

SCHOOL IS COOL 2015 - WHAT A BLAST!

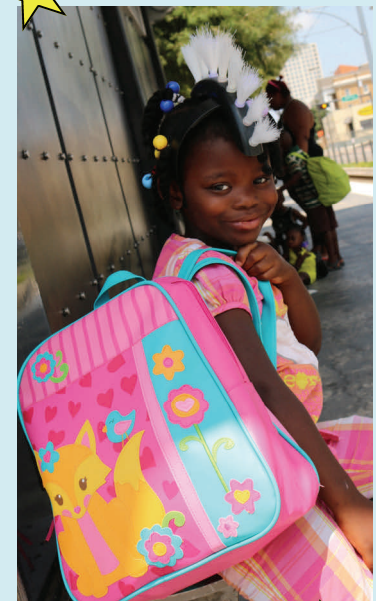
Planning this event starts the first day of June and is non-stop until the day of the party. But much like a family reunion, our invaluable, returning volunteers, supporters, donors and clients look forward to the annual event and happily accept their ongoing responsibilities, commitments and participation!

And each year our family of volunteers, donors and supporters grows, which is a great thing because our client base also grows! This year, we were fortunate to have a new volunteer who eagerly accepted serving as our Chair and tackling a significant activity: our games for the party. I will be the first to admit (*and Altrusa members would quickly chime in*) that our party/educational games were always hit and miss. Some years were better than others, but rarely memorable! So, when I met **Jack Kozmetsky** for the very first time, I just knew that he was perfect to take on the leadership and assignment. In the first 20 minutes of our meeting, he demonstrated a level of responsibility with ideas and suggestions based on his experience that just blew me away – oh, did I mention that he is only 16 years old and entering his junior year in high school? He immediately wrote his own letters of support, sponsors, and started to research games for pre-K to 8th grade. During his first week he had put in over 12 hours of volunteer time.

(story continues on page 2)



Jack Kozmetsky, 2015 Chair



Chris Luna drops of the first load from MetroPCS!



Southwest Airlines MIT I Class cheerfully agrees to take on grades 3 - 8 as part of their project. Here are two of the team members who worked on the number of items and the places to shop!



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The second new volunteer source was Southwest Airlines' MIT II Class. They happily agreed to purchase backpacks and some supplies for grades 3 – 8. While it was a challenge to find supplies early in the summer, they did a great job of ordering many items for delivery!

By July we were coordinating back pack orders with **Billy & Dodee Crockett, InSource Group, and Southwest Airlines MIT II class**. We delivered collection boxes to our friends at **ACRE Capital, BDO, Fannie Mae, MetroPCS, SWA and Verizon Theater** to name a few. By the end of July our offices permeated with the smells from erasers, notebook paper, plastic folders and nylon backpacks!

Every year I think about ways to scale back the event to reduce the stress of planning and coordinating all of the logistics, but it seems that our volunteers always step up their game and take on more responsibilities – so, to each and every one of you – thank you for believing in our children and for investing in their futures.

Maria

“Truly a blessing to receive the help & fellowship. My children go to school with supplies and uniforms on the first day, avoiding any possible bullying by the other children. Shared Housing encourages our children to be ready to study and learn! Thank you.”
Katarina

MEET (SOME OF) OUR VOLUNTEERS!

School is Cool relies significantly on volunteers! Whether it's an hour to pack supplies in the backpack, a day of shopping, or volunteering at the event, every moment contributes to the success! Here are a few of the photos we caught!



Altrusa International - Downtown Dallas ran the games!



Merrill Lynch staff collected & gave time!



InSource Group - backpacks and grill duty!!!!

Highland Park H.S. students fill backpacks!



DREAM ACHIEVER SCHOLARSHIPS

Eric and Deborah Suder started the Dream Achiever Scholarship in honor of Dodee Crockett. This year, scholarships were awarded to the following candidates:

Debrenden Banks is heading to Tarleton State University pursuing a career in Criminal Justice. “I have worked hard in my studies, sports and community service. Thank you for this scholarship. This will help me get closer to securing my goals in life.”

Alisha Daniels has enrolled at El Centro Community College. She is interested in psychology. “My mom shared many stories about living in the foster care system. I want to attend college to secure a degree in social work so that I can make a difference in children’s lives.

Dadrian Hancock is heading to Navarro College pursuing an education in kinesiology. “My love for baseball and football has led me to this interest. I want to have my own little league team to help those less fortunate pursue their love for sports. Thank you for granting me this gift.”

