

# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter

## Housing and Human Services

This month our spotlight is on the City of Irving's Housing and Human Services (HHS) Department, whose purpose is "to help our community by providing housing and infrastructure improvements, social services partnerships and quality of life enhancements." Under the leadership of Director Steve Reed and Assistant Director Vicki Ebner, they are also guided by a board which consists of nine Irving residents. On their web page, you can find a variety of innovative programs designed to assist Irving's low and moderate income residents. Among these are three US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grants which are administered through the HHS Department, which are:

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Emergency Solution Grants
- Home Investment Partnership Grants

These grants can greatly improve the quality of life for those who qualify, and the HHS staff will be happy to help residents in determining their eligibility.



**The ribbon cutting at La Buena Vida House, held on November 10, was well-attended by community leaders as they welcomed the facility to Irving.**

The city also offers a Home Restoration and an Emergency Repair program, as well as an Accessibility Program for senior or disabled residents to alleviate mobility concerns.

HHS played a big role in the recent revitalization of Tudor Lane, where multi-family units that had fallen into disrepair were replaced with single-family, energy-efficient homes. They offered assistance for first

time home buyers who now call Tudor Lane their home. They have a new neighbor in "La Buena Vida House," a facility for homeless teen and young adult males who are enrolled in Irving ISD schools. They also hope to have a home like this for young female students in similar situations, to help them succeed in both school and life.

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### *Did You Know?*

With the holidays coming up, Earth 911 is featuring "15 Eco-Friendly Products to Green your Holiday Entertaining," from companies such as:

- Corkology - cutting boards made from recycled cork
- Ecolution - eco-friendly cookware made without PFOA (that would be perfluorooctanoic acid!)
- If You Care - unbleached paper baking sheets and aluminum foil packaged in 100% recycled material



**Elliott Elementary won the paper recycling award and hosted Arbor Day on November 13 (above). KIB and Margie were honored at the Chamber Recognition Event held on November 10 (below).**

## Awards Season is Upon Us

As we get into colder weather and the holiday season, at KIB we shift our focus to awards. We like to acknowledge the fantastic work that is being done by our partners here in Irving, and what better way than to nominate them for an award? KIB staff is busy preparing Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) Award applications, and one of these is the Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA), which is not just for KIB as the local affiliate, but for the entire Irving community. As we gather the information and put the application together, it really gives us a perspective on just how much has happened during the past year, and inspires us to do even more. Speaking of awards, our own Margie Stipes was recently honored with an Exemplary

Woman of Irving Award. And as a 2nd Place KTB Leadership Award winner, she was acknowledged at the Chamber of Commerce quarterly event, along with KIB for achieving the KTB "Sustained Excellence" award for the eighth consecutive year. That represents scoring a 90 or above on the GCAA, and we couldn't have done it without you! To keep up with what's happening at KIB, go to [www.keepirvingbeautiful.org](http://www.keepirvingbeautiful.org), or scan the QR code on the right. And if you'd like to help KIB as you do your shopping, please go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and link your Kroger Plus card to KIB using our number **58908**.

