

# KEEP IRVING BEAUTIFUL NEWSLETTER



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## KIB STARTS 2018 WITH DAY OF SERVICE

We are all familiar with the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, officially held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of January every year. But you may not have known that it has been designated as a **national day of service**, thanks to the King Holiday and Service Act, passed by Congress in 1994. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to make the MLK holiday “**a day on, not a day off**” by volunteering. Participation has grown steadily, with the biggest surge coming from schools, and that is certainly true here. KIB collaborated with a group from Cistercian Preparatory High School in Irving for a service project at Senter Park Recreation Center. A total of 18 students and adult sponsors tackled a paint project at the center, giving a fresh coat of paint to the youth activities room, and generating 45 volunteer hours in the process. This is the second year that Cistercian has chosen KIB as one of the organizations to work with on MLK Day, and the results of their efforts will be appreciated by the many visitors to Senter Park. At KIB, we feel that this was a great way to kick off a new year, and we look forward to many more volunteer projects throughout 2018.

## KIB HONORED WITH NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN DALLAS

KIB staff recently attended the Keep America Beautiful National Conference, and this year it was held close to home, in Dallas. More than 300 attendees gathered at the Fairmont Hotel from January 16 - 19 to network, share ideas, learn from experts in their fields, and celebrate KAB's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event also featured an awards ceremony, where KIB received the President's Circle Award, the highest level an affiliate can achieve in the program, and the prestigious Sustained Excellence Award, for the third consecutive year. Of the more than 600 affiliates nation-wide, only 8 achieved that distinction, and KIB is proud to be one of them. Now we turn our attention to preparing and submitting nominations for the Keep Texas Beautiful Awards, which will be presented in June. Not only do we submit the Governor's Community Achievement Award on behalf of our entire Irving community, we also will be nominating some of our partners for state awards in various categories. That's the great thing about being in Irving – we never run out of outstanding groups and individuals worthy of nominating for an award!



*Cistercian volunteers at Senter Park (top and middle). KIB staff accepts Sustained Excellence Award from Keep America Beautiful CEO Helen Lowman. (bottom).*

