

Impact Partner of the Year



UNIVERSAL
Weather & Aviation, Inc.



Universal Weather and Aviation, Inc.'s first exposure to Impact Player Partners occurred in 2005, when Universal® CFO Doug Kelley approached Vice Chairman Marjorie Evans, who runs Universal's Employee and Community Relations programs, about serving as a corporate sponsor for the Impact a Hero Weekend event. That first year, Universal provided financial support to Impact Player Partners by sponsoring a table at the Impact a Hero gala and entering a golf team in the annual tournament. Three years later, Universal continues to sponsor tables and enter golf teams, but the company's dedication to Impact Player Partners is now so much more.

The annual Impact a Hero event is now one of Universal's most popular and beloved employee volunteer events. The enthusiasm and support of Impact Player Partners among Universal employees, many of whom served in the military or have loved ones serving, encouraged Universal to take on a larger role in the Impact a Hero Weekend in 2007.

Starting last year and continuing in 2008, Universal increased its support of Impact Player Partners by coordinating all travel logistics for the Impact a Hero Weekend. Universal arranged for a bus to transport the wounded heroes from Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio to Sugar Land for the 4-day event. Handling the logistics of this nature was made possible by Universal's employee volunteers, who dedicated countless hours arranging accommodations, transportation, driving vans and picking up heroes at both Bush International and Hobby Airports. This ensured that everyone was where they needed be so that board members could spend quality time with the soldiers and their families.

Truly touched and inspired by the strength and courage of the heroes, Universal volunteers set to work early. Weeks before the Impact a Hero Weekend, Universal volunteers worked together with members of First Baptist Church Pearland's "Quilt Till You Wilt" ladies to sew more than 60 lap quilts, which were sponsored by Universal employees and then distributed to the heroes on arrival. In addition, Universal volunteers also bought and sold Impact a Hero bracelets to help raise money for Impact Player Partners.

However, what made the event most special for everyone was the time Universal volunteers were able to share getting to know the injured veterans at Impact a Hero Weekend. All the work and preparation was instantly rewarded by the looks of gratitude and appreciation from all the wounded heroes who participated in a weekend that no one involved will ever forget.

We thank all the many Universal volunteers who contributed to the success of Impact a Hero Weekend. Especially: Fred and Kellie Green, Chris and Teena Harley, Georgia Pemberton, Jack and Tish Hughes, Stacy Burkhart, Mindy Bush, Mickey Lee, Jennifer Radik, Jay Sandridge, Darold and Tamara Nowacki. And accepting the Impact Player Partner of the Year award on behalf of Universal, Marjorie Evans.