Community engagement takes shape in many ways at Sherwin-Williams, most often led by employees locally in our manufacturing plants, distribution facilities, paint stores and offices around the globe. As a company, we look for ways to help the community at every turn, utilizing the skills of our people and the performance of our products. The company's commitment to our local communities is a point of pride with a very long legacy. Employees are supported and invited to reach out and lend a hand to those organizations that are most meaningful personally, to the Company, and to the local community. Committed to children's health and education, The Sherwin-Williams Foundation provides grants to nonprofits that are providing solutions that lead to economic independence and organizations addressing community needs in innovative ways.
The Sherwin-Williams Matching Gifts program matches employee contributions to eligible nonprofits across the U.S. and Canada. Each year The Sherwin-Williams Foundation supports hundreds of organizations that are most important to our employees. Supporting the communities where we live and work has always been an important part of how we do business, and it is particularly important to our employees. Across the U.S., employees help to strengthen their communities by serving on more than 120 nonprofit boards.

Annually, more than $700,000 is donated through the Color a Brighter Tomorrow Employee Pledge Campaign. In 2018, employees gave to more than 800 nonprofit organizations.
2018 Color a Brighter Tomorrow Grant Program

The Sherwin-Williams Color a Brighter Tomorrow Signature Grant program provides $20,000 awards to nonprofit organizations that offer innovative community solutions in the areas of early childhood health and education, or education for economic independence. This highly-competitive grant program is funded by The Sherwin-Williams Foundation.

Achievement Centers for Children, Highland Hills, OH

Directors of The Sherwin-Williams Foundation selected Achievement Centers for Children in Highland Hills, Ohio as the recipient of one of three 2018 Color a Brighter Tomorrow grants. Sherwin-Williams has partnered with Achievement Centers for more than 25 years; they were nominated for the $20,000 grant by employees who serve as volunteers for the agency.

Achievement Centers for Children is a nonprofit organization that provides support, services and programs to help children with a wide range of disabilities — physical, emotional, neurological, or developmental — achieve their full potential in life.

Flora High School, Flora, IL

Directors of The Sherwin-Williams Foundation selected Flora High School as a 2018 Color a Brighter Tomorrow grant recipient. Nominated by GSC employees at the Flora plant, Flora schools face challenges with both funding and academic performance. The $20,000 award will be used to update the school library with new furniture and an expanded book collection. The library has not been updated for more than a decade, and for years functioned primarily as a computer lab due to lack of funding for books and other resources.

Many Flora plant employees graduated from Flora High School and/or have children or grandchildren attending the school. Employees have partnered with the school to provide job readiness training and curriculum development.

Students from the Flora High School Book Club joined the Sherwin-Williams team for the Color a Brighter Tomorrow check presentation — noting that they are very excited for new reading materials and resources in the school library.
Sitton Elementary – with 400 students – sits in a lesser-known corner of Portland, Oregon, where many of the children qualify for a free breakfast and free lunch program. Not far away is our Purdy plant, which makes brushes and roller covers. Quite a few employees have personal connections to the school.

Through the efforts of those employees and their colleagues, Sitton Elementary was chosen as a 2018 recipient of a $20,000 grant from The Sherwin-Williams Foundation.

Helida Sanchez, a Brushmaker for four years at the Portland plant, has two children attending Sitton. Malaisone Phommarinh, third shift Production Supervisor, who has worked at the plant for 18 years, says all three of her children were Sitton students. Katherine Reynoso, a Finishing Technician who has worked at the plant for nearly 22 years, had three children at Sitton and her mother, ‘Grandma Jane,’ volunteered there. Corinne Montoya, first shift Brushmaking Production Supervisor, with 29 years at the plant, attended the school as a child. Now, her daughter is working there, and her two granddaughters are Sitton students.

