

Executive Summary
Denton ISD Volunteers
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
June 24, 2008

2008 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 has received state honors from several organizations.

Objectives

In August of 2007, 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 300,000 hours for the students of Denton ISD
- To recruit more Hispanic volunteers and to encourage them to get involved in the schools
- To increase parent/community involvement at the middle schools
- To process and provide criminal history checks for almost 4,000 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 2007-08 school year, volunteers contributed more than 316,601 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 **\$5.69 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
2000-2008

School	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
Borman Elem.	11,078	6,905	6,939	11,097	5,312	9,168	10,618	10,745
Evers Park Elem.	7,994	9,659	11,382	8,617	6,536	9,406	5,363	2,863
Ginnings Elem.	4,593	5,480	5,770	3,504	3,182	4,933	4,025	3,728
Hawk Elementary						10,425	20,486	9,414
Hodge Elementary	11,034	12,703	18,644	15,340	13,069	14,035	6,983	9,167
Houston Elem.	6,253	6,193	5,511	4,895	5,933	6,104	8,568	9,940
Lee Elementary	2,560	6,960	6,746	2,493	2,401	2,947	3,705	5,511
McNair Elem.	14,837	14,555	6,844	4,507	8,716	8,832	4,794	5,927
Nelson Elem.								6,384
Paloma Creek								7,091
Pecan Creek Elem.				5,272	6,078	5,073	6,492	6,832
Providence Elem.					6,154	8,581	3,485	4,933
E.P. Rayzor Elem.			2,671	9,385	13,511	7,291	9,852	8,195
N. Rayzor Elem.	4,873	5,933	7,696	6,920	7,575	7,513	4,611	7,857
Rivera Elementary	5,659	5,434	2,259	3,710	3,712	1,416	2,640	9,711
Ryan Elementary	N/A	7,231	13,595	12,418	11,353	14,370	16,104	10,753
Savannah Elem.							2,025	1,482
Wilson Elementary	12,203	15,234	11,057	5,766	14,084	12,994	5,512	11,010
Ann Windle School	23,264	25,039	36,608	51,068	59,458	74,098	71,895	75,733
Subtotal: Elem.	104,348	121,326	135,722	144,992	167,074	197,186	187,158	207,276
Calhoun Middle	1,732	2,196	1,260	1,246	4,219	4,192	1,765	1,571
Village Church								16,350
Crownover Middle			2,505	1,520	3,587	2,743	3,054	3,083
McMath Middle	3,439	1,699	1,219	5,817	3,293	6,054	7,829	5,832
Navo Middle							1,253	2,238
Strickland Middle	6,941	11,478	6,245	13,812	8,146	6,616	6,877	5,974
Subtotal: Middle	12,112	15,373	11,229	22,395	19,245	19,605	20,778	35,048
Denton High	21,314	26,531	42,105	31,504	37,560	36,439	26,318	13,456
Guyer High						33,420	18,070	34,162
Ryan High	33,163	31,340	34,824	31,817	69,831	25,492	24,145	25,996
Subtotal: High	54,477	57,871	76,929	63,321	107,391	95,351	68,533	73,614
Community Vol.: CAC, VAB, etc.						566	2,628	447
Area City Council PTA	656	216	1,037	39	N/A	376	1,359	216
TOTAL HOURS	171,593	194,786	224,917	230,747	293,710	312,883	280,360	316,601

Operational Impact: Declining parent involvement

Parents: Through PTA, VAB groups and booster clubs, parents continue to be a strong volunteer groups - but 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 2008-09 school year.*
- *The community liaison/family coordinator positions that were once part of the Title 1 schools have now 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 – volunteer recruitment, training and retention becomes even more difficult.*

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 drafted for the 2008-09 school year.*
- *The Communications/Community Relations Department works closely with the Community in Schools Campus Managers at Rivera, Borman, Calhoun and Denton High. (We also work with the North Texas CIS office in trying to add more campus managers.)*
- *Need to consider additional staffing at the campus level to help recruit, train and retain parent volunteers.*

As 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 at its state meeting in Austin on June 12.

