



NEWS

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GBRA Employees Complete “Our Day to Shine” Volunteer Project in San Marcos

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEGUIN – Painting bedrooms, landscaping and building a playscape may not sound like typical activities for a state river authority, but they were all in a day’s work for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority’s “Our Day To Shine” volunteer program held Saturday, March 20 at the Southside Community Center Emergency Shelter in San Marcos, Texas.

The Volunteer Program was founded in December 2000 to help improve the quality of life in the communities GBRA serves throughout its ten-county district. GBRA employees, who receive no pay for their volunteer service, donate their time, energy, talents and skills to help non-profit or government organizations engaged in civic, health, education, social services and other charitable pursuits.

The program’s annual highlight is “Our Day to Shine” – a full-day event dedicated to one significant project that has broad community impact. This year, approximately 70 volunteers arrived at the shelter early in the morning, hoping to complete an ambitious schedule by the end of the day. Don Rains, Charles Patton, Jim Neuhaus, John T. Wade and Roy Nieto of Rogelio’s Restaurant treated them to a cowboy breakfast upon arrival.

Several months before, the volunteer program committee had conducted assessments and an inventory of needs, purchased supplies, reserved equipment and handed out assignments to each employee. Since the shelter had not seen any major improvements since the 1980’s, it needed extensive renovation. New kitchen cabinets and flooring were installed before the volunteers arrived on Saturday.

At the end of the day, the tired but rewarded volunteers had replaced the railroad ties around the structure with new pavestones, reconditioned soil in the flowerbeds and added new plants, replaced gutters, added a playscape, painted all interior rooms, replaced kitchen appliances and the washer and dryer, replaced ceiling fans, added additional interior lighting and security lighting, replaced all interior doors, replaced all beds and provided new linens, added mini blinds and window treatments to all windows, and replaced all toilets and sink units.

The Southside Community Center Emergency Shelter is a program that provides shelter for the transient population, or families and children who have been displaced from their homes on a temporary basis. Dinner is provided daily to clients. Food and supplies are donated by individuals, churches, organizations, and supported by the Thrift Store. The Shelter may help as many as 125 families each month. This is a vital resource in the community as it supplies a safe environment for women, children and families during a transition period.

GBRA Director Jack Gary, San Marcos Mayor Robert Habingreither, and Councilman Bill Taylor were present to welcome the volunteers and offer their support and encouragement. The following area businesses also helped the project by providing donations or discounts on merchandise: McCoy's and Lowe's - San Marcos, Home Depot – New Braunfels, Sherwin-Williams, Gardenville, North Carolina Furniture Direct, Pavestone Company, Gage Furniture-Seguin, Mattress Doctors, The Homestead Furniture – Victoria, and Pickett's Fine Art and Frame Shop – Seguin.

Last year's GBRA "Our Day to Shine" event took place in the City of Victoria when approximately 80 GBRA employee volunteers and family members restored the Mid Coast Family Services Family Violence Shelter.

The GBRA Volunteer Program is also active through the year, helping the Blue Santa programs in the Seguin, Victoria and Pt. Lavaca areas, the Eagles Lodge Annual Christmas Dinner, Coats for Kids, Relay for Life in Guadalupe, and Victoria counties, and the Adopt-a-Highway program in Seguin. GBRA also awards scholarships each year to students from its 10-county district.

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CUTLINE: Volunteers from the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority completely renovated the Southside Community Center Emergency Shelter in San Marcos as part of their 'Our Day to Shine' service project, including installing Pavestones as part of an extensive landscaping effort.