

Giving

CHARITY WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY NOV. 8

CATALOGUE FOR PHILANTHROPY An organization and publication that provides resources for community-based nonprofits. **Location:** Keenan 2010 and Enterprise Award winners/ Safeway Marston Hall in Northwest Washington.

CASA DE MARYLAND A community organization that services low-income Latinos and their families. **Address:** Casa De Maryland National Cultural Center in Hyattsville.

TUESDAY NOV. 9

CENTER FOR NONPROFIT ADVANCEMENT A membership organization that provides education and training, networking, advocacy and fundraising opportunities for nonprofits. **Annual Meeting and Celebration:** Omni Shoreham Hotel in Northwest.

WEDNESDAY NOV. 10

HOPE HOUSE A nonprofit that services addicts, who have been transferred to prisons away from the District. **“Come See What Hope Looks Like” Art Show:** Long View Gallery in Northwest.

YOUNG NONPROFIT PROFESSIONALS NETWORK DC An organization that supports nonprofit professionals and community members in the District for the development of young professionals. **7th Annual Celebration: Picturing a More Diverse Seattle:** Franklin Avenue Station in Northwest.

UNITED COMMUNITIES AGAINST POVERTY A nonprofit advocacy for people impacted by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, crime and inadequate public health services. **5th Annual Awards Dinner:** Canaleto by Martin’s in Upper Marlboro.

THURSDAY NOV. 11

DC CENTRAL KITCHEN A community kitchen that works to end hunger and food insecurity through programs. **Capital Food Fight 2010:** Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Northwest.

FIGHT FOR CHILDREN A nonprofit organization that advocates, promotes and enhances quality education for low-income children in the District. **2010 Fight Against Hunger:** Washington in Northwest.

SELVA RETHESIDA SALON A hair care salon in Bethesda. **Hair & Now 2010: Hair show to benefit St. Elizabeth’s:** The Ballroom in Bethesda.

FRIDAY NOV. 12

THE WHITMAN-WALKER CLINIC A District-based community health center specializing in HIV/AIDS care and infection, STD, behavioral and transgender care. **17th Annual Art for Life Auction:** Carnegie Institution of Washington in Northwest.

THE TRAINING SOURCE A nonprofit training and employment placement assistance organization for individuals and employers in Maryland and the District. **2010 Marketplace Gala:** Marriott in Arlington.

SATURDAY NOV. 13

AMIRAP’S HOUSE A residence for homeless women living with HIV/AIDS. **6th Annual Benefit:** Eatwell in Northwest.

SAMANTHAN INVA A nonprofit that services the homeless community. **20th anniversary dinner and awards presentation:** The Ronald Reagan Building.

SUNDAY NOV. 14

B-CC RESOLVE SQUAD ALIEN ASSOCIATION A nonprofit that supports former Squad members. **Cash For Cash:** Assistant Rooms at the Resolve Squad in Bethesda.

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Top: Photo by Capital Business



CAPTIVATED: Sprocket the robot, above, interacts with the crowd at the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival. Lockheed Martin software engineer Kathy Bullen, left, interacts with visitors taking part in a simulated flight.

Spiders and robots dazzle young minds at science exhibition

“Which one of these webs is made by a spider that’s not on drugs?” Jane Thomas of the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Drug Abuse asked an audience of kids.

One team decided that it couldn’t be the two lagged webs, which turned out to be created by spiders under the influence of amphetamines and marijuana.

This was just one of the 1,500 exhibits and demonstrations that drew thousands to the Mall for the recent USA Science & Engineering Festival, sponsored by Lockheed Martin and organized by Science Spark, a nonprofit that hosts science gatherings around the country.

The festival was the culmination of two weeks of activities throughout the city where scientists and Nobel laureates spoke at various schools and taught workshops, speaking about a myriad of topics such as glowing embryos and evolution. “Students testified at mock congressional hearings on climate control ethics and participated in a RoboK’s Cube challenge.



Alyse Schindler, 32, gets a lesson from Lockheed Martin engineers in a science exhibit.

“We really wanted to do this at the national level and get the next generation of scientists involved,” said Lockheed Martin spokeswoman Debra Accetta. “We [as a country] celebrate sports and celebrities, and it was great to see the number of children inspired by science and conducting experiments together as a family.”

— Vanessa Mizel

HELPING OUT

Firm takes at-risk youths under its wings with jobs

GUY BRAMI Principal of Gelberg Signs, a District-based signage company.

Charitable giving highlights: Provides jobs to at-risk young adults in the District; founder and board member of the Washington Development Industry Council; technical adviser to So Others May Eat.

Personal: Lives in Rockville with wife and two kids.

We’re very much into workforce development and hiring District residents.

One year, Covenant House, an agency that services homeless or runaway youth, contacted us with a proposition. They asked us if graduates of their six-month carpentry program could work for us for four weeks. They would pay for them to live with us.

I couldn’t believe it. We agreed. The first year, the group did so well, we hired six as full-time employees. Currently we have some real stars here that came out of that program — people that have stories that you wouldn’t believe. To see them thriving is one of the most remarkable things for me.

We look on one kid to work in our screen printing department. The department head ended up having to take a medical leave. During that period of time, this young man stepped right in and started taking over the department. Now he runs that department.

I remember I heard one person say that if they didn’t have this opportunity, they would either be on the street, in jail or dead. That was shocking to hear.

We relocated to this city. We have a vested interest in hiring D.C. residents first.

There’s a lot that goes into it. Sometimes we have to provide them transportation or attend to personal issues, but it’s a matter of us being committed to them so that they can be successful with us and take their experience when they leave.

More than half of the people we take on never had a job. The other half may have had a job, but it was casual employment like perhaps fast food. Our focus is first career building.

We don’t operate a philanthropic department here; instead we give when we see a need and a way to help that makes sense. Everything relates back to D.C. There’s a lot of organizations to give to, but what’s core to our philosophy is if the fruits of our labor come from this city, then our priority is to give back to it.

— Interview with Vanessa Mizel
— Please send suggestions for profiles to capitalbiz@washpost.com.

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