

HOMEFRONT

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PLACES & FACES



Across the United States and Canada, real estate agents took the day off on May 13 for the second annual RED Day. Standing for "Renew, Energize and Donate," RED Day is a community service initiative created by Keller Williams Realty encouraging its associates to spend the day giving back. In Round Rock, volunteers cleaned and spruced up at Texas Baptist Children's Home (above and left). Keller Williams Cedar Park/Leander Market Center hosted a day-long event at the Humane Society of Williamson County (top left). RED Day volunteers assisted HSWC with projects including general landscaping, beautification projects, painting buildings and making needed repairs to HSWC's existing dog kennel and cat isolation buildings.



Above: (from left) Jim Schwertner, chairman of the Seton Williamson Foundation Board of Trustees, Nancy Crouse, co-chair of the Seton Circle, and Michelle Robertson, COO of Seton Medical Center Williamson, present the Seton Circle's annual gift to benefit Seton Medical Center Williamson. The Seton Circle welcomed 46 new members during its first year of operation and granted \$11,500 toward the da Vinci Robotic System and Surgical Suites.



Left: The ChangeMakers, a program of the Greater Round Rock Community Foundation, recently collected 270 shoes for Nike's Reuse a Shoe program, which then reuses materials in parking lots, sports courts and other projects.

ChangeMakers also partnered with Round Rock-based Dell Inc. during its recent Earth Day event, which encouraged community members to drop off unwanted electronic equipment to be recycled.

Throughout the year, 126 high school students participated in ChangeMakers, racking up 1,283 volunteer hours.

This year began with students surveying their peers to determine the most pressing issues affecting Round Rock youth. The results identified recycling as the issue in which felt they could most affect change. After researching programs, ChangeMakers decided to grant \$6,000 to the Round Rock Independent School District's Learn and Serve program. The funding will support projects throughout the district to teach youth not only about recycling, but pollution, and alternative energy as well.

Texas State mural to depict nursing history

A mural depicting nursing history, by Houston artist Cookie Ashton, will be the centerpiece for the lobby of Texas State University's new School of Nursing in Round Rock. The 10-foot-long, six-foot-high mural will cover more than 300 years in the development of the nursing profession, beginning in the 1700s. The school will open to the public and welcome its first 100 junior-level nursing students in the fall of 2010.

Art + Artisans was chosen by a University Art Committee, including the dean of the College of Health Professions and nursing faculty, as well as a senior designer from The LauckGroup, to help select pieces from more than 20 artists.

Art pieces were commissioned or selected from a number of Texas State University-San Marcos professors and the university's own private art, print and photography collection. Commissioned pieces from other Texas artists working in a variety of media, including blown glass, reverse-painted acrylic, sculpted wood, and original oils, will occupy the remainder of the 79,000 square-foot space.

"The art committee wanted to create a calm, soothing environment, while also speaking to the mission of nursing," says Jennifer Seay, president of Art + Artisans. "It was also important to give the new school in Round Rock its own identity, at the same time showing its connection to the main campus in San Marcos."

Art + Artisans, with offices in Austin and Houston, guides clients through the art process, from research through procurement and installation. It serves design firms and clients in a variety of sectors including corporate, education, healthcare and hospitality.



Debbie Goldgar of Art + Artisans and Cookie Ashton survey a mural on the history of nursing. Art + Artisans was chosen by a University Art Committee to help select pieces from more than 20 artists for the mural, which will be located at Texas State University's new School of Nursing in Round Rock.

FAMILY FIRST

Not fretting tan lines, some to worry about food this summer

Most families count down the last days of school with visions of lazy days and swimming pools, but for thousands of area families, it's one of the most difficult and hungriest times of the year. Children who depend on free lunches during the school year are left home, alone during the summer with nothing to eat. It's heartbreaking, but there are ways to help.

Organizations like the Round Rock Area Serving Center are in desperate need of contributions, getting free or reduced volunteers and donations. Community awareness is



Tonya **KERR**
Family First

the biggest hurdle, according to Executive Director Lori Scott.

"We see a huge crunch when local kids are not need of contributions, getting free or reduced volunteers and donations. Community awareness is puts a greater strain on the

family grocery budget as many are forced to choose between paying for food or bills," said Scott. "Summertime is lean for the Serving Center because our donations are down and our needs are up. We're helping about 1,200 families every month in Round Rock, and we expect even more to ask for help this summer."

Scott says the Serving Center can take everything and give everything. They distribute food, clothing, furniture and financial assistance. People with home gardens bring their surplus fruits or vegetables.

Some of most useful food items include canned beans, corn, meat, soup, fruit, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese.

"The Serving Center maintains 28 community gardens, which produce about 5,000 pounds of food each year for area families," said Scott. "About half are adopted by client families who are learning how to grow their own food, and the other half is worked by volunteers."

Scott said volunteers are needed to sort food donations, pick up food donations, tend gardens,

restock food pantry shelves, drive the truck, pick up furniture, unload trucks, and even data entry. There are no age limits, and training is provided every first and third Tuesday at 4 p.m. and each Saturday by appointment. web: servingcenter.org/

If volunteering at the Serving Center isn't practical for your family, there's another way to help spread the word and give back by checking out the activities at Kaleidoscope Toys. For the past 10 years, owner Terry Myers has been holding summer-long food

drives and letting customers know that the Round Rock Area Serving Center needs our help.

"You come away just feeling good," said Myers. "Regular customers, like Austin musician Joe McDermott, have been coming to the store for over a decade to help make this food drive something that families can do together. We always do everything we can to make it fun to play while giving back, and it helps young children learn a valuable lesson."