Feature Story:
American Red Cross – Relief Efforts

In response to the Nepal earthquake and Texas floods, Fluor and its employees contributed more than $46,000 to the American Red Cross.

Nepal’s 7.8-magnitude earthquake, centered 48 miles northwest of Kathmandu, caused widespread devastation across the country in April 2015. Days later, a second major earthquake hit. The earthquakes affected 8 million people with thousands injured and more than 8,500 killed. In response, Red Cross committed more than $13.6 million to support immediate relief efforts and deploy nearly 8,000 volunteers and staff members to Nepal.

In May, Texas was under duress from a powerful storm system, which caused repeated and ongoing severe weather and torrential rains. The situation worsened as more flooding hit the state, including parts of major cities, and a State of Emergency was declared for dozens of counties. While Texas residents worked to recover from the floods, the American Red Cross opened shelters, provided meals, relief items, and cleaning supplies to help them.

Partner Profile:
STEM Festival – Greenville, South Carolina

Fluor, along with local partners, founded the Upstate SC STEM Collaborative to help create and execute the first iMAGINE Upstate STEM Festival in Greenville, South Carolina.

The event brought attention to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills that many Upstate South Carolina employers need, and helped inspire Upstate students to take ownership of their future career paths. The festival exceeded expectations, drawing more than 14,000 attendees in its inaugural year.

“We set out to create more than just a festival. iMAGINE is changing the conversation about STEM learning and career opportunities in Greenville and across the Upstate of South Carolina,” said Dr. Nan Dempsey, director of the Upstate SC STEM Collaborative.

The iMAGINE Upstate partners elevated the festival experience by hosting hands-on learning experiences designed to elevate conversations around STEM innovation and creativity. The festival was attended by 61 organizations, including industry, non-profits, start-up organizations, educational institutions, and student organizations.

Fluor Cares® volunteers greeted participants and engaged students and adults in interactive experiences and hands-on STEM-related activities, highlighting Fluor’s engineering and construction business.

“iMAGINE Upstate aligns with Fluor’s overall focus to increase the number of students receiving STEM education enrichment and training that goes toward helping build a STEM workforce pipeline that industry depends upon for future growth,” said Torrence Robinson, Fluor
Foundation president and senior director of Global Community Affairs.

The iMAGINE Upstate STEM Festival is an activity of the South Carolina Coalition of Mathematics and Science, a unit of the College of Engineering and Science at Clemson University.

For more information about iMAGINE Upstate, visit www.imagineupstate.org.

Fluor Cares Profile:

Saksham Bal Vikas Sanstha Science Lab

Since 2012, Fluor Cares volunteers have partnered with Saksham Bal Vikas Sanstha (Saksham), a charitable school based in Gurgaon, India that provides students with educational and vocational trainings.

Fluor India’s involvement with Saksham started with Fluor volunteers teaching weekend computer classes. Each week, volunteers teach a two-hour session on computer literacy, science, and English for 4th to 10th grade students.

After working with Saksham staff and students and learning about the organization’s needs, Fluor volunteers wanted to bring a new approach of science learning to the students. To help achieve this goal, Fluor India built a completely functional science lab at Saksham.

Volunteers worked to design the lab’s infrastructure and layout, oversee construction, and procure and install the required equipment. The lab will serve 120 plus students each year. The lab is complete with electricity, plumbing, and furnishings. To make this vision become a reality, 42 volunteers invested more than 1,000 hours to assist with the project.

The lab is structured for 43 experiments in the areas of physics, chemistry, biology, geography, and mathematics. It includes more than 60 pieces of equipment and 35 demonstrative models to provide a hands-on experience. The lab features display charts, chemicals, tools, a computer, projector, and safety gear.

“Many years ago when I started Saksham, I was merely responding to a need I sensed around me,” said Neelima Sharma, Saksham director. “Fluor has undoubtedly been the strongest accelerator of our growth. In many ways, they have echoed the same thoughts that founded the organization. The day may not be far away when our students will grow up and join companies like Fluor as engineers and architects.”

Currently, a team of Fluor volunteers is dedicated to the operation of the lab – producing laboratory manuals, drafting policies and best practices, devising an inventory control and material tracking system, and conducting experiments in association with Saksham’s teachers. The team of volunteers will soon hand over the day-to-day operations to Saksham.

The Saksham science lab project was selected as a winning project for Fluor’s Global Community Project Fund through an online worldwide public vote in 2014.