

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Project 2012 hosts its annual event at Dove Springs and Onion Creek**

AUSTIN, Texas—The Project, the largest single-day student and community-run service event in the nation, is gearing up to work with the Dove Springs and Onion Creek Plantation communities on February 25.

“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.”

Established in 1999 by the 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.

New partnerships for 2012 are set to make this year’s event the biggest yet. Approximately 200 students from St. Edwards University will participate in the event as volunteers and site leaders, and some will join the planning team in the fall. “This is a neighborhood that St. Edwards students are already very involved with because of our proximity to Dove Springs,” says Lou Serna, staff member in the Office of Community Engagement, “It seemed like a natural fit.”

Alumni around the world will also be giving their time as part of Texas Exes Cares About THE PROJECT, a new service initiative of The Texas Exes. “This is a network-wide commitment to service throughout the month of February, anchored by the campus-run event,” Baril said. “We’ll have about 100 volunteers from the Austin chapter at the local event, which far exceeds our expectations for the first year of the program.”

Worksites for The Project throughout Dove Springs and Onion Creek Plantation include: River City Youth Foundation, Dove Springs Recreation Center, Blazier Elementary, and many more. Volunteers will repaint offices, blacktop, and benches, build an outdoor classroom, clear brush, pick up trash, plant flowers and refurbish playgrounds.

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