

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Jonathan Van  
Public Relations Chair  
214-280-1589  
jonathanhuangvan@gmail.com

## **Community fair to focus on health and wellness, resources for Dove Springs**

AUSTIN, Texas—The Project, the largest single-day student and community-run service event in the nation, taking place in the Dove Springs and Onion Creek Plantation communities on February 25, will focus on community wellness and neighborhood improvements.

*Established in 1999 by the University of Texas at Austin's Volunteer and Service Learning Center, The Project involves student volunteers, city government departments, community organizations and local businesses. Since its inception, the project has involved more than 19,500 student volunteers completing more than 64,000 hours of service in 10 Austin neighborhoods. More information about the event and the community fair can be found online at [utproject.org](http://utproject.org)*

“We are anticipating over 2100 volunteers,” says Amory Baril, program coordinator at The University of Texas at Austin’s Volunteer and Service Learning Center, and The Project’s advisor. “The 78744 zip code is an extremely under-served area of Austin, and we are excited about the chance to help connect the university community with a neighborhood they might not have much knowledge of.”

In addition to the volunteer projects going on throughout the neighborhood, a community health fair will take place at Consuelo Mendez Middle School from 11am-3pm. Vendors such as Smile Center Dental, The Sustainable Food Center, H-E-B, and Seton Healthcare will have information and workshops going on throughout the fair aimed at helping families make health and wellness a priority in their daily routines.

“The 78744 zip code has one of the highest obesity rates in Travis County,” said Ofelia Zapata, a Dove Springs resident and community leader. “We want this community to get involved in turning around that trend.” Several organizations will provide glucose and blood pressure screenings, as well as healthy eating workshops and information about access to local health care.

Other activities at the fair include choir performances by local elementary schools, Zumba and other active dance mini-classes, food preparation demonstrations by H-E-B, and a raffle for fair attendees.

###