

# ADVANTAGE

Live Unconventionally



EMBRAER MAGAZINE  
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# BEYOND THE RUNWAY

Through strategic volunteer-based partnerships, Embraer is making a sustainable difference for children and families in the communities where it operates



In today's world, the most successful companies are those that invest in the communities they call home. For Embraer, giving back isn't just a corporate responsibility—it's a core value woven into the fabric of its culture and championed by employees at every level. Through strategic partnerships, hands-on volunteerism and targeted grants, Embraer is making a tangible difference in the lives of children and families across the country, with a dedicated focus on Brevard County, FL—home to Embraer's Executive Jet's headquarters.

## Investing in Community, Empowering Change

In 2024, the Embraer Foundation awarded two organizations a USD 25,000 Invest in Communities Competitive Grant: The Children's Hunger Project (TCHP) and Neighbor Up Brevard. These grants, selected

by Embraer employee volunteers, are more than just financial support; they are a catalyst for hope, nourishment and opportunity.

The selection process itself is a testament to Embraer's commitment to community-driven impact. With a dozen nonprofits competing across multiple markets, for the Embraer Foundation's largest local grant, submissions are evaluated and chosen by employees from each region, ensuring that the causes closest to their hearts receive the support they need. Embraer's National Corporate Social Responsibility Council plays a key role, aligning local action with Embraer's national vision.

## Fighting Food Insecurity, One Pack at a Time

For many children in Brevard County, the weekend can be a time of uncertainty. Without the safety net

of school meals, thousands face the prospect of hunger. TCHP exists to bridge this gap, providing essential weekend nutrition to students who need it most.

Embraer's partnership with TCHP is both hands-on and heartfelt. Teams of Embraer employees regularly gather at TCHP's Cocoa facility, rolling up their sleeves to assemble food packs destined for local schools. Each package includes nutritious items and a card with an inspirational message, ensuring children have the support and encouragement they need to thrive.

Each weekend food pack ensures that a child returns to school on Monday energized, focused and ready to learn. The impact is clear: surveys show that 91% of parents observed improvements in their child's well-being and energy levels, while teachers reported significant gains in attendance, academic performance and classroom engagement.

With Embraer's USD 25,000 grant, TCHP can provide a full school year of weekend nutrition to 132 students. In total, the organization delivers 4,800 food packs weekly, serving children identified by educators as having the greatest need. As Lori Mollnow,

Left page: With Embraer's USD 25,000 grant, The Children's Hunger Project (TCHP) can provide a full school year of weekend nutrition to 132 students

Right page: Since 2021, Embraer's relationship with Neighbor Up Brevard has grown from volunteer support to significant financial investment

Associate Director of TCHP, explained: "Every child has the right to healthy and nutritious food, giving them the opportunity to reach their full potential. These weekend nutrition packs provide real relief for families who depend on schools for student meals."

The partnership's impact goes beyond just meals. As Mollnow added: "When people see a respected charity like the Embraer Foundation making a substantial investment in our mission, they feel confident in supporting us. This encourages them to learn more about our work and to get involved in the positive impact we are making."

## Building Pathways to Success with Neighbor Up Brevard

Neighbor Up Brevard is dedicated to equipping local youth with the skills and confidence they need to thrive in the modern workforce. Since 2021, Embraer's relationship with Neighbor Up Brevard has grown from volunteer support to significant financial investment, fueling career and technical education (CTE) programs that open doors for teens across the region.

The CTE initiative, supported by Embraer's grant, provides specialized training in fields such as IT, plumbing and automotive repair, as well as one-on-one career coaching and on-the-job experiences through internships and apprenticeships. By working closely with Brevard Public Schools and CareerSource, Neighbor Up Brevard ensures that each participant receives individualized support tailored to their interests and abilities.

The impact of Embraer's involvement goes beyond dollars and cents. Employees regularly volunteer in after-school and summer programs, serving as mentors, role models and friends. Their presence inspires a "possibility mindset" in the youth they serve, encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and the all-important balance between work and play.

As LaShaundra McGhee, Executive Director of Neighbor Up Brevard, noted: "The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The Embraer employees are always fully engaged and present during onsite events. Their interactions with the kids are inspiring and powerful."

## A Culture of Service, Driven by Employees

At the heart of Embraer's social investment and employee engagement strategies is a belief that real change happens when people come together. The company empowers its workforce through structured volunteer time off, proactive partnerships, and immersive, localized efforts that bring education and community engagement to the forefront. Volunteerism isn't just encouraged—it's celebrated and deeply woven into Embraer's global values.

"As we listen to volunteer needs and interests, scale engagement and support employee-led volunteerism, we see the true impact of our collective efforts," said Monica Newman McCluney, Head of U.S. Corporate Social Responsibility & The Embraer Foundation. "At Embraer, we believe that when our employees are empowered to give back, we create a ripple effect of positive change that extends far beyond our company walls. Our partnerships are a testament to what's possible when we work together for the greater good."

## Looking Ahead: A Lasting Commitment

Embraer's partnerships with The Children's Hunger Project and Neighbor Up Brevard are powerful examples of what's possible when business and community unite. By investing in food insecurity and workforce development initiatives, Embraer is not only addressing immediate needs but also helping to build a stronger, more resilient future for the communities where its employees live and work.

As Embraer continues to deepen its commitment to service, the company remains focused on creating opportunities, inspiring hope and supporting the next generation. ◀



WORDS Jeanna Wood. IMAGES left page Courtesy of TCHP, right page Courtesy of Neighbor Up Brevard