

**Board of Trustees Meeting:
July 31, 2012**

2011-12 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.
- Promote child advocacy across the state and nation

PURPOSE of the 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 recognition from several organizations. Many districts have emulated Denton ISD’s programs.

Objectives

In August of 2011, 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 **350,000 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 increase community involvement by getting the churches more involved in helping students to succeed in school
- To process and provide criminal history checks for more than 8,000 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 2011-12 school year, volunteers contributed more than **392,831** 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 **\$7.1 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: 2005-2012

School	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12
Blanton Elem.				7,840	9,871	10,940	11,680
Borman Elem.	9,168	10,618	10,745	7,612	3,317	4,882	1,034
Cross Oaks Elem.						10,015	12,510
Evers Park Elem.	9,406	5,363	2,863	6,103	6,600	10,582	13,907
Ginnings Elem.	4,933	4,025	3,728	2,314	1,200	943	6,043
Hawk Elementary	10,425	20,486	9,414	10,521	17,268	13,531	13,689
Hodge Elementary	14,035	6,983	9,167	9,376	8,805	7,102	10,722
Houston Elem.	6,104	8,568	9,940	10,546	4,306	7,111	9,320
Lee Elementary	2,947	3,705	5,511	1,430	1,749	2,424	597
McNair Elem.	8,832	4,794	5,927	9,344	8,851	10,657	8,511
Nelson Elem.			6,384	3,678	6,792	5,788	10,484
Paloma Creek			7,091	10,011	5,312	5,713	11,842
Pecan Creek Elem.	5,073	6,492	6,832	2,906	2,551	3,200	10,078
Providence Elem.	8,581	3,485	4,933	6,999	7,574	4,189	11,969
E.P. Rayzor Elem.	7,291	9,852	8,195	7,344	5,839	19,533	33,286
N. Rayzor Elem.	7,513	4,611	7,857	8,611	6,776	3,446	13,309
Rivera Elementary	1,416	2,640	9,711	5,560	2,186	2,053	1,528
Ryan Elementary	14,370	16,104	10,753	14,464	14,023	10,236	9,697
Savannah Elem.		2,025	1,482	3,640	5,351	1,672	11,496
Stephens Elem.				4,162	3,827	3,150	1,588
Wilson Elementary	12,994	5,512	11,010	15,290	7,892	17,114	4,568
Ann Windle School	74,098	71,895	75,733	68,078	75,675	44,677	38,030
Gonzalez School						2,082	17,430
Subtotal: Elem.	197,186	187,158	207,276	215,829	205,765	201,040	263,318
Calhoun Middle	4,192	1,765	1,571	2,157	1,620	21,907	18,067
Crownover Middle	2,743	3,054	3,083	3,692	2,160	5,810	4,133
Harpool Middle				8,131	10,515	11,575	6,301
McMath Middle	6,054	7,829	5,832	2,687	1,528	5,832	10,000
Navo Middle		1,253	2,238	1,136	2,049	1,999	2,989
Strickland Middle	6,616	6,877	5,974	4,801	5,542	9,050	9,140
Subtotal: Middle	19,605	20,778	35,048	22,604	28,736	56,173	50,630
Denton High	36,439	26,318	13,456	13,374	28,531	16,515	15,538
Fred Moore High							785
Guyer High	33,420	18,070	34,162	35,228	29,562	32,200	36,830
Ryan High	25,492	24,145	25,996	35,778	36,530	48,357	21,599
Subtotal: High	95,351	68,533	73,614	84,380	94,623	97,072	74,752
Community Vol.	566	2,628	447	430	2,219	115	2,100
PTA/ Book Cents	376	1,359	216	1,083	20	2,848	1,685
VAB Chair						55	210
DATCU						60	136
							4,131
TOTAL HOURS	312,883	280,360	316,601	324,326	331,363	357,248	392,831

Operational Impact:

Recruiting while parent involvement declines nationally

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.

