



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2017

KEEP IRVING BEAUTIFUL PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS **Thirteen Individuals and Groups Honored in Ten Categories**

(IRVING, TEXAS)— Keep Irving Beautiful’s annual “Mayor and KIB Awards” ceremony was held on Monday, August 7 at the First Baptist Church of Irving. The Fellowship Hall was filled with the beautiful music of harpist Becky Scherschell as the 151 guests were greeted and signed in by volunteers Sandy Franco, Chuck Kirk, Elouise McMillian, and Chandler Ude. They enjoyed a delicious appetizer buffet prepared by Glory House Catering, while T.J. Friedel captured the moments with her photography and Matt Webb provided technical support.

KIB’s Volunteer Recognition Committee chair and hostess for the evening Margie Stipes opened the ceremony by inviting members of Boy Scout Troop 508 to present the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Gus Gonzalez from Blue Print Church delivered the invocation, after which KIB Staff Rick Hose and Julie Schmitt gave an overview of activities during the past year. Mistress of Ceremonies Cathy Whiteman of Irving Community Television Network, accompanied by honorary chair Mayor Rick Stopfer, then came on stage to present the awards to the following honorees:

- Youth Leadership Award: **Boy Scout Troop 508**
- Educator Award: **Kelly Giddens, Principal, Barton Elementary**
- Educator Award: **Brandon Morton, North Lake College**
- Faith Group Award: **Baptist Benevolent Ministries of Irving**
- Business and Industry Award: **FASTSIGNS Irving/Las Colinas**
- Business and Industry Award: **Verizon**
- Media Award: **Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce**
- Civic Organization Award: **DFW Humane Society**
- Lifetime Achievement Award: **Shareen Altum**
- Civil Servant Award: **Detective John Schingle, Irving Police Department**
- Green Government Award: **City of Irving Water Utilities Department**
- KIB Hometown Award: **Barry Allen**
- KIB Hometown Award: **David Palmer**

In addition to these winners, recipients of national and state awards were also recognized. These included the **City of Irving Code Enforcement**, which won **First Place** in the **Overall Community Improvement** category from **Keep America Beautiful**, and **Second Place** in the **Government** Category from **Keep Texas Beautiful**. **Keep Irving Beautiful** was acknowledged for achieving the **President’s Circle Award** from **Keep America Beautiful**, the **Gold Star Award** from **Keep Texas Beautiful**, and the **Award of Sustained Excellence** at both the state and national level.

“Speaking for myself and for many of us on the KIB Board of Directors, this is one of our favorite events of the year,” said Mrs. Stipes. “While we do try to let our volunteers and sponsors know

how much they mean to us throughout the year, it is especially nice to have an event that is dedicated to expressing our gratitude to them and recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in their service to our community. We are truly honored to have them here as our guests for this very special evening.”

[Keep Irving Beautiful](#) is a non-profit, grassroots, leadership organization dedicated to educating our community about litter abatement, recycling, and beautification to help preserve the health and promote the social and economic prosperity of our city. As an award-winning affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful, Keep Irving Beautiful reaches out to all sectors of our city including government, business, church, cultural, educational, neighborhood and civic organizations. If you are interested in volunteering with KIB, or making your activity a “green event,” please go to [Keep Irving Beautiful](#), or call (972) 721-2175.