“We started a partnership five to six years ago with the Sitton Elementary because of the relationship our employees have with the school,” notes Rick Johnson, Human Resources Manager. Before a new school year begins, a group of the plant’s employees clean up outside the school, applying paint (donated by Sherwin-Williams). Their 2018 school supply drive resulted in 300 pounds of supplies delivered to Sitton, and they’re planning two food drives this year to help Sitton families.

Given this close relationship with the school, it was only natural that the plant employees nominated Sitton Elementary for the grant program.

Portland was the first GSC plant nomination to win a Foundation grant. The Sitton nomination stood out in part because “employees at the plant have a long history of partnership with the school,” says Maria Spangler, Director of Community Engagement. “Since 2010, employees have given more than 600 hours of their time to Sitton ... and the Foundation’s directors loved that so many, along with children and grandchildren, had attended.”

In August, Portland employees presented the $20,000 check to the Sitton principal. School officials will use the funds for field trips and other enrichment opportunities, library books, and to create a STEM lab and maker space.

Portland employees plan to continue the assistance they’ve been giving — and expand it. “We want to go in there and start teaching more STEM topics,” Johnson says. “And we also want to bring them into the facility for tours.” Portland employees are passionate about their work, he says, “and they have the same passion for helping in the community.”
Thousands of Sherwin-Williams Employees Give Back, One Brush Stroke at a Time

Every year, our employees from more than 4,300 neighborhood Sherwin-Williams stores across North America partner with local organizations to find projects that could use a fresh coat of paint. In 2018 alone, Sherwin-Williams donated 9,000 gallons of paint and its employees volunteered nearly 34,000 hours of their time to make a colorful impact in their communities.

Employees partnered with the Boys and Girls Club in Ontario, Canada to paint two levels of the Boys and Girls House at Maison de Jeunes de l’Ancienne Lorette.

Minneapolis, MN employees partnered with the Hearts and Hammers organization to re-do the exterior of a house, in addition to the Twin Cities district donating supplies for 40 other homes.

In Atlanta, Georgia, Sherwin-Williams employees from more than 100 stores supported the Historic Washington Park and Hands On Atlanta as they completed various interior painting projects at the facility during National Painting Week.

Team members from two Sherwin-Williams stores in New Brunswick, Canada worked together to paint the rec room, computer lab, and other general areas at the Boys and Girls Club of Riverview.

Workers were all smiles at the Young Men’s Leadership Academy at the Fred F. Florence Middle School in Dallas, Texas, where they painted two classrooms and two gymnasiums.
Sherwin-Williams employees encouraged the Boys and Girls Club of Wooster, Ohio to let their colors show by painting the site’s activities room – as well as participating in trash pick-up, organizing, and cleaning.

Employees worked together to provide supplies and fresh paint to the cafeteria at the Boys and Girls Club of Roswell, New Mexico. Employees prepped, painted, and cleaned at the location.

A team of employees from 11 stores created an inspirational mural for students in the Rochester Central School District and painted walkways and walls around the school building and library perimeter.

The Ronald McDonald House of New Orleans received a facelift as Sherwin-Williams employees from the local district painted hallway walls and trim and freshened up the building’s main entrance on Canal Street.

The Joan Valentine House in Point Pleasant, NJ boasts fresh paint in the dining room, living room, and hallways due to the efforts of volunteers who donated their time and talents to the facility that serves as a home and full-service health care facility for 48 residents.

Sherwin-Williams employees encouraged the Boys and Girls Club of Wooster, Ohio to let their colors show by painting the site’s activities room – as well as participating in trash pick-up, organizing, and cleaning.
When Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico in September 2017, local Sherwin-Williams employees didn’t waste any time responding to help address the humanitarian crisis surrounding them. The hurricane plowed across the island with sustained winds of 155 mph, uprooting trees, downing cell towers and ripping roofs off homes. Electricity was cut off to the entire island, and access to clean water and food was extremely limited.

“I was so proud of the way our employees put aside their own needs and immediately looked for ways to help the community at large,” says Johnny Rivera, District Manager.

