

## **Zurich's Global Community Week 2013**

During the Global Community Week and throughout the year, Zurich employees worldwide are showing their commitment to improving their communities and the lives of their neighbors through a range of creative volunteer projects. Alone in Switzerland employees can participate in over 70 different community activities.

While bad weather forced the postponement of the Family Day @ Zurich Vitaparcours that was slated to kick off the week in Switzerland, this did not dampen the activities or enthusiasm of other projects around the world, some of which were launched before the official start of Global Community Week, which ran June 3-7.

The hammer officially came down on the Global Community Week at the Corporate Center in Zurich, Switzerland, with a bake auction that benefited the Stiftung Frauenhaus (House of Women), a foundation that assists victims of domestic violence.

In Italy, a week of activities began with participation in a blood drive, and continued with a separate activity each day. A fundraising breakfast was scheduled, as were days dedicated to fair trade and ecology, food and clothing collections and voluntary work with a charitable association.

### **Children get special attention**

A group of Benelux employees are continuing their fundraising for the Tour du ALS to benefit victims of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The cycling challenge begins this week and includes a climb up famed Mont Ventoux, called the "Giant of Provence," a mountain route that sometimes appears in the Tour de France. Other athletic fundraisers can already be considered successful, among them the running of the London Marathon by the 17-member "Dream Team" fielded by Zurich in the U.K. to raise money for the Zurich Community Trust.

Children get special attention during the Global Community Week. Zurich employees in South Africa are focusing their 2013 volunteer effort on early childhood development. Teams have adopted day care centers and are raising funds and investing time to help the facilities improve their services. Among the activities in Bermuda, employees volunteered to help provide breakfasts for children at primary schools as part of a program sponsored by the Coalition for the Protection of Children.

### **Cleaning the Lake of Zurich**

One of the activities during the Global Community Week in Switzerland included cleaning up the Lake of Zurich – and what a task that proved to be! On June 8, 2013, volunteer drivers and helpers from Zurich teamed up with the Swiss Environmental and Waste Divers (SUAT) to reach the goal: to clean up at least a part of the lake. Within five hours forty volunteers gathered over five tons of trash, such as: Among that: 5,000 bottles (including many champagne bottles), 2500 aluminum cans, a dozen bicycles, empty wallets, cell phones, clothes, sunglasses and many other items that do not belong in the lake. All this was found in an only 100 meter section. "It's frustrating. We could dive for another five days and still find litter", said one of the divers during the event.



It does seem that many find the like a useful garbage deposal – the divers even found a metal fence and a baggage trolley from the airport on the lake bed!

### **Last year's Global Community Week**

In the first Global Community Week in 2012 more than 7,400 employees from 34 countries volunteered for more than 10,000 hours. They donated more than \$127,000 and 500 boxes with 7,000 individual items of food, clothing and school equipment to non-profit organizations.