

# Denton Independent School District



*Partnership &*

# Volunteer Report

Aug. 26, 2014

## 2013-14 PARTNERSHIP & VOLUNTEER REPORT

### Purpose of Report

**MISSION of Denton ISD and VOLUNTEER/PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:**  
*“Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community.”*

### **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 partnering skills and participation in the schools.
- Promote child advocacy across the state and nation

### **PURPOSE of the VOLUNTEER/PARTNERSHIP 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, businesses and community

## **RESULTS**

*The Denton ISD Volunteer Program has become known as one of the best in Texas and continues to receive recognition in awards, publications and conferences. Many districts have emulated Denton ISD's partnership programs. The Grandparents In Public Schools program has been copied throughout the nation.*

### **Objectives**

In August of 2013, the Denton ISD's Volunteer Advisory Board established the following goals:

- To recruit more mentors/tutors to volunteer with students
- To encourage volunteers to contribute at least **400,000 hours**
- 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 increase community involvement by getting the ministerial groups more involved in helping students to succeed in school
- To process and provide criminal history checks for more than 12,000 volunteers

### **Total monetary impact**

During the 2013-14 school year, volunteers contributed more than **464,556** 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 **\$8.4**

**MILLION!**



- **PRICELESS IMPACT:** A price tag cannot be placed on what the volunteers and educational partners 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: 2006-2014

School	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Blanton Elem.			7,840	9,871	10,940	11,680	11,858	12,074
Borman Elem.	10,618	10,745	7,612	3,317	4,882	1,034	8,081	7,164
Cross Oaks Elem.					10,015	12,510	12,000	8,638
Evers Park Elem.	5,363	2,863	6,103	6,600	10,582	13,907	8,936	9,576
Ginnings Elem.	4,025	3,728	2,314	1,200	943	6,043	4,932	11,344
Hawk Elementary	20,486	9,414	10,521	17,268	13,531	13,689	19,153	18,391
Hodge Elementary	6,983	9,167	9,376	8,805	7,102	10,722	12,280	12,173
Houston Elem.	8,568	9,940	10,546	4,306	7,111	9,320	11,564	13,586
Lee Elementary	3,705	5,511	1,430	1,749	2,424	597	3833	2,628
McNair Elem.	4,794	5,927	9,344	8,851	10,657	8,511	8,705	5,437
Nelson Elem.		6,384	3,678	6,792	5,788	10,484	10,980	15,370
Paloma Creek		7,091	10,011	5,312	5,713	11,842	15,726	15,980
Pecan Creek Elem.	6,492	6,832	2,906	2,551	3,200	10,078	9,500	5,829
Providence Elem.	3,485	4,933	6,999	7,574	4,189	11,969	13,000	14,152
E.P. Rayzor Elem.	9,852	8,195	7,344	5,839	19,533	33,286	22,430	19,799
N. Rayzor Elem.	4,611	7,857	8,611	6,776	3,446	13,309	13,309	13,702
Rivera Elementary	2,640	9,711	5,560	2,186	2,053	1,528	1,900	2,815
Ryan Elementary	16,104	10,753	14,464	14,023	10,236	9,697	10,941	9,458
Savannah Elem.	2,025	1,482	3,640	5,351	1,672	11,496	11,453	12,401
Stephens Elem.			4,162	3,827	3,150	1,588	2,531	3,161
Wilson Elementary	5,512	11,010	15,290	7,892	17,114	4,568	4,804	5,669
Ann Windle School	71,895	75,733	68,078	75,675	44,677	38,030	25,100	23,138
Gonzalez School					2,082	17,430	1,051	1,950
<b>Subtotal: Elem.</b>	<b>187,158</b>	<b>207,276</b>	<b>215,829</b>	<b>205,765</b>	<b>201,040</b>	<b>263,318</b>	<b>244,067</b>	<b>244,435</b>
Calhoun Middle	1,765	1,571	2,157	1,620	21,907	18,067	39,571	14,640
Crownover Middle	3,054	3,083	3,692	2,160	5,810	4,133	4,092	4,137
Harpool Middle			8,131	10,515	11,575	6,301	3,804	10,013
McMath Middle	7,829	5,832	2,687	1,528	5,832	10,000	1,325	9,834
Myers Middle								3,019
Navo Middle	1,253	2,238	1,136	2,049	1,999	2,989	2,613	2,850
Strickland Middle	6,877	5,974	4,801	5,542	9,050	9,140	9,140	6,750
<b>Subtotal: Middle</b>	<b>20,778</b>	<b>35,048</b>	<b>22,604</b>	<b>28,736</b>	<b>56,173</b>	<b>50,630</b>	<b>60,545</b>	<b>51,243</b>
Denton High	26,318	13,456	13,374	28,531	16,515	15,538	34,000	45,100
Fred Moore High						785	974	1,090
Guyer High	18,070	34,162	35,228	29,562	32,200	36,830	39,477	53,940
Ryan High	24,145	25,996	35,778	36,530	48,357	21,599	52,134	43,000
ATC								1,248
Sparks								10
Davis								50
<b>Subtotal: High</b>	<b>68,533</b>	<b>73,614</b>	<b>84,380</b>	<b>94,623</b>	<b>97,072</b>	<b>74,752</b>	<b>126,585</b>	<b>144,438</b>
2013 Bond Com.								7,890
CIS								3,619
Community Vol.	2,628	447	430	2,219	115	2,100	7,936	5,214

