



Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



KIB Volunteers in Action

Keep Irving Beautiful volunteers continue to be of service, participating in a variety of activities while respecting the social distancing guidelines. October saw the completion of two long-awaited tree planting projects which involved partnerships and collaborations with several groups. The first project was on October 3, with Irving Girl Scouts from Troops 6458, 3472 and 1810 gathering at Running Bear Park for a morning of service. Under the guidance of the Parks Arbor Team, the seven girls and five adult sponsors planted eleven trees which had been purchased with funds from a UPS Foundation Grant that KIB had received through their affiliation with Keep America Beautiful. The next week, employee volunteers from "Acosta Cares" met at Bird's Fort Trail Park to plant twelve trees. These were purchased with funds donated by BAPS Charities and their "Walk Green 2019" fundraiser. BAPS has a worldwide goal of planting one billion trees, and KIB is happy to be part of that goal.



Scouts learn tree planting techniques from Parks Staff at Running Bear Park

bringing them to the KIB office. KIB staff delivered the blankets to Brighter Tomorrows and The Main Place. All Things Made New (ATMN) youth and mentors also were busy making two blankets for the project.

Vizient employees, inspired by the recent Trash Bash, conducted two cleanups on their own at Bird's Fort Trail and TW Richardson Grove. They reported results to KIB, along with pictures, with a total of 14 volunteers, 58 hours and 75 pounds of litter collected.

The No-Sew Blanket Project remains as popular as ever, with volunteers working individually or in small groups to make the blankets. Members of the Dawoodi Bohras of Irving faith group made 20 blankets (18 volunteers giving 36 hours of service). To minimize contact, they washed the blankets and placed them in plastic bags prior to

KIB staff conducted the annual Litter Index survey on October 2, driving a pre-selected route which covers all areas of the city, and scoring based on the amount of visible litter. Results from the 2020 survey indicated that overall litter has decreased 37% from the original baseline in 2001. Factors contributing to this decrease in visible litter include KIB's active Adopt-a-Spot program, the city's dedicated litter team, and the ongoing efforts of our Irving residents to help keep the city clean. The Litter Index is a Keep America Beautiful program, and is a requirement for affiliates to achieve the President's Circle level.

Winding Down the Year 2020

As we near the end of each year, here at KIB we typically turn our thoughts to reflecting on the past year and our efforts to preparing award applications. Staff will start compiling data from a number of sources to complete the very detailed Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA) application, part of the Keep Texas Beautiful program, as well as individual state award applications for some of our worthy partners.

Arbor Day is always a fun event each November, and KIB, along with the Parks Department and Irving ISD, will host this year's event at Nimitz High School on November 13. Nimitz was chosen for their many years of promoting sound environmental practices such as recycling. This event will be part of a Texas Forest Service simulcast with areas around the state celebrating Texas Arbor Day.

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The Acosta Cares team at Bird's Fort Trail Park



The Dawoodi Bohras of Irving made 20 no-sew blankets



Vizient employee volunteers at TW Richardson Grove cleanup



Texas Arbor Day - a celebration of trees - is a November highlight

