

#GivingTuesday Story: MEDTRONIC



Medtronic Philanthropy devotes the majority of its resources to expand access to quality chronic disease care, helping address unmet health needs in underserved communities worldwide. By aligning our philanthropy around Medtronic's health-focused mission and vision, we believe we can multiply our social impact around the world, especially in the area of chronic conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

85,000 Employees Putting the Medtronic Mission into Motion

Earlier this year, more than 190 world leaders committed to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that serve as a global rallying point for the public and private sector to join together to address some of the world's most pressing issues.

To fulfill the promise of the SDGs, it will take an unprecedented effort. Volunteering – including corporate volunteering – stands as a universal, dynamic and low-cost resource available to all communities.

For Medtronic – the global leader in medical technology, services and solutions – the SDGs present a tremendous opportunity for its 85,000+ employees.

The company is a founding member of IMPACT 2030, a novel business-led effort designed to tap into global workforces to address the SDGs. For IMPACT 2030, corporate volunteering can be a particularly effective mechanism to foster support and complement the capacity of government institutions to deliver essential services across a number of sectors.

“At Medtronic, philanthropy starts with the personal passions of our employees,” said Jacob A. Gayle, vice president, Medtronic Philanthropy. “With their time, talent and financial generosity, they are making the world a better, healthier place to live.”

According to Gayle, Medtronic commits to fuel employees’ philanthropic passions in communities worldwide. In addition to a global matched giving program, the company offers and promotes a variety of skilled service and volunteer opportunities available to all employees. A company survey showed that 3 out of 4 Medtronic employees donate their time.

As part of IMPACT 2030, Medtronic pledges to create more opportunities for employees seeking ways to improve access to healthcare. SDG No. 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) aligns perfectly with the company's ongoing commitment to global healthcare access.

For instance, Medtronic's Global Innovation Fellows program provides top talent from the company to non-profit organizations to help them address healthcare access challenges. For six weeks, employees are embedded in the community, directly collaborating with local healthcare professionals and health workers on a specific project to address patient care.

Through a competitive application process, employees are selected for skills specific to the project, and charged with developing a sustainable and scalable program for the partner organization. Once a project is complete, employees continue to monitor

progress and provide assistance to ensure long-term success.

While each of those programs and projects tackles a different issue in a different part of the world, they're designed to help patients with chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease better manage their conditions by educating and connecting them to quality care.

Through these immersive experiential learning and skilled service projects, Medtronic teams not only leverage their skills to benefit communities in need, they better understand healthcare systems around the world. Their time in the field increases their ability to apply concepts of frugal innovation and design thinking in their jobs. They even present their projects, and insights, directly to Medtronic's senior leadership, including CEO Omar Ishrak.

“We believe everyone should have access to quality, affordable healthcare, regardless of their economic circumstances or geographic location,” said Omar Ishrak, Medtronic CEO and chairman. “Each one of our employees is an ambassador of the values and principles that guide us in pursuing this goal. While we have diverse backgrounds and skills, we are all guided by common values and a passion to improve healthcare.”