

# **Executive Summary: Denton ISD Volunteers**

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting: Aug. 24, 2010

## **2010-11 VOLUNTEER REPORT**

### **Purpose of Report**

**MISSION of Denton ISD and VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:** “...in partnership with the home and school ... to provide the best educational opportunities... and to make a difference in a child’s life ”

### **DISD GOALS: PARENT & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

#### **Parent and community involvement – in pursuit of excellence, the district will:**

- Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students.
- Work continuously with the community in planning and facility development.
- Utilize citizens’ advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks.
- Provide support services and promote health, wellness and safety for students and families.
- Establish and promote programs to develop and enhance parenting skills and participation in the schools.

### **PURPOSE - VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

- To utilize the talents of parents, grandparents, caring citizens and employees in the business community within the regular school program
- To make a difference by providing greater educational opportunities and services for our children
- To allow teachers and staff more time for direct instruction
- To enhance the relationships between school, home, and community

### **RESULTS**

*The Denton ISD Volunteer Program has become known as one of the best in Texas and continues to receive state honors from several organizations.*

### **Objectives**

In August of 2009, the Denton ISD’s Volunteer Advisory Board established the following goals:

- To get more mentors/tutors to volunteer with students on a one-to-one basis

- To get volunteers to donate at least **325,000 hours** for the students of Denton ISD
- To recruit more Hispanic volunteers and to encourage them to get more involved in the schools
- To increase parent/community involvement at the secondary schools
- To process and provide criminal history checks for almost 6,000 volunteers and work with the curriculum staff and school faculty members to provide the highest quality of volunteer service possible.

**Total monetary impact**

During the 2009-10 school year, volunteers contributed more than **331,363** hours to help make a difference with DISD students. This is the highest amount ever recorded for Denton ISD. Although the work volunteers do in and out of the classroom is priceless, if their time is calculated at \$18 an hour – excluding all benefits – the amount they saved the district is more than

**\$5.96 million.**

- **PRICELESS IMPACT:** A price tag cannot be placed on what the volunteers have accomplished throughout the district.

*Parents and community volunteers – have provided an extra dimension to the district’s instructional process and the results depict their dedication and hard work.*

**Denton ISD: Volunteer Hours**  
**2004-2010 School Years**

<b>School</b>	<b>04-05</b>	<b>05-06</b>	<b>06-07</b>	<b>07-08</b>	<b>08-09</b>	<b>09-10</b>
Blanton Elem.					7,840	<b>9,871</b>
Borman Elem.	5,312	9,168	10,618	10,745	7,612	<b>3,317</b>
Evers Park Elem.	6,536	9,406	5,363	2,863	6,103	<b>6,600</b>
Ginnings Elem.	3,182	4,933	4,025	3,728	2,314	<b>1,200</b>
Hawk Elementary		10,425	20,486	9,414	10,521	<b>17,268</b>
Hodge Elementary	13,069	14,035	6,983	9,167	9,376	<b>8,805</b>
Houston Elem.	5,933	6,104	8,568	9,940	10,546	<b>4,306</b>
Lee Elementary	2,401	2,947	3,705	5,511	1,430	<b>1,749</b>

