

BMO Harris Shares A Helping Hand With The Community

By Heidy Vargas

BMO Harris employees extended a helping hand throughout Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 from 1:00 PM- 4:00 PM at different locations like the Urban Ecology Center, Three Bridges Park,

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and other local charities. The volunteers helped local communities by setting garden beds, arranging food, assembling comfort kits and paintings.

There were 330 workers that gave their time for about 930 hours at over 15 Milwaukee non-profits organizations. Employee volunteers assisted in giving back to those in need,



which has been the main focus of BMO Harris' culture. The workers there are committed to making a positive change both personally and professionally to assist those around them. The turn-out of the event was

as the BMO Harris puts it, "We are here to help," it's not just a tagline...it's a mission."

The event allows BMO employee volunteers to give and learn about extending a helping hand to those around them. That is something that both the corporate offices and branches follow. BMO worker volunteers are rooted into BMO's philosophy and serve as a form of pride. Acting upon the needs of others is significant and is what counts to BMO as both individual employees and as a company.

Thousands of BMO Harris workers throughout the U.S. and Canada offered a helping hand as volunteers at more than 200 organizations. In

the U.S., this event began in 2001 and ever since has continued to be celebrated as the North American BMO Harris Volunteer Day. Each year brings an ongoing development to the event. BMO Harris employee volunteers are involved in many projects like children and youth organizations, elderly care, food banks, community housing, health care facilities, family resource centers, parks and recreational facilities, relief organizations and homeless shelters. Within the last 15 years in Milwaukee, there have been other projects like diaper drives, food drives and the creation of playgrounds, etc.

Breaking Barriers To Reach The Ropes Of Higher Education

By Heidy Vargas

Cynthia Trina Eason was one out of the many spring 2016 undergraduate graduates at Alverno College. The commencement ceremony took place this season on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 2:00 PM. Her major was Sociology and her minors were Adult Education and Elective Studies. Now, as an Alverno alumna, Eason takes the time to share some of her thoughts throughout her college experience.

She was privileged to make it in the honor roll as a recent Alverno undergraduate graduate. Eason was astonished when she received the news, since she felt she was only

doing what she had to do, "which was to focus on my academics and do well, be involved in the community and campus community, and engage in leadership activities. I didn't expect to receive honors, but it truly feels awesome to be recognized for all of my hard work," she said. Since Eason falls into the spectrum of a first generation and an ethnic minority student, her college graduation experience became even more meaningful because of this.

With hope to make a difference in her community, her words of advice to incoming and continuing students is to keep pushing forward. "Things will get hard and fill impossible, but they are possible and every frustra-



tion and difficulty is meant to shape you into an even better and stronger person... and everything you face makes it one more thing you know that you can go through in life. Do

not procrastinate. Time is scarce, so use it wisely, and in the long run time management will be your best friend," she expressed.

Eason's journey at Alverno College was extremely rewarding and empowering, but she also faced obstacles. She found herself juggling a demanding curriculum, her job and life overall. Eason was limited in resources to help her make decisions and push forward for college; she found herself applying for scholarships, deciding to join organizations and all the rest on her own. However, her family and the Alverno community were her greatest supporters. Eason thanks Alverno for helping her grow "into

the passionate, strong, empowered, empathetic, well-rounded, determined, and educated woman" that she is today," she said.

She feels exceedingly accomplished after graduating from Alverno College. Eason is a living proof of what it means to keep chasing after a dream and showing that anything is possible. Both of her parents have passed away and she has nine younger siblings. With the cheering of Eason's family, with her desire to preserve her ethnic roots as a Latina and with her hope to make a difference in the Latino community, she was able to push through to obtain her bachelor's degree.

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