

Leadership TMCN

History of Community Projects

2014



Gorman – Madison Warren & Jacquelynn Rainey – 2nd Place

Swimming Pool Restoration Project – The students led an effort to transform the community swimming pool into an inviting gathering place for citizens of all ages and in the process enhanced civic pride in Gorman. The project included repainting with artwork and renovation of the concession stand.



Throckmorton – Casey Mitchell – 1st Place

Let's Go Parking – This major fundraising project lead the way to qualifying for a \$40K matching grant from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Small Communities Grant Program. Casey and community volunteers repainted existing playground equipment and erected a flag pole near the entrance to the park. Additional park amenities included new picnic tables, tree excavation, tree planting, landscaping, swing set, drinking fountain, flag pole, and barbecue pit renovation.

2015



Baird – Alvin Chinell

Mission of Miracles – This project provided an upgrade to the existing community food pantry and clothing closet. Phases of the project included pressure washing the exterior, painting trim, repairing the existing flagpole, new paint and lighting to the interior and a food drive at the local elementary and junior high school and post office.



Ballinger – Allison Schaefer & Rusty Fischer

Stage Up for Carver – Carver School for African Americans was established in 1905 and had fallen into disrepair. The project included a major clean up, securing the building from outside elements, creating a stage venue for community events and creating a walking/running trail around the school. The efforts of

Allison and Rusty provided a catalyst for continued improvements of the historic school.



Breckenridge – Nikk Chandarlis, Emma Davis, Cade Cornett & Jady Cisneros – 3rd Place

Rodeo Arena Renovation – Described as “impressive” and “enterprising”, the students’ project was the renovation of the community’s rodeo arena. Through bake sales and the selling of scrap metal, the students were able to raise the necessary funds to transform the arena and concession stand into a high-class facility which hosts several events throughout the year and

helped to instill a sense of pride within the community.



Early – Patrick Murphy & Holli Hullum

Project Face-Lift – Born out of a desire to pay homage to the town’s founder, the project provided a makeover of Early’s High School which is used year-round bringing the community together for a variety of events. The project included replacing old flower beds with pink granite, setting native stone rocks and a new metal longhorn statue, and erecting and painting a new school sign.



Munday – Kathryn Crude & Grace Tidwell – 2nd Place

Storybook Path - Described as “creative” and “educational”, this project created an inviting and education pathway within the community park which enabled visitors of all ages to experience the joy of reading and exercise in a family-friendly environment. The pathway included stopping points where visitors could read page by page from a children’s book. The “books” were changed out periodically by a local library group.



Throckmorton – Gracie Bland – 1st Place

History in the Making - Described as “monumental” and “community minded”, this project was the major restoration of the Old City Jail located on a vacant lot at the corner of East Chestnut Street and South Eagle Avenue, three blocks west of State Highway 183 in downtown Throckmorton. The jail was

originally built around 1893 and was recognized by the State of Texas in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Several doors and windows required replacement and the floors were stripped to reveal original hardwood floors.

2016



Baird – April Brumbaugh & Peyton Cauble

Downtown Renovation Project - This project began with the students' desire to increase tourism in the historic downtown and concluded with 49 buildings cleaned and/or repainted, flag banners on every street pole, and restriping of main street. Over \$6,600 was raised in donations and the students brought together 150 volunteers to complete the project. The judges described the project as "a large project with drastic results"

and an "outstanding job of bringing various entities together".



Ballinger – Zakk Ottmers & Kenzie Arrott – 1st Place

Pioneer Plaza Project - Encompassing renovations to the plaza's gazebo and reflecting pond as well as the addition of new benches and trash receptacles, the project paid homage to the pocket parks original benefactor. Described by the judges as "making a drastic difference in their community" and "inspiring", the project was made possible through in-kind contributions, donations and local sponsorships.



Cisco – Lyndsey Peace & Nicholas Thompson

Cisco High School Park Restoration Project – Student enlisted the help of the local boy scout troop, youth groups, parents and friends to repaint the park's playground equipment and park amenities. The judges hailed the students for not being deterred from their initial goal despite the unexpected setbacks due to massive summer flooding which hit the community.