McNair Elem.	8,716	8,832	4,794	5,927	9,344	8,851
Nelson Elem.				6,384	3,678	6,792
Paloma Creek				7,091	10,011	5,312
Pecan Creek Elem.	6,078	5,073	6,492	6,832	2,906	2,551
Providence Elem.	6,154	8,581	3,485	4,933	6,999	7,574
E.P. Rayzor Elem.	13,511	7,291	9,852	8,195	7,344	5,839
N. Rayzor Elem.	7,575	7,513	4,611	7,857	8,611	6,776
Rivera Elementary	3,712	1,416	2,640	9,711	5,560	2,186
Ryan Elementary	11,353	14,370	16,104	10,753	14,464	14,023
Savannah Elem.			2,025	1,482	3,640	5,351
Stephens Elem.					4,162	3,827
Wilson Elementary	14,084	12,994	5,512	11,010	15,290	7,892
Ann Windle School	59,458	74,098	71,895	75,733	68,078	75,675
<b>Subtotal: Elem.</b>	<b>167,074</b>	<b>197,186</b>	<b>187,158</b>	<b>207,276</b>	<b>215,829</b>	<b>205,765</b>
Calhoun Middle	4,219	4,192	1,765	1,571	2,157	5,720
Crownover Middle	3,587	2,743	3,054	3,083	3,692	2,160
Harpool Middle					8,131	10,515
McMath Middle	3,293	6,054	7,829	5,832	2,687	2,750
Navo Middle			1,253	2,238	1,136	2,049
Strickland Middle	8,146	6,616	6,877	5,974	4,801	5,542
<b>Subtotal: Middle</b>	<b>19,245</b>	<b>19,605</b>	<b>20,778</b>	<b>35,048</b>	<b>22,604</b>	<b>28,736</b>
Denton High	37,560	36,439	26,318	13,456	13,374	28,531
Guyer High		33,420	18,070	34,162	35,228	29,562
Ryan High	69,831	25,492	24,145	25,996	35,778	36,530
<b>Subtotal: High</b>	<b>107,391</b>	<b>95,351</b>	<b>68,533</b>	<b>73,614</b>	<b>84,380</b>	<b>94,623</b>
Community Vol.:		566	2,628	447	430	2,219
City Council PTA	N/A	376	1,359	216	1,083	20
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>293,710</b>	<b>312,883</b>	<b>280,360</b>	<b>316,601</b>	<b>324,326</b>	<b>331,363</b>

### **Operational Impact: Declining parent involvement**

**Parents:** Through PTA, VAB groups and booster clubs, parents continue to be strong volunteer groups - but not as strong as in previous years at some schools. The decline in volunteer hours at some schools reflect the challenges of keeping parents involved in their child (ren's) education at the local, state and national level.

- *Recruiting parents into and back into the schools continues as a main goal for 2010-11 school year.*
- *Most of the schools now have computer check-ins. Most of these tally volunteer hours, but many of these systems are being "tweaked" to insure volunteer hours are being tabulated. The systems improved greatly this past school year.*
- *The community liaison/family coordinator positions that were once part of the Title I schools have been eliminated at all the schools.*

- *As the parent involvement diminishes, it becomes more challenging to recruit and retain “volunteer” volunteer coordinators. Without having a specific coordinator or volunteer liaison at each school – volunteer recruitment, training and retention becomes even more difficult.*
- *The district can recruit the volunteers to the schools – but someone needs to be at the campus to “open the door” to these volunteers. Denton ISD is fortunate to have a district where volunteers are so welcomed – but for retention – someone needs to be at each campus to retain and nurture the volunteer involvement.*

### **Operational Impact: Increasing parent involvement/volunteers**

- *The district’s VAB plans to execute more promotions to recruit more parent volunteers.*
- *PSAs, posters and billboards have already been finalized for the 2010-11 school year.*

As past president of the Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE), Sharon Cox, director of Communications and Community Relations outlined a statewide Volunteer/Parent Involvement Initiative last year.

**The initiative included getting statewide support from other educational associations, agencies and businesses to conduct statewide Public Service Announcements, posters, flyers, etc. to recruit more parents and other school volunteers statewide. This effort continues.**

### **Operational Impact: Increasing volunteer/community involvement**

- **Community in Schools-21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant** – In 2008, the district – in partnership with Community in Schools of North Texas – received a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant, which added CIS representatives at eight schools for after-school programs. These CIS coordinators helped fill the void – that was once filled by family coordinators. These eight programs had successful mentoring initiatives. The schools include: Calhoun, Denton High, Evers, Hodge, Lee, Navo, Newton Rayzor, and Strickland. They also have CIS reps during regular school hours at Borman, Rivera, Calhoun and Denton High.
- **Partners for Success** - Board member Rudy Rodriguez spearheaded Partners for Success to foster a stronger learning climate for student success in February, 2009. This is a school and community collaborative effort to help retain “at risk” students and to decrease the dropout rate. Potential projects are still being planned by this group.
- **Adopt-A-School: Partners in Education:** Businesses, agencies and organizations help where parent assistance is not available or not as strong. The Adopt-A-School: Partners in Education Council continues to recruit more mentors through various programs.

