

US Synthetic pays half of the costs for employees interested in serving in Kenya. Troy Holmberg, director of corporate social responsibility, has been to Africa 26 times and has helped the Foundation create 26,000 jobs.

to Kenya





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Valuing human life is a strong foundation in business and in life. US Synthetic, a father-son global enterprise, is based on this culture where employees thrive on learning and experience and use it to bless others around the globe.

In 1978, Bill Pope, a former BYU chemical engineering professor, and his son Louis founded the Orem-based company. US Synthetic is known for manufacturing PCDs (polycrystalline diamond cutters) for oil and gas exploration. But really, the business stretches into much more.

"We've taken 25 employees to Kenya over the years as part of our Asante Foundation. It means 'thank you' in Swahili," says Troy Holmberg, US Synthetic's director of corporate social responsibility.

Louis started the charity in 1998 to create jobs and livelihoods for Kenyan families. His company even established a micro-credit union to give loans to more than 26,000

women who are starting enterprises.

Globally, US Synthetic is dominating in its technology and in its sphere of humanitarian outreach. Locally, it's doing as much, if not more, especially for kids.

"Last year, our employees have put in more than 4,200 hours of community service and donated tens of thousands of dollars locally. Employees raised \$20,000 for the local food bank with a match from US Synthetic and the company donated thousands of dollars in scholarships and giving locally to support STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education in our schools to improve

lives in our community," Troy says.

Students in the valley know the US Synthetic name. Budding engineers have made spaghetti towers inside the US Synthetic facility and explored robotics, diamonds and chemistry experiments at UCCU's Family Festival at UVU last November.

Investing in others is the keystone of US Synthetic, which extends to the way the company treats its employees.

"We provide an on-site health clinic to meet the needs of our employees' families. Shift workers eat at our subsidized café. We believe in empowering our employees," Troy says.

longevity TIPS

- Invest in your employees and empower them to improve the organization.
- Understand intimately the value you add to your customers. It will be different for each one.
- Create a culture of continuous improvement, excellence and innovation.
- Surround yourself with people smarter than yourself.