On Thursday, September 14, 2017, over 1500 volunteers from BYU and surrounding businesses gathered at the Nu-Skin building at 75 West Center Street in Provo to begin a day of service. There, in the shadow of the Provo City Center Temple and under stormy skies, volunteers began queuing into breakfast lines for hot cakes, scrambled eggs and hash browns.

Station after station was set up with aproned and spatula-wielding helpers prepared to serve a hot breakfast to all the volunteers from 50+ businesses in the Utah area who would be serving and working in the 2017 United Way Day of Caring activities. President Kevin Worthen along with many faculty and administrative employees from BYU and other government and business leaders were also lending a hand serving hungry volunteers. After the prayer, flag ceremony, and awards were distributed, UVU’s Green Man Group raised the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers even as the rain began to come down. Undaunted, the volunteers soon headed off to multiple locations all across Utah County to get to work.

There were approximately 47 projects going on simultaneously reaching all the way from Payson to Lehi. Of those 47 projects, 18 were schools where volunteers worked with 75 Junior Achievement classes and 94 reading groups impacting an estimated 4,225 students.

Volunteers also helped paint walls, paint playground areas, create new gardens, build homes, and fix up various agencies that assist those with disabilities, impairments and disorders. Our group was tasked with replacing the 19-year-old landscaping around the Kids Who Count center in Salem. Kids Who Count is an early intervention organization that helps children who have developmental delays or disabilities and their parents. While the work was exhausting and dirty, it was a great blessing to be able to serve. There was laughter, fun and friendships created. In a small way, we helped our neighbors. The cumulative impact of dozens of those small acts made a significant difference to the community and in people’s hearts.

“We must remember that one determined person can make a significant difference, and that a small group of determined people can change the course of history.” - Sonia Johnson
United Way’s Day of Caring has given Physical Facilities many opportunities to serve by matching up the wide-ranging skill set of our employees with the needs that are all around us, and the results to our community have been amazing! Having personally participated for the last several years, I have seen firsthand that what BYU does is greatly appreciated.

One year the Food and Care Coalition in downtown Provo was transformed. Vendor-donated carpet was installed, warehouse floors were fixed, walls, ceilings and shelving were rebuilt, and major interior demolition and construction was aided. Another year, the Recreation and Habilitation Services building on Columbia Lane in Provo had trees removed, fences rebuilt, and landscaping redone. One of the following years we helped the Center for Women and Children in Crisis with painting projects, spreading mulch and repairing swing sets.

This past year our talents were assigned to the South Franklin Community Center in southwest Provo. We spread truckloads of mulch, prepped new lawn areas, laid sod and painted the interior and exterior of the building. The result was a simple but much appreciated, “WOW!”

One of my most memorable personal experiences came several years ago when we were assigned to a private home in Orem for an elderly woman. Around 20 people worked diligently for four hours tilling gardens, removing tree stumps, laying sod, repairing fences and hauling away trash. When we were through, the elderly, widowed homeowner came to the front door, stepped outside and wept. With tears running down her cheeks she said, “Thank You! You have done more in four hours than I could have done in four years.”

Thanks to all those employees who have participated over the years. BYU and Physical Facilities have built a reputation of caring and professionalism that can be counted on to accomplish things others simply cannot do. It’s a rewarding feeling to make a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors.
David Saxey was born and raised in Provo, Utah, along with his one brother and three sisters. He has worked at BYU for 44 years in Grounds and enjoys helping contractors complete their work and then seeing the finished project and how it adds to the beauty and functionality of campus. David and his wife, Colleen, currently live in Orem, Utah, and have two children: Jeremy (40), and Chris (39). David loves gardening and is an avid runner, often checking out the countryside when going on runs at the towns they visit while traveling. He also enjoys taking his five grandsons on hikes and to the playground. He is hardworking and dependable while also being easy-going and friendly. BYU has greatly benefitted by having David as a member of the team.

Tom Halladay was born and raised in Provo, Utah, along with his four brothers and three sisters. He has worked at BYU for 20 years in Auxiliary Maintenance and enjoys working with good people that have the same values as he does. He and his wife, Chris, currently live in Provo. Most people don’t know that Tom owns and works a cattle ranch on the side. For a little relaxation time, Tom loves to go hunting, fishing, camping and four-wheeling. He and Chris have five children: Cacci (35), Taylor (34), Jessica (32), Jake (31) and Makel (29). They love watching their children and grandchildren succeed in their many endeavors and try to help them with all their projects. Tom is known for his integrity, honesty and hard work. Physical Facilities is pleased to honor him for his significant contributions to BYU.

Layne Bennett was born in Provo, Utah, and grew up in Cheney, Washington, as the oldest son of ten children. He has worked at BYU for three-and-a-half years in the Electric Shop and enjoys the opportunity to help people, to contribute to campus safety and to learn more about the electrical trade and Facilities Management. He served in the Argentina Rosario Mission and is now working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Facilities Management. Layne and his wife, Natalie, have a two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Eve, who loves dinosaurs and Peppa Pig. He loves to spend time with Eve playing with blocks; going outside on walks together as a family and occasionally, going on runs by himself. Layne is very supportive of his wife while she is attending UVU. He likes peanut butter and honey sandwiches and watching movies with his wife. Layne is by nature an introvert, but he’s driven, honest and kind. Physical Facilities is pleased to honor him as our fall student spotlight.
New Employees
We extend a warm welcome to the following new full-time employees who recently joined our Physical Facilities Team.

Chad Nielson Custodial
Jim Sawka Building Services
Michael Wyatt Planning/Engineering
Jacob Hernandez Custodial
Kale Gillman Custodial
Conley Hubert Construction
Audra Hatch MTC Custodial
David Mann MTC Custodial
Nick Arnett MTC Custodial

Congratulations to our Recent Retiree
Allen Wilde Custodial
Dennis Miller Auxiliary Maintenance

Congratulations to our SAERA recipients
Pamela H Dansie Respect for All Individuals
Edward L Clark Competency
Kurt Doyle Jensen Exceeding Customer Expectations

Disaster!
No, there is no disaster occurring at BYU. However, around the world we do see more and more of them happening and generally people are not ready. At BYU Physical Facilities (PF) we have never had to deal with a large, campus-wide disaster, and yet, we have had a number of significant challenges that to some colleges or departments probably seemed like major disasters. A year or so ago multiple floors of the Clyde Building were flooded by hundreds of thousands of gallons of water from a large, frozen water line. The Smith Fieldhouse also had a major water line break a few years back that not only flooded part of the building but also turned the 12,500-volt transformer vault into a swimming pool. That made things a bit more interesting! The BYU campus periodically sees a variety of challenges, from floods to broken sewer lines 35 feet deep in the earth, to electrical outages and corroded, bursting high-temperature heating pipes (400º F and at 400 lbs. per square inch of pressure). We have even had areas of our 1,000,000 square feet of roofs pour melting snow water onto sensitive computer equipment. At PF we try to be ready for emergencies every day of the year by having technicians from nearly every trade imaginable assigned to be on-call so if anything does go wrong, even after-hours, during the middle of the night or on weekends, we can respond within minutes and start finding solutions. If needed, the response can be expanded to nearly every PF employee. If you ever experience a pressing problem or need, call us at 422-5555. After hours, the University Police have all our emergency contact numbers. They can be reached at 422-2222. We hope you never have a major emergency, but if you ever do, just give us a call. We’ll be right on it.