



EUSTACIO HUMPHREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Bob Hightberger helped build an outdoor kitchen at the Girl Scouts' Camp Hilaka/Camp Julia Crowell yesterday as part of a Day of Caring volunteer program with GE Lighting.

Volunteers pounding home another neighborly Day of Caring

GE Lighting employees have energy to burn on United Way campground project

V. DAVID SARTIN
Plain Dealer Reporter

RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP—
Thunk.
Thunk.
Thunk.

Slowly, slowly, the heavy rubber mallet bounced off the red patio brick, moving it ever so little as a careful eye checked for level. Less than an eighth of an inch would do it, muttered Juliana Reisman.

Reisman, a 1980 chemistry graduate at Cleveland State University, was far from her profession yesterday as part of a volunteer crew of masons. They were rebuilding a stone-and-brick patio across the back of Amity House at Camp Hilaka/Camp Julia Crowell, a Girl Scout campground.

"I don't do this at home," she told bystanders, each also eyeballing for level.

On hands and knees on the 28-foot by 12-foot span, Reisman sometimes found a crooked brick installed by her colleagues, all engineers, sales representatives and other employees of GE Lighting in Cleveland.

The crooked stones were replaced by Reisman and her co-worker, A. "Chandra" Chandrasekhar, another GE engineer at Nela Park.

"I'm a perfectionist," said Reisman, partly to soothe the ego of the anonymous crooked-brick layer. "When we checked it with a level, we had to fix it."

About 600 GE employees from several plants in Greater Cleveland participated yesterday in the annual Days of Caring. With many dressed in tattered jeans, white T-shirts and cotton work gloves, the corporate professionals fanned out over the 385-acre campground to

rebuild sheds, install a footbridge, build ramps for disabled campers and tackle a long list of other projects.

After an estimated 5,000 hours of volunteering, the group finished building, painting, roofing and other work that would have cost about \$350,000 if done by contractors, said Les Sipes, chief financial officer of the Girl Scouts Lake Erie Council.

The day was one of seven expected this year as part of an annual United Way campaign in which about 50 corporations allow employees to volunteer for a civic project, said United Way spokeswoman Paula Slimak. About 2,000 people are expected to participate this year, she said.

Earlier this week, KeyCorp held its Neighbors Day, a similar program.

The projects throughout Greater

Cleveland supplement cash donations by corporations, employees and others, she said. The donor goal for 2002 is \$46 million, with about \$10 million pledged so far, she said.

Reisman, who works on incandescent technology, developing soft lights and other bulbs at Nela Park, seemed to take special care yesterday to balance the color tones among the red bricks.

"Can we get a dark brick here?" she said, lifting a medium-toned brick away from a similar neighbor.

A voice from the crowd shouted, "We got no more dark bricks."

With a mild scowl, Reisman said, "We need dark bricks to break up the pattern."

Within minutes, dark bricks arrived.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:
dsartin@plaind.com, 216-999-4043

All >



[Enlarge photo](#)

"Welcome GE!" says Cheryl Goggans, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council, "And thanks for coming."



[Enlarge photo](#)

Structural work and painting by GE volunteers made this building ready to be enjoyed by campers next season.



[Enlarge photo](#)

Each GE participant received a thank-you note hand-made by a Girl Scout and an emblem in appreciation.



Plain Dealer article from 9/27. [View full article.](#)

[Back](#)



Cleveland GE Employees Teamed Up On September 26 For Greater Cleveland's Largest **Day of Caring** Benefiting United Way Services

Approximately 600 local General Electric (GE) employees and retirees, many of them from GE Lighting, contributed more than 5,000 volunteer hours in a single day to make over the 350-acre [Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council \(GSLEC\)](#) Camp Julia Crowell/Hilaka, located at 4374 Broadview Road in Richfield, OH.

On September 26, bearing maps, tools and even some heavy equipment, 55 teams of scientists, salespeople, lighting designers, accountants and more, swarmed the camp to paint, stain, repair, rebuild and beautify the property. Work included landscaping, laying gravel and top soil, installing block foundations, weed-whacking and brush removal and building fire pits, foot bridges, stairs and railings, wheelchair ramps and storage sheds.



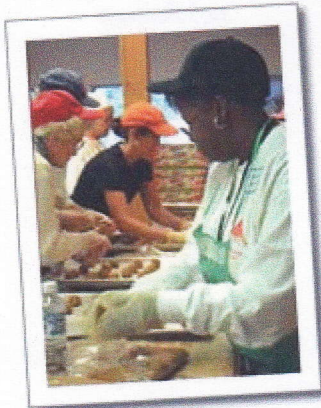
[Enlarge photo](#)

A very appreciative Irma Lane, COO of the Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council, thanks GE volunteers for the outstanding Day of Caring.



[Enlarge photo](#)

GE employee Larry Mazza pounds bricks into place for a new deck on Amity House. The 600 volunteers devoted more than 5,000 total hours to the project, contributing work and materials worth at least \$350,000 if done by contractors.



[Enlarge photo](#)

Helping to make thousands of prize-winning cookies are GE retirees Barbara Lucas (l) and Donna Magee (r) and Vicki Garten, cookie coordinator (C). A contest was held to determine the three winning recipes.



[Enlarge photo](#)

Coordinator of the entire Day of Caring, Joel Hutt, GE's General Manager of Marketing Communications, makes the announcements.