PTA/ Book Cents	1,359	216	1,083	20	2,848	1,685	7,211	7,187
VAB Chair					55	210	220	180
DATCU					60	136	160	350
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>280,360</b>	<b>316,601</b>	<b>324,326</b>	<b>331,363</b>	<b>357,248</b>	<b>392,831</b>	<b>446,724</b>	<b>464.556</b>

## **Operational Impact: Parent Involvement**

### **Recruiting volunteers while parent involvement declines nationally**

- ***Engaging parents with their children and their schools continues as a main goal.***
- **Volunteer Advisory Board** – There is one to two school representatives – plus the Community in School liaisons. They are responsible for logging more than 464,000 hours during the 2013-14 school year.
  - This group promotes and enhances volunteerism at school and district levels.
  - Another goal of this group has been to increase Hispanic family involvement.
- **Parents:** The PTAs, VAB groups, booster clubs and other groups continue to be strong volunteer groups. However, as the economy has improved this past year, more parents are joining the work force, which limits volunteer time.
- **Volunteer Coordinators:** As consistent 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 more challenging.

### **Increasing parent involvement**

- The district’s Volunteer Advisory Board continues to execute more promotions to recruit more parent volunteers.
- PSAs, posters, flyers have been printed and disseminated for the 2014-15 school year.

## **Operational Impact: Community Involvement**

### **Increasing community involvement**

- **Mentor Denton/10,000 Mentors:** Initiated in the spring 2012-13 school year, the district is partnered with University of North Texas, Communities in Schools of North Texas, United Way of Denton County, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Texas Woman’s University, North Central Texas College in a program tabbed Mentor Denton, <http://www.mentordenton.org>, to recruit college students, parents, grandparents and community leaders to mentor students as a positive role model.
- **Mentor Denton:** To better meet the needs of the students Mentor Denton has broken down the volunteer efforts into several categories for 2014-15 school year:
  - Mentors:** Community members who want to work one-on-one with a child at a school.

Tutors/Volunteers: College students and others who would like to help tutor during or after school.

Community Leaders: These volunteers will help lead Boy Scouts, Girl Scout troops.

Community mentors: Big Brothers/Big Sisters and others who want to work with a student outside the school setting.

Human Library: Guest speakers on specific topics and for Career Days.

