

TVCC students Will Baker (far left) and Kaleb Hurst join TVCC Rodeo Coach Brent Bratton in delivering food collected by students to the Henderson County Food Pantry.



TVCC STUDENTS, FACULTY,  
STAFF GIVE THOUSANDS OF  
HOURS TO THE COMMUNITY

## CARDINAL PROUD

By Jennifer Hannigan

**From its inception,** Trinity Valley Community College has been a positive force in the communities it serves. In the college's 67-year history, those involved with TVCC have dedicated themselves to offering a helping hand by participating in literally thousands of service projects and volunteering through a wide variety of organizations.

The 2012-13 school year was no exception. On all four TVCC campuses — Athens, Palestine, Kaufman and Terrell — students, faculty members and staff displayed their dedication to the surrounding communities.

"This past year TVCC students, faculty and staff spent 15,000 hours in service to the community through assistance with programs such as Kiwanis Pancake Day, trash pick-ups, Relay for Life, blood drives and reading programs, just to name a few," said Dr. Jay Kinzer, the college's vice president of student services.

Students and faculty members from throughout the TVCC system participated this year in a variety of community service projects, including food drives on the Terrell and Athens campuses, a teddy bear drive to benefit Dallas-area children's hospitals, a supply drive for victims of the West explosion, "pink" events to



Sophomore Chelsea Malone receives an award for volunteering more than 460 hours to community service during the school year.

support breast cancer patients and research, a Hoops for Hope benefit basketball game to help children with congenital heart defects, and benefit garage sales for organizations such as the Pinnacle Club.

For the first time in 2012, the college's student activities department hosted a banquet at the end of the school year. The purpose of the event was to honor those who had dedicated large amounts of time to community service. The student who gave the most time to community service in the 2012-13 school year was sophomore Chelsea Malone, who dedicated more than 460 hours of her time to community service.

"Keeping track of community service hours has allowed us to see just how much time these students are dedicating," said Kinzer. "In the case of Chelsea and several other students, they dedicated literally weeks of their time to helping others."

Science instructor Jan Jennings instructs a group of students during a litter cleanup.

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Because of the large number of hours served, numerous groups and individuals at TVCC qualified for the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA). Those service awards were also presented at the banquet. The PVSA is a national award designed to honor the hundreds of thousands of people across America who give their precious time to communities. The award is given on three levels: gold, silver and bronze.

TVCC's Student Government Association took the gold award for 4,204 hours of community service in 2012-13. Other organizations receiving the gold award were Cardinal Football (3,770 hours), Cardettes (2,546 hours) and Phi Theta Kappa (1,206 hours). In addition, 11 individuals and organizations received the Silver Award and 26 Bronze Awards were given.

In typical college fashion, there was also some friendly competition involved in the middle of the community service efforts. For example, in the athletics department, teams compete each year for the coveted Cardinal Cup. The cup is the prize for a fall/spring semester-long competition in which the college's athletic department teams/groups are awarded points for supporting each other and for community service.

The Lady Cardinals volleyball team edged out the football team by the closest margin in the three-year history of the competition, scoring 606 points for a 34-point winning margin.

Community service played a big role in the Lady Cardinals' raising the Cardinal Cup at the banquet. They logged 700 hours of giving back to the community.

As busy as they stayed, Lady Cardinal Volleyball coach Tosha Spain said she was especially proud her players were still able to maintain a 3.25 GPA overall.

“I am proud of the girls for winning (the Cardinal Cup),” Spain said. “They have been doing community service every week since September and have constantly been at other sports' games supporting their fellow student-athletes. They are an amazing group of girls on and off the court and continue to make me a better person and coach every day.”

*Jennifer Hannigan is a public information officer at Trinity Valley Community College and edits the The Valley Magazine.*

