

Student volunteers demonstrate ETBU cares about its community

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MARSHALL—[East Texas Baptist University](#) students sacrificed personal time on a Saturday morning to show Marshall “ETBU cares.”

The school’s Great Commission Center sponsors ETBU Cares as an annual community service event. This year, more than 100 students worked on seven projects at six sites, said Lisa Seeley, director of the center.

☒ East Texas Baptist University students Nicki Goins and Dana Boyd move hay bales at the Family Life Center of First Baptist Church in Marshall as part of ETBU Cares Day. The students help prepare the Family Life Center for a Barn Dance Fundraiser to benefit Living Alternatives. (PHOTO / Mike Midkiff)Members of the Tiger football team and coaches demonstrated teamwork and strength at Dayspring Therapeutic Equestrian Center of Harrison County. The football players cut down trees, piled up brush and performed maintenance work in the horse stables. The center is a nonprofit organization that enhances the independence and life skills of individuals with disabilities through programs with horses.

Another student group helped Habitat for Humanity of the Marshall Area. The local Habitat organization posted on its Facebook page: “Thanks to ETBU for supplying four helpers today to clean out the portable building and placing everything on our shelves in our warehouse. Today was ‘ETBU Cares’ Day, so you probably saw quite a few students around town helping with projects.”

One team of ETBU student volunteers helped prepare the family life center at First Baptist Church of Marshall for a barn dance to raise funds for Living Alternatives of Marshall. Living Alternatives provides spiritual, economic and community support for women and couples facing an unplanned pregnancy. The students moved hay bales and decorated the family life center.

ETBU students also completed service projects at My Friend's House, Boy's and Girl's Club of the Big Pines and Robert E. Lee Elementary School.

"This annual event grows a little bigger each year," Seeley said. "In the future, we hope to expand the service opportunities and include local churches on the team of those serving."