

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting: Aug. 9, 2011

## 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.
- 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 2010, 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 **320,000 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 2010-11 school year, volunteers contributed more than **344,665** 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 **\$6.43 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  
2004-2011 School Years

School	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11
Blanton Elem.					7,840	9,871	10,940
Borman Elem.	5,312	9,168	10,618	10,745	7,612	3,317	4,882
Cross Oaks Elem.							10,015
Evers Park Elem.	6,536	9,406	5,363	2,863	6,103	6,600	10,582
Ginnings Elem.	3,182	4,933	4,025	3,728	2,314	1,200	943
Hawk Elementary		10,425	20,486	9,414	10,521	17,268	13,531
Hodge Elementary	13,069	14,035	6,983	9,167	9,376	8,805	7,102
Houston Elem.	5,933	6,104	8,568	9,940	10,546	4,306	7,111
Lee Elementary	2,401	2,947	3,705	5,511	1,430	1,749	2,424
McNair Elem.	8,716	8,832	4,794	5,927	9,344	8,851	10,657
Nelson Elem.				6,384	3,678	6,792	5,788
Paloma Creek				7,091	10,011	5,312	5,713
Pecan Creek Elem.	6,078	5,073	6,492	6,832	2,906	2,551	3,200
Providence Elem.	6,154	8,581	3,485	4,933	6,999	7,574	4,189
E.P. Rayzor Elem.	13,511	7,291	9,852	8,195	7,344	5,839	19,533
N. Rayzor Elem.	7,575	7,513	4,611	7,857	8,611	6,776	3,446
Rivera Elementary	3,712	1,416	2,640	9,711	5,560	2,186	2,053
Ryan Elementary	11,353	14,370	16,104	10,753	14,464	14,023	10,236
Savannah Elem.			2,025	1,482	3,640	5,351	1,672
Stephens Elem.					4,162	3,827	3,150
Wilson Elementary	14,084	12,994	5,512	11,010	15,290	7,892	4,531
Ann Windle School	59,458	74,098	71,895	75,733	68,078	75,675	44,677
Gonzalez School							2,082
<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>	<b>201,040</b>
Calhoun Middle	4,219	4,192	1,765	1,571	2,157	1,620	21,907
Crownover Middle	3,587	2,743	3,054	3,083	3,692	2,160	5,810
Harpool Middle					8,131	10,515	11,575
McMath Middle	3,293	6,054	7,829	5,832	2,687	1,528	5,832
Navo Middle			1,253	2,238	1,136	2,049	1,999
Strickland Middle	8,146	6,616	6,877	5,974	4,801	5,542	9,050
<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>	<b>56,173</b>
Denton High	37,560	36,439	26,318	13,456	13,374	28,531	16,515
Guyer High		33,420	18,070	34,162	35,228	29,562	32,200
Ryan High	69,831	25,492	24,145	25,996	35,778	36,530	48,357
<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>	<b>97,072</b>
Community Vol.:		566	2,628	447	430	2,219	115
City Council PTA	N/A	376	1,359	216	1,083	20	2,848
<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>	<b>344,665</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 2011-12 school year. The volunteers met in March to develop ways volunteers can assist in helping to fill the void caused by budget cuts.*
- *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 tabulate because some volunteers are being marked as "visitors." The systems improved greatly this past school year.*
- *The number of Community In Schools program coordinators are being decreased in the district and the liaison/family coordinator positions that were once part of the Title I schools have all been eliminated.*
- *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.*
- *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 being published for the 2011-12 school year.*

As past president of the Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE) and Texas School Public Relations Association, the Communications and Community Relations director initiated a statewide plan 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 part-time reps during school hours at Borman, Rivera, Calhoun and Denton High. This summer, the district has received notice that a second 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant has been awarded 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 80 partners in education were honored at the annual AAS Awards luncheon in May.
  2. **Adopt-A-School/Chamber of Commerce Tour:** The Adopt-A-School: *Partners in Education* program initiated its fourth Chamber of Commerce Tour on Sept. 29, 2010 - 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 is being planned for Wednesday, Aug. 31.)
  
- **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 105 grandparents attending. **The 2011 event is scheduled for Oct. 21.**
  
- **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 44,677 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 second event on Aug. 16 had an estimated 1,500 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. 15.
  
- **Kid Life Advisory Group** – In conjunction with the *Denton Record-Chronicle* the district initiated these two groups – Students Reporters and Parents - in October, 2008. It includes student reporters from each participating elementary school – and their parents. (This year's budgetary decreases diminished this group.)

## **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:

**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. This group donated a big portion of Calhoun’s 21,907 volunteer hours.

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 department worked in conjunction with the school attorney to establish appropriate guidelines for these 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. They also provided holiday assistance to six Stephens’ families.

**The Bridge** – They gave backpacks and school supplies to the students at Ginnings and helped with their Keep Ginnings Beautiful day. They also helped with the Ginnings school fair where they provide games and bounce houses.

**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.

**Lifeline Church** – They provide assemblies at Calhoun through its CIS programs about positive decision making. They also donated 40 turkeys to Denton ISD families for Thanksgiving and donated many food baskets for Denton ISD families to have during Spring Break.

**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. 20.

### **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.
- 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 last summer and expanded to Strickland Middle School this summer. The volunteers who helped these at risk middle-schoolers logged in **3,460 hours** working with these male students on a weekly basis. 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 was 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 –established a volunteer program at this new school. 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. 9, 2011) is now an annual event in DISD to encourage grandparents to get involved in their children’s education and to volunteer in the schools.
- Pecan Creek Elementary is piloting a Grandparent Recruitment during the Sept. 9, 2011, Grandparents Days.

## **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 2010-11 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 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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