

## Spectra Energy: A Reflection of Community Commitment



**Dorothy M. Ables**

In 2007 when Spectra Energy spun from Duke Energy, the natural gas infrastructure company retained not only its roots as a commanding presence in the industry, but also as a company with a philanthropic spirit. So when the company was ready to create a charitable giving vehicle to further its long-standing commitment to community, Spectra Energy had a decision to make: face the rigors and regulations of setting up a corporate foundation, or let GHCF handle the administration. Spectra Energy chose the latter.

The resulting donor-advised fund became the Spectra Energy Foundation, the core of our philanthropy. The Spectra Energy Foundation facilitates strategic investments in our areas of focus including:

Community Vitality including environmental education, conservation and research; targeted arts and culture giving; safety; health and human resources (primarily supported through our annual United Way campaign);

and, community enhancement.

Education and Workforce Development including programs focused on education for at-risk youth to ensure success in life; pre-K through 12 education with an emphasis in math, science, technology and business acumen; post high school/secondary school education; and, technical and professional accreditation.

Employee Support and Volunteerism including matching gifts; volunteer grants; United Way dollar-for-dollar match and Spectra Energy scholarships for children of our employees.

Spectra Energy places a great deal of value on volunteerism year round and during Helping Hands in Action, the company's annual concentrated volunteer effort. Over the years, employees have participated in company-sponsored projects including beach clean ups in Galveston, conducting home repairs for elderly Houstonians and planting gardens on local school campuses.

Through it all, GHCF has stood quietly behind the scenes, managing full fund operations including monthly volunteer donations, quarterly matching gifts and annual corporate grants. The level of service provided by GHCF has been of the highest caliber. We can depend on the GHCF staff in every way, whether it's cutting donation checks or conducting due diligence on recipient organizations. GHCF's boundless administrative energy fuels Spectra Energy's commitment to being the partner of choice.

Dorothy M. Ables

*Dorothy M. Ables is chief administrative officer for Spectra Energy Corp, responsible for the company's information technology, audit services, human resources, support services and community relations functions.*

*Ables serves on the board of the United Way of Greater Houston. She is a member of the Greater Houston Community Foundation Council and served on Greater Houston Community Foundation's Nomination Committee in 2010. She is a past president of The Junior League of Houston and The Children's Fund and a former co-chair of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society of the United Way.*