



Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



All Things Made New

“All Things Made New” is an Irving-based mentoring program for young people that started as a dream of founder Michelle Flores, to help teenage girls who needed support and encouragement. From humble beginnings in 2012, when it was simply a once-monthly meeting for middle school girls in city park building, the program has grown substantially to where it is today. They moved to their own location on South Main in 2015, and now have a wide variety of initiatives serving a larger base. These are:

- More than Gold: For middle and high school girls
- Iron Roots: 5th to 8th grade boys
- Family Point: For the family unit, with the Café con Leche activity for mothers
- Campus Crew: On-campus mentoring for middle school girls
- Dream Makers: For adult volunteers, where the question is asked—“If not you, who? If not now, when?”

The goal is to develop “faith, friendships, financial responsibility and futures filled with opportunity” for the young people and the adults in their lives.

KIB first became acquainted with All Things Made New when Michelle and her husband Adan were looking for volunteer opportunities, and registered for the annual Spring cleanup, and the Don’t Mess with Texas Trash-Off. That meeting led to partnering together in the “no-sew” blanket project. KIB provides fleece material, and the youth and adults prepare the material by cutting strips along the edges, then assemble



Girls from the All Things Made New Program display one of the no-sew baby blankets they made together.

the blankets by tying them together, resulting in a “no-sew” blanket. This activity has been very popular with the different groups at All Things Made New, and this year they have made a total of 10 blankets, giving 85 hours of volunteer service in the process. Regarding the opportunity to be of service, Michelle said, “we are thankful to be a blessing in a small part to the community, and grateful to Keep Irving Beautiful for partnering with us.”

For more about how All Things Made New inspires and encourages pre-teen and teen-age girls and boys, as well as their parents and families, please go to their website: www.allthingsmadenew.net, or scan the QR code below:



Local Non-Profits Benefit from Blankets

The no-sew blanket project mentioned in the story about All Things Made New above started in 2016, and numerous groups have been a part of this ongoing service project, either as the ones making the blankets or as those receiving them. In 2017, blankets (either adult or baby sized) have been donated to Baylor Scott and White Hospital, Irving Family Advocacy Center, Brighter Tomorrows, and the Baptist Benevolent Ministries Crisis Ministries Food Pantry. Groups participating have included Girl Scout troops,

Cub Scout packs, faith groups, and programs like All Things Made New. As one of the KIB Board members was quoted, this is typical of what KIB does in the community. “Here is a group of teens who are being mentored by All Things Made New, working together to make and donate blankets to fellow members of the Irving community in need. That’s what KIB is really all about - bringing people together to work toward a common goal of improving our community.”

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Did You Know?

Here are some ways to be a little more eco-friendly during this holiday season, courtesy of our friends at Earth 911:

- Give an experience rather than a physical gift. Think beyond the “stuff” and give an art class, museum trip or other adventure that will be lasting memory
- Repurpose your old gift cards into tree garland, gift tags, ornaments or collages
- Instead of throwing away the Christmas tree, use the branches as kindling for your fireplace, or recycle it through your local municipality. (The City of Irving Solid Waste Services Department will pick up trees curbside, and turn them into “Mustang Mulch.” which can be purchased for a nominal fee).



Staff and volunteers at the Irving Family Advocacy Center (above) were happy to accept one of the many blankets made by KIB volunteer partners.

You shop. Amazon gives.

A reminder that you can support KIB while doing your online holiday shopping. Log on to Amazon through their Amazon Smile site, choose Keep Irving Beautiful as your non-profit, and shop away! KIB receives a percentage of all purchases, which will go to enhance KIB programs. Thank you!