Clyde – Callie Monsey & Haley Doss

Clyde Cemetery Project – This project provided for general cleanup of the cemetery including the trimming of trees and shrubs, straightening of headstones and foot markers, and the installation of new fencing and an entrance arch. The students also assisted in the establishment of a Cemetery Board and set up a bank account for the continuance of cemetery improvements. The judges described the project as “leaving a legacy” and “thoroughly thought out and completed with the future in mind”.



Dublin – Kaylie Mason & Lizett Sanchez

Dublin Putt-Putt Refurbishing Project - Born with the desire to bring families to Dublin, this project ended up rescuing the putt-putt course from demolition. Through contributions, donations and a countless number of volunteers throughout the community, the project encompassed scraping, painting, weeding, and new concrete and turf. Described by the judges as “making a huge impact on an iconic spot” and “providing benefits both from an atheistic and economic standpoint”, the project celebrated its grand opening in September of 2016.



Early – Maggie Yantis & Danie Contreras – 3rd Place

Project Remember – This project was created out of personal experiences and a desire to improve the quality of life for Alzheimer patients residing in local care facilities. Students solicited recorders and headsets and establish a music therapy program. Patients are now able to enjoy music of their era creating smiles and toe-tapping memories. Project Remember was described as “heart-touching” and an “outstanding program with huge growth potential” by the judges.



Early – Cassie Curden & Courtnie Smith

Study Bug Project – Students enlisted Early High School upper classmen and college students from nearby Ranger College and Howard Payne University to provide study resources to high school freshmen. Based on proven research correlating failing grades with dropout rates, Student Bug sought to give first year high school students positive encouragement. The Program was described by the judges as “unique and impactful” and “identified a major issue and created a way to help”.



Gorman – Kayce Dodd & Mayra Ramirez – 2nd Place

ZJ’s Park Project, as known as Blackwell Park – The project took what was left of the former Blackwell Clinic, a downtown legacy, and turned it into a colorful and vibrant community venue. The project encompassed fundraising, a logo competition, installation of a pergola and pavilion, planting of grass and trees, and the installation of a previously unplanned retention wall. The judges described the project as “the creation of a place for residents to come together” and a “creative project which will impact the community for years to come”.



Strawn – Josh Moore, Tyler Ross, Kallie Hodgkins & Railey Mallory

Downtown and Greyhound Park Renovations - While the students had originally planned to construct a new concession stand and restroom at Greyhound Park, a downturn in the local economy presented an opportunity to uplift and inspire the community by improving the aesthetics of the school, downtown and baseball/softball complex. Students lead a volunteer effort to clear a half acre lot of trash, brush, weeds and grass near the school, mowed and weed-eated the downtown, and installed a new flagpole and landscaping at Greyhound Park. The judges hailed the project by commenting “the economy handed this group a challenge and they still persevered” and “giving up was never an option – their enthusiasm and passion was great”.



Throckmorton – Peyton Woods

Unearthing Buried History Project – This project was originally planned to help bring the public to historic Camp Cooper. However, due to washed out bridges and roads and inaccessible private lands, Peyton decided to take the history of Camp Cooper to the public. Using local and published resources, Peyton compiled the history of Throckmorton County and presented his study guide to the School District. The District unanimously adopted his guide as a supplement to the Jr. High History curriculum!

2017



Ballinger – Shelby Flores & Richard Para

Meeting Needs with Love Park Project – This project was inspired by the local high school track team who utilized the City Park as training ground for area meets. While the Park provided excellent training, it lacked mile markers so that runners could identify distance. The project took on greater significance when the students identified a way to inspire local citizens to get outdoors for exercise.



Breckenridge – Braxton Post, Elyssa Glick, Diana Patterson & Mackenzie Harris – 1st Place

“Think Outside – No Box Required” – The community park project included four phases: general cleanup and new flowerbeds; restriping of the basketball courts and new operational signage; historical way-finding signage; and, new park lighting. The students’ efforts completely transformed the park and increased its utilization by both the local citizenry and visitors to the community.