- **Community in Schools-21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant** — In partnership with Community in Schools of North Texas – the district has received 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grants, which provide CIS representatives for after-school programs. The schools include Borman, Evers, Ginnings, Lee, Hodge, Newton Rayzor, Rivera Elementary schools and Strickland, McMath, Myers, and Calhoun Middle schools and Denton High.
- These CIS coordinators helped fill the void – that was once filled by family liaisons and coordinators. They also have CIS reps during school hours at Borman, Rivera, Calhoun and Denton High.
- **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 100 Partners in Education were honored in May.
  2. **Adopt-A-School/Chamber of Commerce Kick Off Luncheon -Tour:** The Adopt-A-School: *Partners in Education* program initiated its seventh AAS/Chamber of Commerce Kick-Off Luncheon in September, 2013 - in part to recruit more mentors and adopters. (This year the Adopt-A-School Kickoff Luncheon is planned for Sept. 24, 2014.)
- **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 quarterly. In 2009, this group initiated the Grandparents & Gridiron Event. The 2014 event is scheduled for Nov. 7.
- **Ann Windle & Gonzalez Schools For Young Children** - Parents and grandparents - plus community volunteers, Foster Grandparents and Grandparents in Public Schools - are part of the team at the district's two Schools for Young Children. These various groups 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, Savannah Gators and Cross Oaks Owls. Many members served on the 2013 Citizens Bond Committee.

## **Partners in Education Projects**

*The current “partners in education” program involves more than 200 businesses and agencies that donate time, money, supplies and most importantly - employee resources - to the schools.*

**Adopt-A-School Program Sponsors:** Adopters have the opportunity to sponsor all the major AAS events for \$500 a year. This past school year the AAS program has sponsors who have donated funds or in-kind services to help with the Grandparents & Gridiron Night, Chamber Tour in September, Heritage Tour in March, AAS Essay and Art Contest, AAS Recognition Luncheon, Grandparents Luncheon, Back-2-School Bash and many other events. This provides the district the opportunity to plan many events and also promote these adopters at the same time – without any cost to taxpayers.

**Community Offering One-on-One Learning (COOL):** This is a major element of the partnership programs. Through this AAS program, numerous companies and agencies allow employees to volunteer and even mentor at the schools. For example, Robson Ranch residents tutor and mentor at Borman and Evers Park Elementary schools. *These groups are promoted at the schools on marquees, etc.*

**Jostens Teachers of the Year** - Jostens was added to the name of the award, Jostens’ Teachers of the Year, because company officials wanted to honor all the schools’ Teachers of the Year by donating a gold ring to each honoree, a project valued at more than \$20,000. In 2004, the company designed the special Teacher of the Year ring for DISD’s top educators. The project is now a tradition for the company and district staff. San Bay Studios provide T-shirts, James Woods AutoPark provides two cars to the top teachers to drive for six months and Candy Haven provides the food for the reception.

**Kid Life publication:** This is a joint publication of the Denton Publishing Company (*Denton-Record Chronicle*) and the Denton Independent School District. It is distributed through the elementary schools. The Communication Department and DRC staff work together to write, edit and design the publication.

**Employee Discounts/Incentives:** The district has adopters, especially the entertainment and restaurant businesses, who provide all types of discounts for

employees. This has been great to encourage employees to shop and eat in Denton and has helped adopters become more generous in their adoptions.

**Teacher Appreciations:** The district has had adopters donate various items, such as Sonic, Candy Haven, Cookies by Design and numerous others to thank employees for their hard work and dedication. The donors' names are often on the items donated.

**Super Suppers:** Restaurants that donate 10 sets of "suppers" to the Super Supper program is listed on Pages 5 and 6 of the Network. This was initiated 15 years ago and grows every year. It is a great way for staff members – administrators, teachers, operational staff, etc. – to have an opportunity to personally be greeted by the "Super" – Dr. Jamie Wilson!

**Student Incentives:** Various businesses donate items or discount coupons for staff to use as incentives, such as Jason's Deli, Applebee's and more.

