



2016

Company: Medtronic

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Every year during the month of June, Medtronic places a specific focus on giving back to the community through local efforts at our facilities all over the world. We call the initiative Project 6, because it supports the Sixth Tenet of our mission, “to be a good corporate citizen.” The Advanced Energy division of Medtronic (MAE), headquartered at Pease in Portsmouth, had a unique challenge this year related to Project 6. The challenge was participation - without anyone focusing on the initiative at MAE in 2015, only a handful of employees participated. So we needed to turn things around.

In addition to a new volunteer Project 6 liaison (me) in 2016, we got creative with encouraging our 175 employees to give back to their communities during the month of June. We split the office into 8 teams of around 20 or so people and held the first ever MAE Olympic Games during the lunch hours the week of June 20–24. Some events were indoors in our Training room and some were outdoors on our back lawn, including egg on a spoon relay; win, lose or draw; Operation the game; dodgeball; and a scavenger hunt, among numerous others. Athletic ability was not a requirement for many of the games!

The Project 6 initiative was perfectly woven into the Games. We asked each Olympic team to choose a local non-profit to sponsor during the month of June, and one requirement for each team was to organize a day of community service for their organization, invite their team members to participate, and share the event details with the entire office. Sharing details allowed employees to participate in any of several different events, whether organized by their own team or another team. At the end of the day, the important thing was giving back to the community.

We then invited representatives from the non-profit organizations to our closing ceremonies on Friday of Olympics week, including the grand finale event – the Lip Sync Challenge. Hosting our non-profits gave our employees the chance to learn more about the organizations, and for our non-profit representatives to meet our employees.

Project 6 has been a phenomenal success this year. Coming off 2015, when less than 5 people participated in Project 6, we have had more than 70 Portsmouth employees – almost half of our work force here – donate time in 2016. And the initiative has been extended to July 15 this year, so we still have three weeks to go!