

For Immediate Release

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Corporate Values Put Into Action

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 9, 2012 - Lee County Parks and Recreation hosted Hypertherm associates in an afternoon of service assisting staff with cleaning up the Bunche Beach salt flats. These salt flats were used once as a dumping ground, but today they are the habitat for many ground-nesting birds that are on the threatened and endangered species list.

Hypertherm, based in New Hampshire, designs and manufactures the world's most advanced metal cutting systems. The Hypertherm associates were in Lee County because of a company corporate conference, located at Sanibel Harbour and Resort.

“Corporate social responsibility and philanthropy are at the core of Hypertherm’s corporate values,” said Stacey Chiocchio, corporate social responsibility project manager for Hypertherm. Chiocchio reached out to United Way to find ways that associates could do some community engagement projects while visiting the Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel for the conference. That is when she was connected to Lee County Parks & Recreations Volunteer Services.

49 Hypertherm associates and 4 additional volunteers and staff removed conservatively over one ton of debris from the Bunche Beach salt flats. “The environmental impact from the cleanup will enhance wildlife habitat for ground nesting birds that call this land home in the spring, said Terry Cain, Land Stewardship Coordinator, of Lee County Parks & Recreation. “With the help of associates from Hypertherm, we made sure they have a safe habitat for them to nest for many years to come,” Cain said.

If you or your company would like to find out more about volunteering or Lee County Parks & Recreation Volunteer Services, contact coordinator Kathy Cahill at (239) 432-2159 or visit www.leeparks.org/volunteers