**DATCU Top Volunteer Luncheon:** DATCU provides the district with \$2,000 to help fund the annual Top Volunteer Luncheon and Volunteer Advisory Board.

**Grandparents Luncheon:** Luncheon that honors the grandparent volunteers.

**Adopt-A-Classroom:** These adoptions are especially popular at the LaGrone ATC where Sally Beauty donated all the equipment, supplies, etc. for the Cosmetology Department. Office Max honors a teacher annually by donating school supplies totaling more than \$1,000 for one teacher.

**ATC Achiever:** To assist students at the ATC, partners may contribute funds to assist a specific student in need who cannot afford supplies/certifications need for specific ATC programs.

**Staff Development:** Adopters often provide prizes at staff developments, including Super Suppers. For example, DSW is sponsoring as a special event on Sept. 12, 2014 for all employees to bowl for free.

## **Ministerial programs**

A big movement has been initiated to get churches more involved in the schools. In 2011, 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, especially helping economically-disadvantaged students.

The 2014-15 offers an even better partnership with our churches. Superintendent Jamie Wilson is speaking at those who are the biggest

ministerial partners. He spoke on Aug. 11 at First United Methodist Church and plans to speak at First Baptist Church in September.

The ministerial projects for past year include:

**First Baptist Church:** They provide backpacks filled with school supplies for Newton Rayzor students and volunteers help beautify that campus on “I Love Denton Day.” They donate clothes for needy children. They are an annual AAS sponsor, too. Mr. Williams served on the 2013 Citizens Bond Committee. First Baptist is looking at ways to help our schools.

**First United Methodist Church:** Members of this church volunteered many times at Rivera as mentors and for Science Fair, Field Day and more. They provided gifts for staff on Valentine’s Day. They provided all the “Apples” of the Apple Tree Project for the Rivera students in need.

**The Village Church:** They have assisted at Calhoun Middle School as mentors and sponsored the IB Overnight Sixth-Grade Camp. They donated Christmas presents to students at Borman, Rivera, Calhoun and DHS and served Thanksgiving dinner to hundreds of Denton ISD families in need.

**Highlands Baptist Church:** Highland Baptist always partners with the students/staff at Newton Rayzor Elementary. The church has donated everything from school supplies for students to snacks for teachers.

**Shady Shores Baptist Church:** They provided school supplies for students at Stephens Elementary, provided holiday assistance for students, snack items for the school food pantry, mentored students and gave scholarships to fifth-graders for Camp Grady Spruce Science Camps. They had a special luncheon for the staff at Stephens and Myers at the beginning of the school year.

**The Bridge:** The church gave backpacks and school supplies to the students at Ginnings and provided breakfast for Ginnings teachers.

**St. Nicholas Church:** Every two weeks church members volunteer to go to the Texas Food Bank to pick up food orders for students at Hodge so they can have food over the weekend. “These volunteers are awesome ... they do this with lots of love!”

**Singing Oaks Church of Christ:** The members of Singing Oaks make a difference in the lives of the students at Lee, Rivera and Borman Elementary. The church helps sponsor the Food for Kids program where church members go to the North Texas Food Bank and get food for students to have over the weekend, also provide snacks for students. Use church for students at Rivera, Calhoun and Borman to attend Community in Schools summer camp.

**Dominion Word:** Dominion Word has volunteers from their church who mentor at Rivera. They also adopted families for Thanksgiving. They have donated clothes and school supplies for students at Rivera.

**Cross Way United Methodist Church:** This church has made a big difference for Paloma Creek students. They provide school supplies and coats and sponsored a Hot Dog supper for staff and students.

**Cross Timbers Church:** They sponsor projects for Wilson students. They provide backpacks and school supplies. And even school supply baskets for teachers. They provided assistance to 13 families at Christmas.

