

WHO WE ARE AS WE SERVE WITH PRIDE

It has been said, that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. That statement has never been more relevant than right now, in the midst of a global pandemic.

As mechanical contractors, the work we do is often “behind the scenes” - but very essential. MCAMW contractors are the best-trained and highest skilled professionals in the industry - delivering safety, comfort, and health to our community.

We are proud of the work of our contractors, so we are launching **MCAMW Contractor Focus** - a series of short messages that highlight **Who We Are As We Serve With Pride**.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Karen Walker, Community Relations

Karen Walker first joined the Boland team in 1993, beginning a career path leading to her true passion in life – service to others. As a graduate of the University of Maryland with a BS in Advertising Design, she started the company’s first-ever marketing department. Karen left Boland in 1999 to start a family, and then returned to the Boland family as a part-time marketing consultant when her children began high school.



Today, Karen leads Boland’s philanthropy efforts through the **Boland Cares** program. Her understanding of Boland’s history and mission of “service to others”, combined with her passion for service to the community is contagious, making her a phenomenal leader for such a meaningful initiative. She works to involve all Boland associates. Her efforts led to the implementation of a new leave benefit, volunteer time off, or “VTO”, to enable all Boland associates to contribute their time to the betterment of the community. Some of the organizations and initiatives that Boland Cares supports include wreath-laying at Arlington Cemetery, providing meals to families at Fisher House, volunteering at senior living centers, coordinating blood drives, and much more.



*Karen Walker, Community Relations
Boland*

When COVID-19 began, Karen did not let the pandemic slow her down. She organized “wave parades” at two nursing homes in Montgomery County, Maryland. Boland associates and their families served as “cheer-wavers” to wave at and cheer up the residents. The event conveyed a sense of love and encouragement to those elderly who were confined to isolation during this time. These special visits included whatever it would take to bring cheer: balloons, pets, children, fun costumes and props, dancing, and many smiles. Several of the residents held up signs from their windows to express their gratitude for the fun diversion from their isolation.

Since the start of the pandemic, Karen has spearheaded many other community initiatives with the support of the Boland team. She coordinated delivering meals to essential workers at local hospitals, donating over 100 pieces of costume jewelry as a special Mother’s Day activity to encourage assisted living residents, and making several boxes of face masks for Habitat for Humanity.

Additionally, Boland associates donated over 100 gently-used ties for Ties That Matter, whose mission is to create paying jobs for low income women, help to provide support services for the homeless, and reuse recycled materials. The ties collected by the Boland team were used to make bags, hats, belts, pillows, quilts, and rag dolls.



Pictured from Left to Right:

Karen Walker and Manuel Moreno of Boland delivering boxed lunches to healthcare heroes at local hospitals; Paige Beyer, Corporate Relations Manager for Habitat for Humanity, and Karen Walker with face masks handmade by Boland associates.



“To know Karen personally is to know what a big heart she has. Our entire Boland team is inspired by the work Karen puts into making our community a better place for everyone. We are so grateful for all her efforts within the community, and for her endless dedication to the **Boland Cares** mission.”

– Sarah Heitkemper, Senior Vice President
Boland

SHARE YOUR STORY

The MCAMW is proud to share this story as it demonstrates the willingness and professionalism of our member contractors. Please let us know if you have a project or initiative that your firm is undertaking and can be featured in our Contractor Focus.

Contact Hannah Inman at Hannah@MCAMW.org.