

# The KIB NEWSLETTER



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## JFK GROVES PROJECT



AmeriCorps volunteers joined in the JFK Groves event

On Saturday, November 2, a partnership with KIB, the City of Irving, the Texas Trees Foundation and 87 volunteers of all ages resulted in 50 trees being planted at Thomas Jefferson Park. Irving was one of seven Metroplex communities which participated in this event which honored the legacy of John F. Kennedy.

A father-son team enjoying the day at Jefferson Park.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 5—KIB staff will attend a Keep America Beautiful Webinar about the Great American Cleanup
- Dec 7— The City of Irving's Holiday Extravaganza, with Chili Cook-off, Parade and Tree Lighting
- Dec 9—KIB staff will be honored at City Hall with an award from the Parks Department, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 24-25—KIB office will be closed for the Christmas holiday, and re-open on the 26th.

Although we are winding down our activities, the end of the year always means Keep Texas Beautiful Awards season for KIB. We are busy preparing nominations not just for the Governor's Community Achievement Award, but for several of our outstanding partners who deserve to be recognized. Winners will be announced in March, so wish us luck!

## NOVEMBER RECAP

- Nov 8—Arbor Day Celebration at Lively Elementary, the IISD champion paper recycler. The school received a red oak tree from the Parks Department and a trophy from KIB, and enjoyed seeing Smokey the Bear and Kirby at the ceremony, along with city dignitaries.
- Nov 9—Porter's Unite For Troops. KIB is always proud to support this Veterans Day event.
- Nov 11 and 18—The paint project at Northwest Park was completed by 11 volunteers from AmeriCorps and NLC Service Learning, with a total of 42 hours of service.
- Nov 14—KIB staff attends a Keep Texas Beautiful webinar
- Nov 20—Final KIB Board meeting of 2013
- Nov 22—America Recycles Day Celebration. KIB partnered with the Irving Family YMCA seniors group this year, and celebrated their results (786 pounds collected) at a breakfast, where they also received the official ARD presidential proclamation.



The Lively Green Team and Student Council pose with Smokey, Kirby and their new red oak

## THOUGHTS FROM KIB COORDINATOR RICK HOSE:

KIB board, staff and volunteers had another busy year in 2013. We hosted our 1st waterway only cleanup with 30 enthusiastic volunteers attacking litter pollution at the water level. As a team this group collected and stopped almost 800 pounds of litter from reaching the Gulf of Mexico. KIB also hosted several land based cleanups that removed thousands of pounds of litter from our public spaces, allowing Irving residents and visitors to enjoy a cleaner and healthier outdoor experience. 2013 also saw KIB participating in Irving's first community garden, which provided fresh, healthy vegetables for the food bank, church members and participants. KIB continued to focus on school partnerships by attending career days, festivals and the now famous annual Arbor Day tree planting held at Lively. Let's not forget our beautification efforts where KIB volunteers painted and restored several park pavilions and also helped plant hundreds of trees.