

# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



## Reflecting on 2016

As this year winds down, we are looking ahead with anticipation as to what 2017 will bring. But first, we'd like to look back on 2016, another successful year for Keep Irving Beautiful, thanks to the dedication of our many volunteers and sponsors. Here are some of our results:

**Litter Abatement:** Our nine cleanups, including the Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off and the Trash Bash, had 1,017 volunteers who gave 3,096 hours of service in collecting more than 10,600 pounds of trash and recyclables. As has been the case for many years, sponsor Frito-Lay provided donations of chips for our volunteers' lunches at both major cleanups. Our first project with new sponsor Xylem, a company dedicated to solving water issues, was a cleanup next to the Trinity River, keeping litter out of that important waterway. Our Adopt-a-Spot volunteers continued to amaze us with their dedication in keeping their locations clean, and gave more than 5,000 hours in collecting 3,000 bags of trash and recyclable materials.

**Beautification:** 2016 was the "year of the pool," as we painted at two of Irving's aquatic facilities. Nimitz High School FFA and Student Council volunteers finished paint work at Senter Pool that had been started in 2015, then we tackled Lively Pointe Pool in three separate projects with Acosta Cares, UD Men's Lacrosse, GSA Troop 2871 and longtime sponsor Vizient for their annual Community Day project, our 8th consecutive year to participate in this program. North Lake Phi Theta Kappa members painted at Shady Grove Trail and the Verizon Green Team painted at the Lively



The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off in April.

Pointe Recreation Center. Tree planting was a big focus, with completion of projects from two UPS Foundation grants. Contech Engineered Solutions and Land Design, Inc. volunteers planted 129 native trees at the Tree Farm at Mountain Creek Preserve, while UPS volunteers planted 45 native trees along the Campion Trails at Bird's Fort Trail to replace those lost in flooding. We also helped honor our top IISD paper recycler, Barton Elementary, with a trophy and a lovely red oak for their courtyard for the 2016 Arbor Day Celebration. Barton collected 86,240 pounds of paper (an average of 102 pounds per student!) to win this honor.

**Recycling:** Our Green Events program provided recycling at eight different community events, like the Dia de la Familia Fun Run and the Unite for Troops Veterans Day event. The Irving YMCA seniors group teamed up with KIB for America Recycles Day, and collected 800 pounds of recyclables in November. We also brought our pro-recycling environmental mascot skit to 1,200 IISD students, as well as to our friends at Emma's House.

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### Did You Know?

KIB expanded our programming this year, and tried a few new things, such as:

**Library visits** - KIB staff set up an information table at the South Library in August and the West Library in December and talked with library visitors about maintaining clean public spaces and volunteer projects. They distributed car litter bags and other items.

**Blankets** - KIB joined with two youth groups for projects to make blankets: the Holy Family Total Youth Ministry accompanied KIB staff at Emma's House and helped them make the blankets, which were donated to the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, while the Young Men's Service League Irving Chapter not only helped to make 14 baby blankets, they also donated the material for 12 of them, which were given to the White Rose Women's Center.



Acosta Cares employee volunteers painted at Lively Pointe Pool in May.



Barton Elementary's Green Team at Arbor Day



KIB and Total Youth Ministry at Emma's House



UPS Volunteers at Bird's Fort Trail

