



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BOEING EMPLOYEES SPEND THE DAY AT COUNTY'S URBAN FARM IN LONG BEACH**

The Growing Experience and Boeing Partner for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Day



Long Beach, CA, July 22, 2017 – For the fifth year in a row, a team of motivated Boeing employees arrived at The Growing Experience Urban Farm (TGE), located at the Carmelitos Public Housing Development in North Long Beach, to

volunteer their valuable time. As part of The Boeing Company's ongoing community engagement, employees and their families dedicated the day to providing much-needed assistance with a wide array of projects on the urban farm.

Working alongside TGE staff, volunteers of all ages contributed to the upkeep of the community food forest, native plant garden, and fruit tree orchard. Because the farm operates using organic methods and is more sustainable than conventional farming, all projects for the day focused on environmental sustainability and expanding the local food ecology.

Boeing and its employees recognize TGE as a community resource that provides services, which support its goals of community education, awareness, and environmental sustainability. In addition to the volunteer service day, Boeing has supported TGE since 2012 with grants to operate



programs at the urban farm, community garden, and events for the public, as well as charitable giving through the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California.

Last year, the Boeing Company contributed funds for an array of 24 solar panels which offset electrical usage of the farm's office building and aquaponics greenhouse. Since the installation was completed in October 2016, the array has generated over 8,800 kilowatt-hours of electricity, which is the equivalent of offsetting 6.2 metric tons of carbon emissions. Boeing's Employee Community Engagement Lead Maria Passaseo said she is extremely happy to hear how Boeing's investment has helped to reduce the carbon footprint in the community, and is just as pleased with the ongoing support from employees who have regularly volunteered at the farm.

Sean Rogan, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, which oversees the urban farm, said, "The Growing Experience relies on community support to provide fresh and affordable produce to Carmelitos residents. Over the years, Boeing has been a valuable partner and I appreciate its employees volunteering their time to help this cause."



TGE, an award-winning seven-acre urban farm, has developed into a resource for environmental sustainability and a source of healthy food options for the 700 low-income public housing families in Carmelitos, and the greater Long Beach community. Available programs and services at TGE include a community-supported agriculture program, weekly farm stand, research/implementation of a vertical tower aquaponics growing system, community garden, skills training for underserved youth and young adults, educational community events, and sustainability features.

Through purposeful investments, employee engagement and thoughtful advocacy efforts, Boeing and its employees support innovative partnerships and programs that align with its strategic objectives, create value and help build better communities worldwide. This includes improving access to globally competitive learning as well as workforce and skills development, and supporting military and veteran communities. In 2016, Boeing and its employees contributed more than \$163 million to improve communities across the globe. Visit the [Boeing Global Engagement Portfolio](#) for more information.

For additional information on TGE, please contact Holly Carpenter, at (562) 984-2917, or visit [www.growingexperiencelb.org](http://www.growingexperiencelb.org) and [www.facebook.com/growingexperience](https://www.facebook.com/growingexperience). All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, HAcOLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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