- **Engaging parents into and back into the schools continues as a main goal for 2012-13 school year.**
- *Most of the schools now have computer check-ins. The systems improved greatly this past school year.*
- *The number of Community In Schools program coordinators was able to increase this year because of an additional 21st Century Grant and a \$40,000 grant from Devon Energy, an AAS: Partner in Education.*
- *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 more challenging.*

Operational Impact: Increasing parent involvement/volunteers

- The district's VAB plans to execute more promotions to recruit more parent volunteers.
- PSAs, posters, flyers, etc. are being published for the 2012-13 school year.

Operational Impact: Increasing volunteer/community involvement

- **Community in Schools-21st Century Grant** – In 2008, the district – in partnership with Community in Schools of North Texas – received a 21st 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 school hours at Borman, Rivera, Calhoun and Denton High. Last year, the district received its second 21st Century Grant to Community In Schools of North Texas for after-school programs at Borman, Ginnings and Rivera Elementary schools.
- **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 at the annual AAS Awards luncheon in May.
 2. **Adopt-A-School/Chamber of Commerce Kick Off Luncheon and Exhibition:** The Adopt-A-School: *Partners in Education* program initiated its fifth Chamber of Commerce Kick-Off Luncheon on Aug. 31, 2011 - in part to recruit more mentors into the COOL program. (To help offset budget cuts, this year an Adopt-A-School Exhibition and Kickoff Luncheon was planned, which was so successful another is planned for Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012.)
- **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. In 2009 this group initiated the Grandparents & Gridiron Event with 120 grandparents attending. The 2012 event is scheduled for Sept. 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 volunteered 55,460 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, Savannah Gators and Cross Oaks Owls. (The third event on Aug. 15 had an estimated 1,200 students and their families attend, plus almost \$3,000 was raised for the schools – after expenses). This year the event is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20.

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, especially helping economically-disadvantaged students. Their projects include:

Denton Faith Alliance – 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 department worked in conjunction with the school attorney to establish appropriate guidelines for these mentors.*

The Village Church – The members of this church donate thousands of hours to help “transform” Calhoun Middle School. For the past five 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. This group donated a big portion of Calhoun's 18,067 volunteer hours. The church members also mentor at Calhoun, Denton High, Borman and Rivera.

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.

Highlands Baptist Church - This church sponsors Newton Rayzor's numerous projects. For example, they provided school supplies to children who could not afford them, gave snacks during STAAR 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 and provided food to families in need.

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.

First United Methodist Church – It opens its entire campus and facilities for the Apple Tree Project and Health Fair – where 1,300 students and their families can get school clothes, supplies, and even immunizations and snow cones.

The Bridge – They gave backpacks and school supplies to the students at Ginnings. They also helped with the Ginnings egg hunt and field days.

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.

Journey Church – This church donated backpacks with school supplies to the Lee students to help get their year started right.

Oak Grove United Methodist Church - They provided mentors for the at-risk students at Cross Oaks Elementary and support the school at various events.

Cross Timbers Church -They provide “backpack” buddies where students take home a backpack full of food to keep them from going hungry during the weekends.

Southmont Baptist Church - The church members donated Christmas presents the neediest families at Hodge. They also provide monetary assistance, furnishings, clothes to help families in need at that school.

Interfaith Ministries/Apple Tree Project – They provide school clothes, school supplies, shoe certificates and back packs to almost 1,300 students this year. The Apple Tree Project distribution and Health Fair is Saturday, Aug. 11.

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. District working this coming year with math and science students who are at UNT's Discovery Park.
- 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 two years ago and now includes Strickland and Calhoun Middle schools.

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 expanded to other schools – especially at Evers and Rivera.
- Borman - Grandparents in Public Schools volunteer along with 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.
- Ann Windle School - includes students’ grandparents and Foster Grandparents
- 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, which was headed by GIPS and Communications Coordinator Mario Zavala.

Goals to include more Grandparents:

- Planning another kick-off recruitment at Robson Ranch to recruit more Grandparents in September.
- Grandparents Day (Sept. 7, 2012) 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, and the Communications and Community Relations Department have compiled this report that includes the volunteer hours for the 2011-12 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 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 **engagement** 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, such as the GOALs program.
- 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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Stacey Pascullo, Chair/Volunteer Advisory Board