1. **Adopt-A-School Council:** This group actively recruits volunteers throughout the community. More than 80 partners in education were honored at the annual AAS Awards luncheon in May.
  2. **Chamber of Commerce Tour:** The Adopt-A-School: Partners in Education program initiated its third Chamber of Commerce Tour on Sept. 29, 2009 - in part to recruit more mentors into the COOL program. (It was successful and a third one is planned for **Sept. 29, 2010.**)
- **Grandparents in Public Schools** – This program continues to grow. The Communications and Community Relations Department works directly with this group throughout the district and meets with them quarterly. Last year, this group initiated the Grandparents & Gridiron Event sponsored by BBVA Compass Bank on Nov. 5 – with 105 grandparents attending. **The 2010 event is scheduled for Oct. 22.**
  - **Ann Windle School For Young Children** - Parents and grandparents - plus community volunteers - are part of the team at the Ann Windle School for Young Children. These various groups volunteered 75,675 hours throughout the school year to help these pre-schoolers get a strong head start! Plus, they met the goal of recruiting more Hispanic families into the volunteer program.
  - **380 Communications Task Force** – The district initiated this committee in 2008 to improve parent/community involvement from the eastern area of the district. The group initiated a Back-2-School Bash with the Navo Panthers, Providence Patriots, Paloma Creek Falcons and Savannah Gators. The third event on Aug. 16 had an estimated 1,500 students and their families attend, plus more than \$2,000 was raised for the schools (after expenses).
  - **Kid Life Advisory Reporters & Kid Life Parents Advisory Group** – In conjunction with the *Denton Record-Chronicle* the district initiated these two groups in October, 2008. It includes student reporters from each participating elementary school – and their parents.

### **Ministerial programs**

A big movement has been initiated to get churches more involved in the schools. Last year the Adopt-A-School: *Partners in Education* Program initiated a new award – The “Top Ministerial Partner.” To date, some of the churches that are involved in the schools – and their projects - include:

**The Village Church** – The members of this church donate thousands of hours to help “transform” Calhoun Middle School. For the past four summers, they have painted murals on the school walls, cleaned the campus grounds, updated the outdoor learning center and refurbished many other parts of the school.

The church members also mentor at Calhoun, Denton High, Borman and Rivera. They also help students and their families at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

**Denton Faith Alliance** – Headed by Rev. Gaston of First United Methodist Church, this group involves representatives from many churches in the community. The communications director has been working with this group of churches, to conduct a community wide recruitment effort to get more mentors helping in the schools. The district is working closely with CIS representatives in recruiting and training these volunteers throughout the community. The volunteer department worked in conjunction with the school attorney and Community in Schools representatives to establish appropriate guidelines for these potential mentors.

**First Baptist Church** - They provide teacher and student school supplies for Newton Rayzor so the school can have a supply cabinet for students in need. They also are one of the main Adopt-A-School: Partners in Education sponsors.

**Highland Baptist Church** - This church, under support of Bob Hardaway, sponsored Newton Rayzor's numerous projects. They partner with this school for numerous projects and programs. For example, they provided school supplies to children who could not afford them, gave snacks during TAKS time and provided treats for teacher appreciation.

**Singing Oaks Church of Christ** - This church provided a place for the Rivera and Borman CIS Summer Camp and provided a place for the CIS Holiday Assistance Program.

**Shady Shores Baptist Church** - They provided teacher and student school supplies, scholarships for fifth-graders who go to camp, book fair scholarships and many other items to Stephens Elementary School.

