Supporting the Garland Community

City of Garland employees work every day to fulfill the City’s Mission Statement:

We are committed to preserve public trust, deliver quality services, promote economic growth, protect our community and enhance the quality of life for the good of our city and our future.

But for many, that commitment goes beyond their regular work day, because they volunteer their time and talents to support excellence in the Garland community. Here are a few examples of the many ways in which Garland employees lend a helpful hand.

**Tutoring/Mentoring Program**

City employees began working with students at Northlake Elementary School in 1998. Dozens of City employees have participated in this tutoring/mentoring program over the years, dedicating 45 minutes each week to help a student. These mentors also stay in touch with the students and their teachers to help mentor them toward life-long success. City of Garland Recreation Superintendent Warren Bird is about to begin his ninth year volunteering in this program and helps coordinate the City volunteers. “This program is as rewarding for the volunteers as it is helpful for the students,” said Bird. “We have an opportunity not only to help them academically, but to prepare them to make good choices and become future leaders.”

**Relay For Life/Heart Walk**

Each year, many City employees team up to participate in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life and the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk. Many have family and friends touched by these health issues and are eager to raise funds and awareness. At the same time, they are fulfilling personal health goals through the City’s internal Commit to Wellness program.

**United Way**

City of Garland employees contribute more than $60,000 dollars each year to area nonprofits through the annual United Way of Metropolitan Dallas campaign. City employees have been recognized by the United Way for several years for their generosity and giving spirit as Pacesetters and as the Top City campaign in the Dallas area. During the annual campaign, employees host bake sales, food drives and other activities to support United Way’s community service organizations. Events and speakers raise awareness on the needs of the community and how those needs are being met by employee donations.

**Code Cares**

This award-winning community outreach program helps seniors who are disabled or financially challenged meet property maintenance needs. It began with Garland Code Inspectors who donated their time and equipment to help residents on the weekends. Later, other volunteer groups and individuals got involved to expand the program. Many City employees participate in this program.

**New Beginnings Center**

Several City departments set aside a work day every month to help out the New Beginnings Center retail store, which raises funds to support the nonprofit’s shelter for women and children seeking to escape abusive situations. The City’s Purchasing Department collects travel-size toiletries to donate for use by the Center’s clients.

**Police Boxing Gym**

Garland police officers and other employees work with at-risk teens and pre-teens through the Police Boxing Gym program. Employees volunteer their time to coach youth in boxing, kick-boxing and martial arts to help them occupy their time with healthy, positive activities. These volunteers also serve as mentors and tutors to help the kids succeed in school.