The initiative will include getting statewide support from other educational associations, agencies and businesses to conduct statewide Public Service Announcements, billboards, posters, flyers, etc. to recruit more parents and other school volunteers.

Operational Impact: Increasing volunteer/community involvement

- Businesses, agencies and grandparents help where parent assistance is not available or not as strong. For example, at the annual Top Volunteer Reception, more than 40 percent of the top volunteers were grandparents or community volunteers.
- **Chamber of Commerce Tour:** The Adopt-A-School program initiated its first Chamber of Commerce Tour on Sept. 19, 2007 - in part to recruit more mentors

into the COOL program. (It was successful and a second one is planned for Sept. 24, 2008.)

- **Grandparents in Public Schools** – This program continues to grow. The Communications and Community Relations Department works directly with this group throughout the district.
- **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 75,733 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 February to improve parent/community involvement from that area. The group is initiating a Back-2-School Bash with the Navo Panthers, Providence Patriots, Paloma Creek Falcons and Savannah Gators from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21. It's an extremely active and growing group.

Ministerial programs

A big movement has been initiated to get churches more involved in the schools. This year the Adopt-A-School Program initiated a new award – The “Top Ministerial Partner”

The recipients include:

The Village Church – This Church donated 16,350 hours to help “transform” Calhoun Middle School. Last summer and continuing through this summer 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.

On June 14, they emptied the South Building at CMS and then prepared the portables for the teachers. They also continued painting various parts of the school. Last year they donated more than \$35,000 in supplies to help with the project and this summer (2008) they will spend more than \$26,000 to refurbish parts of the school.

The church members also mentor at Calhoun, Denton High, Borman and Rivera. At Newton Rayzor, they provide snacks. They also helped 42 Borman students and their families at Christmastime.

Highland Baptist Church - This church, under support of Bob Hardaway, sponsored Newton Rayzor’s numerous projects. They partnered 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 and even donate to the nurse’s station several items. They have made the Rayzor staff truly feel that they care about their students and school!

Singing Oaks Church of Christ: This church sponsored a carnival to raise money for Lee and Rivera – giving each \$1,000! This has been used for emergency needs for students in need. The church also conducted a glove drive for Rivera and has volunteers help the CIS coordinator – at that school. “They take the

initiative to meet the needs at Rivera and the community,” said CIS Coordinator Brenda Bennett.

Mentors:

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

- The Denton County Sheriff’s Department, under the leadership of Sheriff Ben Parkey, continued a mentoring program with Lee Elementary School.
- The volunteer program, initiated in 2004-05 with the residents of Robson Ranch, continues at Borman Elementary School.
- The universities provide volunteers throughout the year.
- On an ongoing basis, staff members from various businesses continue to volunteer.

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:

- Borman – includes Vanna Ingram’s Grandparents in Public Schools volunteers and the Robson Ranch volunteers
- Evers Park– includes members of the RSVP program
- Ginnings, Hawk, Hodge, Pecan Creek and Wilson – includes grandparents of students and grandparents in the community
- Ryan Elementary – includes Grandparents in Public Schools and Foster Grandparents
- Strickland – includes Grandparent in Public Schools
- Ann Windle School - includes students’ grandparents and Foster Grandparents

Goals to include more Grandparents:

- Planning another kick-off recruitment at Robson Ranch to recruit more Grandparents.
- Grandparents Day (Sept. 12, 2008) 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 program, area churches and the Communications and Community Relations Department have compiled this report that includes the volunteer hours for the 2007-08 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. Many of these parent volunteers will continue to be more 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.**
- To strive to get parents more involved in the education of their children. This will be a major goal for 2008-09.
- 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.
- 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 and to look at adding additional staffing at the school level to help recruit and maintain strong volunteer programs and effective parent involvement projects. (The department worked closely with CIS and Federal Programs Director Lisa Glenn in an attempt to get more CIS coordinators in the schools.)

Submitted by:

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