people per year in the community receive free tax aid.

- **Surplus Eyeglass Donation**  
(Elfun Leader: Yogi Dayal)

San Jose Elfun together with the San Jose Lions Club have been sponsoring the surplus eyeglass donation program for the last 5 years. The Elfun collect the surplus eyeglasses in a box located in the Lobby of the GE training facility at 1990 Little Orchard San Jose or at the scheduled Elfun Monthly luncheons at the 3 Flames Restaurant in San Jose. The surplus eyeglasses are donated by San Jose Elfun, GEH personnel and their families. The glasses are sent for processing to the Lions Club, and then used to provide vision for needy people across the world. This is wonderful charitable activity that has benefitted thousands of needy people for many years.

Label on Elfun Surplus Eyeglass Donation Box



- **Homeless Shelter Support**  
(Elfun Leader: Gretchen Zane)

The San Jose Elfun have been supporting local homeless shelters for over 30 years. We collect toiletries to give to local homeless shelters. Elfun donate surplus soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc. that they have acquired in their travels or have purchased on sale. The toiletries are collected at our monthly Elfun luncheons and in GEH offices. They are then boxed up and delivered to a homeless shelter that is near the San Jose GEH offices. The homeless shelter management, as well as the residents, have expressed great appreciation for this Elfun program. Elfun have also served dinner at the same homeless shelter on Thursday evenings. At another shelter, Elfun have provided shelter renovation and needed landscaping.