Arriana LeBlanc is heading to UNT- Dallas pursuing a degree in Education. “While at high school I earned an associates at Mountain View Community College so that I can immediately focus on my career classes. My ultimate goal is to become a professor at Harvard! Thank you for this tremendous support!”

Gina Tan has enrolled at El Centro Community College. She is interested in a biomedical career and even received a certificate of training for EMT during high school. “I want to be able to repay those who have extended their hand to me and my family during these difficult times. Thank you for this opportunity.”

Congratulations to the 2015 Dream Achiever Recipients!

JUST the FACTS on School is Cool:

100% of our senior students graduate!

85% of our students have perfect school attendance!

25% of our students attend charter schools!

40% of our graduates enroll in traditional colleges!

25% of the children have straight “A’s”!

5 students received Dream Achiever Scholarships!



Alisha



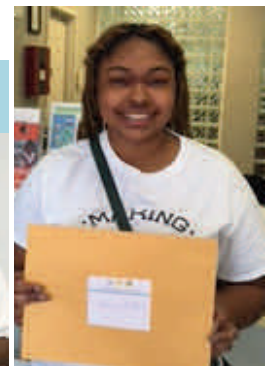
Debrenden



Gina



Dadrian

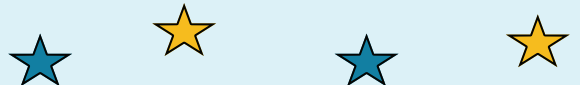
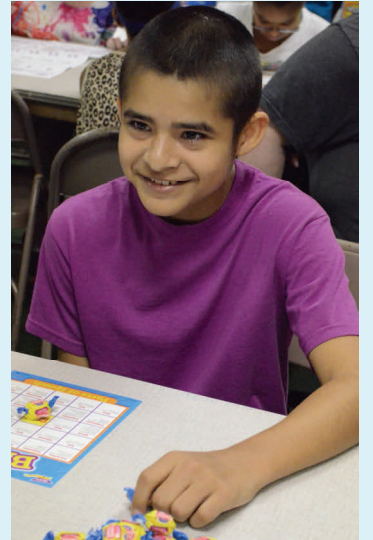


Arriana

PHOTO MOMENTS



★
Having a
great time!



DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you for writing a check, collecting supplies, ordering and shopping for backpacks and school supplies! You can see the thoughtfulness in the items you secured. Thank you for sharing in the joy and commitment to the students at Shared Housing!

ACRE Capital (Jacky Salazar, Liaison)
ALTRUSA INTERNATIONAL - Downtown Dallas
BDO (Mary Barton, Liaison)
Mrs. Ellene Breinin
CAPTAIN HOPE'S KIDS
CHARLES SCHWAB FOUNDATION
Chuck & Diane Cheatham
Rob & Julie Chickering & Reid
Mary Grace Cicerello
Billy & Dodee Crockett
Harlan & Katherine Crow
FANNIE MAE (Candace Moreno, Liaison)
Andrew Foster
Spencer Gautreaux
GIRL TALK SALON
Tim & Frances Hafer
Margaret (Peg) Hall
Sally Hanna
Joel & Becky Hayhurst
Janis Hefley & Larry Fontana (hubby)
HELPING HANDS, OPEN HEART
HIGHLAND PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
—Student Council (Charlotte Clinton, Liaison)

INSOURCE GROUP (Wendy Garrett, Liaison)
Cynthia Keith
Aaron & Tracey Kozmetsky & family/friends
Jack Kozmetsky
Chris Luna
Maria Machado
Andy & Toni McGarrahan & family
MERRILL LYNCH (Rhonda Weete, Liaison)
METRO PCS (Chris Luna, Liaison)
RAINBOW DAYS, INC.
Rili Ratliff
Gregory Schmidt
THE RUTH C. & CHARLES S. SHARP
FOUNDATION (Candi Dickey, Director)
-----Mrs. Kenneth Altshuler
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES
(Dawn Siemiet and Chris Manz, Liaisons)
MIT Class
Donna Tarver
Beverly Tobian
VERIZON THEATER (Larry Fontana, Liaison)
Rob & Linda Westerberg & Ethan
Joanie Williams



Members from Altrusa give their time & energy!

A big THANK YOU for spending your Saturday w/ us!



MORE MEMORIES!



Class of 2029



Ms. South Dallas & Ms. Terry County champion education with the children!



Classes of 2024 & 2022



Children play games to test their academic skills and to win great prizes!