Clyde – Ashley Fox & Dawson Faynan

P.O.D – Project Outdoors Park Project – Inspired by a 1998 Junior High School Science Project which had become an eyesore, the students unearthed and refurbished this iconic park. Donations were solicited from local companies and community volunteers recruited to fund and assist with the five-step process: exposing the Texas shaped floral bed and filling it with

pea gravel; removing overgrown cacti; building new flower beds; installing a flag pole; and creating and installing new signage honoring the former site.



Cross Plains – Alexis Jones, Brian Morales & Mallory McCready

Where the Buffalos Play Park Restoration – Students sought input from an Abilene firm to redesign the outdated park. The redesign included the movement of park equipment and pouring concrete paths to be more accessible, resolving on-going drainage issues, repainting of playground equipment and benches. Students sold the dream to area businesses and volunteers and conducting fundraising efforts at an annual community event. The park’s unveiling included students from the elementary school who gave the project a tremendous “thumbs-up”.



Dublin – Cody Cook, Brianna Karaeck, Adriana Ramirez & Adriana Flores – 2nd Place

Project Life-Saver – This project was a three-stage mission consisting of several steps to make Dublin a safer place with the goal of preparing the community for disasters. Students surveyed local homes and partnered with the American Red Cross to install all 1,349 homes in Dublin with free smoke detectors. They, along with local volunteers, also identified homes in need of 911 addressing and sought the assistance of the City to resolve the issue and partnered with the school district to provide free CPR classes to local businesses.



Early – Tara Glasscock, Matthew Tarigan, Dominique Smith & Inayat Kang – 3rd Place

McDonald Park Project – Working with a local artist and former high school football player, students embarked on efforts to work in coordination with the City to refurbish the former football field. The result was erection and creation of a landmark mural depicting Early’s assets which has become a focal point for visitors and locals alike desiring to document their visits and special events.

2018



Baird – Jaxon Bellar, Andrea Brown & Lillie Deel – 3rd Place

Building a New Path – This project was inspired by the relative the participating students who, due to her limited mobility, could not get from the parking lots to the softball fields. The revitalized Sports Complex included the reconstruction of an ADA accessible bridge and construction of a connecting sidewalk, debris removal from drainage areas, painting of the press box and storage room, new signage and trash receptacles. The project inspired both the City and ISD to pave an adjacent street and restore restroom facilities at the complex.



Ballinger – Cody Herral, Marina Dehoyos & Damian Willborn

Park Improvement Project – Students endeavored to revitalize the City Park which is used frequently by locals and visitors alike. By enlisting community volunteers and securing donations of paint and supplies, students repaired and repainted the benches, picnic tables and grills, playground equipment, Indian statue and park sign.



Dublin – Curtis Adams, Seth McDonald & Jared Ricks – 1st Place

MKT Train Station Revitalization Project – The students' goal for the project was to motivate and begin the revitalization of a large piece of Dublin's historical past, the MKT Train Depot. While the depot had experienced several uses over the years, the students lead an effort to bring the depot back to its glory years by removing paneled walls, remove debris and reconstruction doors and window frames for antique wood. The project inspired the City to replace the roof which had been damaged in a storm several years prior and helped to secure the space for on-going renovations.



Early – Brianna Brown & Zane Hobson – 2nd Place

Operation Sound Garden – The idea for this project came about through a desire to allow thousands of families to enjoy life to the fullest with their loved ones and provide an avenue for the elderly and disabled in the community to have an outlet to express themselves. Students worked with several local businesses and corporations to fund the project, researched companies from which to purchase the musical equipment, and enlisted city workers and community volunteers to construct the sound garden.



Gorma – Kloe Wilson & Jennifer Cruz

Project Dive-In – Capitalizing on the previous pool renovation project and adjacent land donation, students wanted to create an environment where family & friends could make memories. They enlisted community volunteers to clear the vacant lot and installed park benches, picnic tables and grills, fire pits, landscaping and sand volleyball pit.



Strawn – Jordan Spakes

Historic T&P Train Depot Restoration – In the late 1970s, the historic depot was returned and underwent a renovation of the outside. However, the inside was in considerable disrepair. The student worked with local businesses and community volunteers to completely demolish the inside and rebuild using vintage materials. They also refurbished the former waiting rooms, ticket windows and ticket counter and plans are to incorporate local train memorabilia into new meeting space.