“We always say Sherwin-Williams is a family, but I saw firsthand how true that really is,” says Mayra Rodriguez, City Sales Manager, Puerto Rico District. “Despite the challenges, people came together to help in any way they could. Within a week or so, the company sent us water, food and other supplies. Our employees immediately started sharing whatever they had. With all communications down, we just went door to door and talked to our neighbors to see how we could help.”

“By some miracle, we actually still had running water,” says Kaliany Martínez, Manager of the store in Caguas. “We told people to bring their buckets or other containers to the store and fill them from our taps.”

Luis Jiménez, Manager of the store in Carolina, says, “When we received the pallets of water, we could tell there was more than enough for our employees. So we shared the donation with our friends, families, and customers.” Among the organizations benefitting was the Hogar Teresa Toda, which provides support for abused and homeless girls between the ages of six and seventeen. “Lots of people told us they were surprised that a paint company would help in that way.”

“Thanks to our generator, we had power sooner than most,” says Israel Mercedes, Manager of the store in Rexville. “We used the refrigerator on site to chill bottles of water that we shared with the community.”

Several employees of the Dorado store benefitted from emergency assistance provided by the local church, Iglesia Discípulos de Cristo de Espinosa. Rodriguez explains, “With their immediate needs met, those same employees started volunteering to support the church’s efforts.” Among other things, the church provided food and clothing for the community and classroom space for students whose school building had been destroyed.

As efforts moved from immediate emergencies to longer-term recovery mode in 2018, Sherwin-Williams stores began donating paint or providing products at special prices to support rebuilding efforts as it will take years for the island to fully recover. The storm destroyed the power grid, making power outages a regular occurrence – but Sherwin-Williams employees are continuing to give back.

Rodriguez concludes, “We are committed to rebuilding our communities and to coming back stronger and even better than before.”
In November of 2018, Scott Briggs, GSC Customer Service Manager, completed another successful mission trip to Haiti.

While on the trip, Briggs assisted at six different eyeglass clinics in Jacmel, Haiti. More than 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed to attendees during the trip. Vision screenings were held, and eyesight was improved for more than 650 Haitians due to the efforts.

Briggs collects eyeglasses and funding from fellow Sherwin-Williams employees throughout the year to take on his annual mission trip to the Caribbean.
Bicycling for a Better World

Carlton Williams, Financial Manager for The Americas Group, and Jay Dick, Senior Industrial Hygienist for Corporate Human Resources, are enthusiastic members of a group of Cleveland-area cyclists who take bike riding to another level. They participate each year in several rides for charity.

“The Pan Ohio Hope event (American Cancer Society) is a four-day ride from Cincinnati to Cleveland,” explains Williams. Each day, the cyclists cover between eighty and a hundred miles, rain or shine. “Last year was the most difficult, with head winds all four days, but that’s part of the fun.”

Each Pan Ohio participant must raise a minimum of one thousand dollars to qualify. In the past seven years, the Cleveland team has raised nearly $100,000. Equally impressive, the two Sherwin-Williams cyclists and their fellow riders have raised more than $86,000 over the past nine years participating in the two-day 150-mile Buckeye Breakaway benefitting the MS Society.

In Minneapolis, Ken Rynda, R&D Technician for Performance Coatings Group, and his colleagues ride in the annual Minnesota MS-150 — a two-day ride for multiple sclerosis. Over the past seven years, his team has raised more than $187,000 for the cause.

Long before the excitement of an event fades, our Sherwin-Williams cyclists are gearing up for the next one. Rynda’s group trains by riding 40 and 50 miles on weekends. Williams rides his bike 22 miles round trip to work whenever Cleveland weather permits, while Dick commutes by bike to Sherwin-Williams headquarters 25 miles each way!

They’re all inspired by a higher purpose.

“It’s something I love doing, that benefits those not as fortunate,” says Dick. Whether they’re coasting downhill or bucking headwinds, in sunshine or pelting rain, Williams believes it’s all about staying focused on the real finish line. “Hopefully we’re doing something that will leave the world a little better off.”