



Swindle Dawn NRT ZNC on 15 Aug 2023

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A Win-Win Situation: Giving Back, Getting to Know One Another

Giving back and helping others makes you feel good, and it's the right thing to do. That's why ZF offers employees a "Giving Day" to donate one day of work time to a local organization or cause. Some do it on their own, others form a group, and some do it as part of a departmental team activity. For teams that don't spend a lot of time together at work, it's the perfect opportunity to give back and get to know one another.

The latter, that win-win situation, is why Sky Lintner, Senior Manager of the Foundation Brake Engineering (FBE) Standards and Core Methods team, encourages the team to coordinate a Giving Day each year.

"Our team is unique in that everyone is working on different activities, so while we are one team, most of the work we do doesn't create interaction among us," explains Sky. "Participating in a Giving day gives us the opportunity to interact and get to know one another. To me, connecting with one another is important in building a strong team."

Change is good

In the past, the team had donated time to various area organizations, including Leader Dogs for the Blind. But this year, they wanted to do something different, so FBE and Core Methods team member Alvin White put together some options for the team's consideration. [Vista Maria](#), an organization that helps girls, youth and their families realize a life beyond trauma and ignite a life of possibility. Beginning as a home for girls and women in need, Vista Maria has evolved to encompass mental health services, foster care and adoption, independent living and secure care for

the survivors of human trafficking, as well as education, after school care and advocacy for the welfare of children.



For many of the team members, including Perry Jenkins, this was their first exposure to Vista Maria and their work.

“I wasn’t aware of Vista Maria, so being there and learning about them and their history was really interesting,” he explains. “It’s an incredible facility with several old buildings that require interior and exterior maintenance. In a matter of

hours, our group was able to complete yard work that would probably have taken them weeks to complete and allowed them to focus on more important tasks.”

Feeling of accomplishment, gratitude

Appreciation and gratitude were felt by many of the team members during the five hours they spent doing landscaping maintenance at the organization’s 38-acre site. Anthony Dixon and Julian Care agree the experience made them feel like they made a difference for people who really needed it. For Kraig Gerber, who has participated in four Giving Day events with this team, this one felt more personal.

“The Vista Maria crew we were helping were incredibly grateful – you could feel their gratitude,” he explains. “They were tired and busy trying to maintain the property. It felt good to help them, I walked away knowing I made a difference.”

Mauro Marconcin, agreed that giving back is a win-win situation, “When you help others, you are helping yourself. It makes me grateful for what I have – it lifts your spirits and is good for the soul.”

Thanks to the entire FBE and Core Methods team – Alvin White, Sky Lintner, Fernando Zetina, Mauro Marconcin, Kraig Gerber, Anthony Dixon, Perry Jenkins, Galus Chelaidite, Avinash Deshmukh and Julian Care – for being a great example of how ZF puts people first!