### **Mentors:**

**DISD Adopt-A-School COOL** (Community Offering One-on-one Learning) program continues:

- The universities provide volunteers throughout the year.
- The district has initiated a strong partnership between the University of North Texas and the staff of its International Programs with the IB staffs at Newton Rayzor, Calhoun and Denton High. The first joint venture is World Fest on the Square on Saturday, Sept. 25.
- On an ongoing basis, staff members from various businesses continue to volunteer.
- Police, firefighters, sheriff deputies, community leaders and others offer mentoring throughout the year.

**Guys Operating As Leaders (GOAL):** A spectacular program for incoming seventh- and eighth-graders at McMath Middle School was initiated this summer. The volunteers who helped these at risk middle-schoolers logged 286 hours by working with these male students once a week. The staff, UNT students, administrators, and local law officials all volunteered to help these students.

**Grandparents:** The Grandparents in Public School Task Force has helped sponsor Grandparent Volunteer Programs throughout the district and are going strong at the following schools with Grandparents volunteering:

- The volunteer program, initiated in 2004-05 with the residents of Robson Ranch, continues at Borman Elementary School and last year it began expanding to other schools. There is a big push for 2010-11 school year to get more Robson Ranch Kiwanians to volunteer at other schools – especially at Evers and Rivera.
- Borman – includes Vanna Ingram’s Grandparents in Public Schools volunteers and the Robson Ranch volunteers
- Ginnings, Hawk, Hodge, Paloma Creek, Wilson and others – include grandparents of students and grandparents in the community for the “Rockin’ Readers” program.
- Ryan Elementary – includes Grandparents in Public Schools and Foster Grandparents
- Ann Windle School - includes students’ grandparents and Foster Grandparents
- Gonzalez School – working on establishing volunteers at this new school and already working with retired employees and others in the community to volunteer. The district had several community volunteers assisting with the Pre-School Preview on July 29.

Goals to include more Grandparents:

- Planning another kick-off recruitment at Robson Ranch to recruit more Grandparents in September.
- Grandparents Day (Sept. 10, 2010) is now an annual event in DISD to encourage grandparents to get involved in their children’s education and to volunteer in the schools.

## **Results**

The Volunteer Advisory Board, Denton Area PTA Council, the school PTAs, Grandparents in Public Schools, the Adopt-A-School:Partners in Education program, area churches, Partners for Success and the Communications and Community Relations Department have compiled this report that includes the volunteer hours for the 2009-10 school year.

The group’s goal of recruiting more Hispanic volunteers is gaining momentum with more Hispanic volunteers working in our schools, especially at the Ann Windle School and with plans to expand this effort to the Gonzalez School for Young Children.

The hope is that many of these parent volunteers will continue to remain involved in the schools as their children progress.

### **Future goals/options**

There is a direct link between a child's success in school and parent and community involvement. The goals of the volunteer department for the next school year include:

- To work at the state and regional level – as well as local level – to promote parent involvement and volunteerism – and link this with area churches.
- To strive to get parents more involved in the education of their children.
- To work with Grandparents in Public Schools to recruit volunteers, especially in the Robson Ranch neighborhood, Dogwood Estates, Good Samaritan Village, etc.
- To continue recruiting caring adults to help DISD students and staff.
- To continue working on providing a diversified group of volunteers.
- To expand the district's mentoring program, which has helped many students become more successful in school by contacting more agencies and businesses. *(These mentors are critical in helping reduce the number of future drop-outs.)*
- To explore various programs at the middle school level to get even more volunteers and mentors into the schools. There is a strong interest to expand the GOALS program to other middle schools for summer of 2011.
- To work with the high schools to get more volunteers, especially to work with ninth-grade students.
- To continue to work with the CIS programs, potential grants, and to look at adding additional staffing (volunteer and paid) at the school level to help recruit and maintain strong volunteer programs and effective parent involvement projects

**Submitted by:**

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