

# KIB Newsletter



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Katherine Villarreal, director of NLC' Service Learning, and student Josh Hamlin at last semester's SL Fair.



Coordinator Rick Hose hopes to have another bountiful crop at KIB's plot at the Community Garden this year.



One of the many paint projects from 2014. Contech volunteers painted all of Lively Pointe Youth Center during their days of service.

## KIB is Busy Planning for An Eventful Spring Season

KIB Board and Staff are busy planning activities and projects with our partners for the upcoming year. It's always exciting to welcome new groups into the KIB family, as well as welcoming back partners who have been with us for many years. One of those long time partners is North Lake College. KIB will participate in the Service Learning Program again this spring, marking our twelfth semester. We will talk to prospective students at the Service Learning Fair on campus on February 11 and 12. We are also excited about continuing to work with the Phi Theta Kappa leadership team at North Lake in a variety of projects.

KIB will be planting in our raised bed at the newly named "Gerald Taylor Memorial Garden" at Bear Creek Church. Gerald was the driving force behind the creation of the garden, and although he lost his battle with liver cancer last fall, his legacy lives on in the garden. KIB staff member Julie Schmitt attended a kick-off meeting at the church on January 11 to learn about new policies regarding volunteers and donating produce. A community planting day will be held on Saturday, February 8 and "Green Thumb Day" on March 8.

We have been scouting numerous locations with the Parks Staff for potential volunteer projects. We will continue to help expand the city's new tree farm at Mountain Creek Preserve with a two-day planting project with employee volunteers from Contech Engineered Solutions, now in their fourth year of partnership with KIB. Other projects in the planning stages are painting at park facilities like the Fritz Park Petting Farm with Verizon employee volunteers in May. Looks like 2014 will be another beautiful year in Irving!

Don't mess with Texas

TRASH-OFF

APRIL 5, 2014

Join us at Trinity View Park for this event!

The date for the "Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off" has been set. We will meet at Trinity View Park on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to noon. This is sponsored by our state affiliate, Keep Texas Beautiful, and is part of the Great American Cleanup, a nationwide program from our national affiliate, Keep America Beautiful. All ages are welcome to help clean and prevent litter from getting into the nearby Elm Fork of the Trinity River.

Registration is available online at [www.rockthegreen.org](http://www.rockthegreen.org).

## What's Happening at KIB:

It was great to see our board members again for our first monthly board meeting of the year on January 15. Like the staff, the board is ready to guide KIB to another great year in 2014. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at 11:00 a.m. at the KIB office. Visitors are welcome, but we do ask that you contact us first if you would like to attend a meeting.

On Friday, January 30, KIB Staff attended the Chamber's "Quarterly Newsmakers Reception" where board member Margie Stipes was recognized for her 3rd place KTB Award in the OP Schnabel Senior Citizen category. KIB was also honored by the Parks and Recreation Department with the Community Service Award at their annual ceremony on December 9.

Please note that because KIB staff will be heading to Charlotte, NC on Monday, Feb 3, to attend the Keep America Beautiful National Conference, the office will be closed from the 3rd through the 6th, and will reopen on Friday, Feb 7. Both Rick and Julie are looking forward to attending the educational sessions and networking with other affiliates from around the country.