

KPMG Today - Firmwide News

Announcements

Shout Outs: Whale's Tale, BBQ Heat and Much More

Do you have a colleague who just accomplished something big? Let us know at US-KPMG Today.

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Like Mother, Like Daughter

Heather Paquette, Detroit OMP, has received the 2012 National ATHENA Leadership Award -- and winning it has become something of a family tradition.

In 1987, the Rockford, Illinois Chamber of Commerce named Paquette's mother, Beverley Kingsley, its first ATHENA Award winner for her time spent running the Small Business Development Center in Rockford, her efforts on behalf of the Rockford Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit activities.

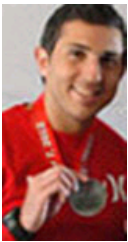
Paquette says her mother is one of her role models for leadership. Others role models include the people she mentors and ATHENA leaders such as fellow Air Force veteran and Olympic gold medalist Micki King.

"My leadership skills have been cultivated for many years. You have to opt into leadership to have an impact," Paquette said. "Supporting women leaders is not only a women's issue -- it's a societal issue. She said she thanks KPMG for "creating an environment where I could develop my leadership skills and leverage our partnership with ATHENA International to support emerging leaders."

The ATHENA Award was inspired by the goddess of Greek mythology known for strength, courage, wisdom and enlightenment. The award is presented to a woman, or man, who demonstrates professional excellence, community service and for actively supports women in their achievement of professional excellence and leadership.



Heather Paquette (left) receiving her ATHENA Award.



Running to Remember

Shant Arakelian ran the Chicago Marathon October 7, raising \$4,400 for the American Brain Tumor Association.

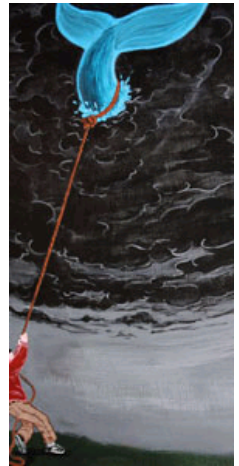
"I ran in memory of my mom who passed away from a brain tumor when I was 18," **Arakelian said**. "Running in my mom's honor for this organization was truly a great experience, and I was fortunate to hear so many amazing and inspiring stories of people who have fought brain tumors and survived. The support I received was very humbling."

Artist in Residence

Interface and user experience designer **Matt Ardinger** was among the more than 1,500 entrants in ArtPrize, the world's largest art competition. ArtPrize transforms the three-square miles of Grand Rapids, Michigan, into a temporary art gallery with works installed at 161 venues around the city for 19 days.

Ardinger, in ITS Client Facing Product Development, entered an original work, "Replacing the Day," which depicted a whimsical whale. While Ardinger didn't swim away with the contest's grand prize -- \$200,000 -- he did garner the attention of his KPMG colleagues.

"People seemed excited about my being in this," says Ardinger, who joined KPMG in July and has entered ArtPrize twice before. "I'm not usually one to talk about such things, but a co-worker suggested I email everyone about my entry, and that led to positive feedback and plenty of questions." "It's nice to have a place to hang your work and have people appreciate it," Ardinger said. "It's a great way to stay motivated."



BBQ Champ Chews the FAT(CA)



David Neuenhaus (third from left) is a seasoned BBQ master.

It takes a seasoned manager to cook up a big gastronomical win, as New York Tax partner **David Neuenhaus** recently demonstrated.

The National Go-To-Market Leader, a local barbeque champion, donated his culinary skills to the *Roots and Wing* organization of Denville, New Jersey. The non-profit provides transitional services to young adults aging out of the state's child welfare system.

"The heat was on," laughed Neuenhaus, after two families offered \$15,000 for his services at a fund-raising auction.

Meghan Meehan, director, Advisory, and **Alexia Brafman**, senior associate, Tax, helped Neuenhaus transform 60 pounds of ribs, 40 pounds of pork shoulders, and a plethora of trimmings into a veritable banquet, ultimately fattening the *Roots and Wing* coffers by \$18,000 -- \$3,000 more than originally pledged -- while temporarily expanding the waistlines of more than 80 friends and neighbors.

National Grid Team to the Rescue

KPMG's National Grid Team could have *blown off* the scheduled Halloween night community service project at Greater Boston Food Bank in the aftermath of Hurricane

Sandy. And in fact, the original team of 18 National Grid employees and 17 KPMG engagement members shrank sharply due to travel concerns and the utility's emergency storm duties.

Nevertheless, four National Grid employees, alongside seven KPMG engagement team members and another volunteer group, sorted and packaged 5,600 lbs. of donated frozen foods to help provide 2,448 meals to families in need.

No doubt, many of those items made their way onto trucks that left for New York the following morning to help feed the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

"Despite the monumental task of restoring electric power, National Grid allowed and encouraged its employees who did not have "storm duties" to volunteer and help feed the victims of Hurricane Sandy," noted project leader **Cecilia Whipple**. "With the increased demands on local food banks caused by the storm, we were thrilled to be able to volunteer and work side by side with our client at the Food Bank and contribute to this hunger-relief effort despite all the odds."



KPMG's National Grid team

Norfolk's Day of Service



Norfolk KPMG Team

Chris Xystros, Norfolk OMP, led a team of 50 KPMG people who volunteered a day of service – October 17 -- to help the homeless. Their work was part of a project called Homeless Connect sponsored by the office's Involve Committee and hosted by the City of Norfolk.

Norfolk Mayor Paul Fraim kicked off the day, recognizing the firm for our contributions. The KPMG team spearheaded a clothing drive benefitting more than 500 people and held two "jeans days" fundraisers to buy new socks, gloves, sweat shirts, and sweat pants. Norfolk Involve donated business attire to an organization that provides clothing for job interviews. Meanwhile, the city arranged a myriad of services for the homeless including dental care, haircuts, legal aid, job opportunity counseling, medical screenings, and hot meals for the homeless.

Approved By Bruce Pfau