

Even before classes begin, Texas Baptist students serve

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Incoming freshmen at Texas Baptist universities were active in making a difference in their new found communities, even before they began classes.

Approximately 80 Howard Payne University students joined in communitywide efforts to clean up Lake Brownwood. They removed five tons of garbage from the lake that day.

More than 150 [East Texas Baptist University](#) students spent their last Saturday of the summer serving others in the Marshall community. ETBU students divided into 16 groups and performed a variety of service projects, both near campus and throughout the city of Marshall.

New students participated in S.M.A.S.H. (Students Making a Second Home) activities in order to be introduced to ETBU.

Blair Prevost, director of student activities, said: "Community service is an important tradition and part of college life at ETBU. Individual students, student organizations and various sports teams all intentionally incorporate this significant part of the Christian life into what they do. As such, we want to make sure we introduce the idea of service and community involvement to all our new students from the beginning of their time at ETBU."

While learning the culture and traditions of [Dallas Baptist University](#) during the school's Student Welcome and Transition Week, students experienced servant leadership firsthand.



More than 150 new students volunteered to help with community service projects. Dallas Baptist University's Nikki Hixson was part of a team that served on a painting crew at Habitat for Humanity Dallas during the school's SWAT week.

More than 600 students participated in service projects at 19 local ministries and organizations across the DFW Metroplex.

The student projects ranged from stocking shelves in local food pantries and landscaping to playing with children and visiting with residents in a nursing home.

Approximately 80 [Howard Payne University](#) students joined with community organizations to work on four projects—the Corinne T. Smith Animal Center, Lake Brownwood, the Brownwood Area Community Garden and a historic home being renovated for use by the Heart of Texas Christian Women's Job Corps.

Thirty-five HPU students served the Christian Women's Job Corps by aiding in renovations to a two-story, historic home on Center Avenue.



East Texas Baptist University freshman Lauren Fedor of Canton painted a piece of playground equipment at William B. Travis Elementary School in Marshall.

"The students got us off to a good start," said Bettie Evans, director of the organization. "Several of the students were asking if they could come back and help some more, so we are looking forward to working with them in the future."

Incoming [Baylor University](#) freshmen did their project during orientation in July.

They partnered with the Texas Hunger Initiative and the Food Planning Task Force of McLennan County to canvass Waco neighborhoods to increase awareness and participation in the Summer Food Service Program to ensure all children had access to healthy and nutritious meals during their summer break from school.

Many children have little to eat when school is out.