

Around the State: Buckner volunteers work and pray; Texas Hunger Initiative receives major grant

March 22, 2017

Eighty volunteers participated in a cleanup and prayer walk at the proposed site of the new [Buckner Family Hope Center](#) at Bachman Lake in Dallas. The adults and children cleaned the property and then broke into groups to pray on each of the four corners of the property. They prayed for the community—its health, its children and for its people to find hope.

The [Texas Hunger Initiative](#) at Baylor University received a \$3 million grant from the Walmart Foundation. The institute will use the grant to build coalitions for hunger-free communities across the state, continue child nutrition program outreach and conduct research to evaluate its effectiveness.

Caprock Plains Baptist Area and Amarillo Area Baptist Association will sponsor the sixth annual West Texas After-Easter Pastor Retreat, April 17-18 at Plains Baptist Camp and Conference Center. Retreat leaders include **Howie Batson**, pastor of First Baptist Church in Amarillo; **Bobby Dagnel**, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lubbock; **Clinton Lowin**, dean of the School of Religion and Philosophy at Wayland Baptist University; and **Robert Black**, minister of music at First Baptist Church in Muleshoe. For a registration form, call Susan Barkley at (806) 296-2751 or email caprockplains@nts-online.net.

The National Association for Professional Development Schools granted an

Exemplary Professional Development School Achievement Award to the partnership between Baylor University's School of Education and Midway Independent School District. The award—given to only three partnerships this year—recognizes collaborations that “shape educator leadership and practice.” Three schools in the Midway district—Midway High School, Midway Middle School and Spring Valley Elementary School—are designated as Baylor Professional Development School campuses, where undergraduate teacher candidates are placed in classrooms with mentor teachers to learn best practices. Baylor's School of Education also partners with four other elementary schools and two intermediate schools in the district. Last fall, the Midway district hosted 97 Baylor teacher candidates. Of those, 58 were senior-level Baylor students serving as teaching interns and co-teaching in classrooms for the full day Monday-Thursday during the entire academic year. Midway also hosted 39 junior-level Baylor students as teaching associates who conduct small-group and full-class instruction in the schools each morning Monday-Thursday.

Six Dallas churches—Park Cities Baptist, Friendship West Baptist, Concord, Fellowship Dallas, Highland Park Presbyterian and Prestoncrest Church of Christ—and the nonprofit Dallas Leadership Foundation will lead the Transform Dallas citywide community day of service, April 8. Organizers expect more than 4,000 volunteers from at least 100 churches, corporations and community organizations to work on about 250 projects, including painting and repairing homes, feeding the homeless, visiting hospital patients, reading to children and clearing debris. Leading up to the event, nearly two-dozen Dallas pastors will swap pulpits March 26 to strengthen dialogue and relationships across denominational, racial, ethnic and socio-economic lines.