**Morse Street Baptist Church:** At Myers, the church has donated school supplies and clothing and volunteer/mentor at the school. They purchased an industrial size coffee maker to Myers so students could have hot chocolate in the mornings. The church has mentors at Rivera too and donated school supplies to help Rivera students.

**Trinity United Methodist Church:** The Growing in Faith Sunday School Class has adopted Sparks Campus and provided treats and meals for staff and students – and motivational notes.

**United Methodist Church -** The church provided \$2,000 to Borman to help provide uniforms for students in need. They also stuffed 50 backpacks with food for the CIS summer program.

**Eaglepointe Church:** At Borman, the church provided lunch for the staff at the beginning of the year. They also donated food baskets and other resources to Borman families throughout the year.

**Denton Willowwood Church of the Nazarene:** At Borman, the church provided lunch for the staff. They also donated food baskets and other resources to Borman families throughout the year.

**St. Barnabas Episcopal Church:** They have supplied many donations to students at Borman from clothes, school supplies and money.

### **Mentors:**

**DISD Adopt-A-School COOL** (Community Offering One-on-one Learning) program continues, but many of the programs are being substituted through Mentor Denton:

- 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. The district works with athletic departments of UNT and TWU for various mentoring/partnership activities, especially providing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders an opportunity to attend a college basketball game.
- 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.

**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:

- **Robson Ranch Mentors** - Initiated in 2004-05 with the residents of Robson Ranch, mentors continue to volunteer at Borman Elementary School and has expanded to several other schools. The district, through its partnership program, now provides a bus from Robson Ranch to Evers Elementary on Wednesdays and to Borman Elementary on Thursdays. Robson Ranch residents also volunteer at Rivera Elementary, McMath Middle and Calhoun Middle.
- **Grandparents in Public Schools** – Headed by Retired Teacher Vanna Ingram, this group volunteers every Tuesday at Borman.
- **Rockin’ Readers Program** - Ginnings, Hawk, Hodge, Paloma Creek, Wilson and others – include grandparents of students and grandparents in the community for this program, sponsored by RSVP.
- **Foster Grandparents** – Through this program, headed by Denton State Supported Living Center, the number of schools that host Foster Grandparents increased.
- **Gonzalez School** – established a volunteer program in 2010. They also recruited grandparents and community leaders to read to the pre-school students in the Pioneer Library every Wednesday and Thursday, which was headed by GIPS.

### **Goals to include more Grandparents:**

- Planning two kick-off recruitments at Robson Ranch to recruit more Grandparents in September and October.
- Grandparents Day, slated for Sept. 12 in 2014, is now an annual event in DISD to encourage grandparents to get involved in their children’s education and to volunteer in the schools.
- **The senior population in Denton ISD is anticipated to increase by 800 percent in next 15 to 20 years, according to city statistics.** The district must continue to expand partnership opportunities with these outstanding groups and consider additional staff to assist with programs that could grow as the grandparent population grows.

### **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 **engagement** and volunteerism – and link this with area churches.
- To strive to get parents more involved in the education of their children.
- To continue work with community stakeholders for **Mentor Denton**.

- To work with Grandparents in Public Schools to recruit volunteers, especially in the Robson Ranch neighborhood, Dogwood Estates, Savannah, 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 through the Mentor Denton program. *(These mentors are critical in helping reduce the number of future drop-outs.)*
- To work with the high schools and partner with UNT and TWU 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 program and effective parent involvement projects.
- To work with area businesses to establish internship programs with high school students.

*Partnership projects that can help improve community relations, build staff morale and increase student achievement and motivation, while enhancing the image of businesses and agencies. The book, currently being read throughout the district, "Schools Cannot Do It Alone," exemplifies the importance of community partnerships.*

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**Denton ISD's practice is to adapt a partnership that is beneficial to the school, staff and students while building a partnership with a particular group or business.**

## **End Results**

*To get the community stakeholders engaged to help every student in Denton ISD succeed!*

