

Advisory committee helps CHG serve the community

Earlier this year, CH2M HILL Hanford Group developed plan that receives input from a seven-member advisory council of community leaders.

“It’s a new way of working with the community to ensure CH2M HILL is living up to expectations of being a good corporate citizen,” said CHG President Fran DeLozier when the council was formed. “The community advisory council members’ input will help guide us as we continue to support a variety of programs in the area.”



CHG President Fran DeLozier talks with three community advisory council members, (from left) Bill Henderson, Ed Allen, and Tom Halazon, after presenting checks to their respective organizations at the semiannual advisory council meeting.

DeLozier said the company sought council members who represent varied but key organizations important to the Tri-Cities’ economy and quality of life. The seven members of the council are Ed Allen, president of the Tri-Cities Corporate Council for the Arts; Tom Halazon, president of United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties; Bill Henderson, president and general manager of the Tri-Cities Enterprise Center; Dr. Larry James, WSU Tri-Cities campus executive officer and dean; Bill Martin, president of The Tri-City Economic Development Council; Dr. Lee Thornton, Columbia Basin College president; and Kris Watkins, Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau president.

Company representatives periodically meet with the council to report on company activities within the community and receive feedback from the council members. On Nov. 7, the council was told that CHG gave almost \$1 million in fiscal year 2001 to Tri-City colleges and organizations. The \$950,840 donated in the period from October 2000 through September 2001 brings the total of money contributed by CHG to the Tri-Cities community in the past two years to approximately \$2.5 million.

Rich Reisinger, CHG’s community relations manager, said U.S. corporations on average give about 1 percent of their pretax profit to charitable, cultural and educational organizations. “CH2M HILL Hanford Group’s corporate giving has been well over 5 percent,” Reisinger said. “The company is pleased to be a citizen of the Mid-Columbia Basin and to be able to make these contributions.”

Fiscal year 2001 contributions included grants totaling \$769,871 to support information technology and other business development programs at Washington State University Tri-Cities, at Columbia Basin College and through the Tri-Cities Enterprise Center and TRIDEC.

More than \$600,000 of this total is part of separate \$2 million endowments to WSU Tri-Cities and Columbia Basin College. These endowments, the largest corporate gifts ever made to each of the two schools, will be given over a period of six years and will be used to support information technology and entrepreneurial programs.

CHG also is the largest corporate contributor to the Tri-Cities Enterprise Center, which helps area residents start new companies and provides technical assistance to growing businesses. In FY 2001, CHG gave \$80,000 to these programs. The company also contributed \$80,000 to TRIDEC.

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In addition to its economic development contributions, CHG contributed to the well-being of the Tri-Cities in FY 2001 with grants totaling \$138,470 to dozens of philanthropic and cultural organizations. The company is a major corporate contributor to the United Way, Junior Achievement, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and RiverFest, which benefits the Volunteer Center.

Support for the arts included more than \$49,000 to the Mid-Columbia Symphony, the Tri-Cities Corporate Council for the Arts, the African American Theater and Northwest Public Television. Thirty other community service organizations also received CHG funds in fiscal 2001, including more than a dozen that benefit children.

CHG further encourages its employees to contribute to their communities through individual donations and by serving as volunteers. Last year, individual CHG employees collectively gave more than \$130,000 to the United Way. CHG employees serve on the boards of TRIDEC, United Way, Goodwill Industries, The Volunteer Center, Columbia Industries, the Workforce Development Council, the Mid-Columbia Symphony, the Children's Center and many other organizations. ♦