



Bobcats volunteer to participate in community service event

By Glen Tadych
Trends Reporter

The event officially began at 9 a.m. in the Strahan Coliseum parking lot with a kickoff celebration featuring appearances by Texas State President Denise Trauth and San Marcos Mayor Daniel Guerrero, who thanked and wished the participants well on their community projects.

"San Marcos is a wonderful place to work and live," Trauth said. "It's important to give back to this community."

Numerous volunteers were out as early as 5 a.m. preparing for the day's events, although community projects commenced after 9 a.m. Parents, students and San Marcos

residents sat or stood for hours in the gusting, cold air and overcast skies helping with registration, organization of project groups and serving breakfast and water.

Cecilia Cosper, mother of accounting freshman Karah Cosper and resident of Forney, Texas, spent her morning with the Texas State Family Association distributing Bobcat Build T-shirts to volunteers. Karah Cosper participated in the day's services with the Accounting Club job site group.

Karah Cosper and her mother saw Bobcat Build as an opportunity to become involved with the university as it is Karah Cosper's first year at Texas State.

"The event itself is a good cause," Cecilia Cosper said. "Be-

cause there's so much negativity in the world, it amazes me to see 4,000 kids get together to do this."

Among student participants was computer science senior Kyle Jones. This was Jones' third consecutive year of participation in Bobcat Build, serving as the vice president of the computer science job site group this year.

"I like doing community service," Jones said. "Each year I just go out and try to get the job done."

Jones felt the good cause was enough to make the day worthwhile, but he was thrilled at the size of this year's Bobcat Build team.

"Even if it was 15 people, I'd still feel good about it," he said. "But still, 4,000 people here is a great way to spend Saturday."

For the rest of the morning and early afternoon, Bobcat Build volunteers took part in landscaping, painting, home repair and other activities to clean up public areas and private residents of the San Marcos community.

San Marcos resident and Texas State custodian Delia Gonzales was one of the many who helped Saturday.

Gonzales has worked for Texas State for nine years and assisted with Bobcat Build for the last two, doing whatever she can to pitch



Madelynn Scates, Staff Photographer

Vanessa Stuart, interior design junior, and Hailey Tedder, interior design senior, gather trash for a home repair March 23 during Bobcat Build. Texas State's 11th annual Bobcat Build marked the largest since its inception Saturday, with 4,000 student participants and 180 jobsites throughout San Marcos. The community service event is the second largest in the state of Texas.

in. This was her first year to receive service from Bobcat Build volunteers, specifically the American Society of Interior Designers job site group.

"I appreciate what they're doing," Gonzales said. "It really helps for people like me, a working single mom, because we just don't have the time ourselves."

ASID spent the day painting and decorating the interior of Gonzales' home, in addition to providing carpentry and landscaping improvements.

The Bobcat Build Student Planning Committee, led by director and communications studies junior Janine Sultana, planned the event for a year. The committee works to arrange dates and acquire

sponsors, volunteers and jobsites, resulting in "A year of planning, a day of service," as the Bobcat Build slogan says.

"A lot of people just don't realize how much planning actually goes into this," Sultana said. "It's a lot of work that keeps you busy. That's for sure."

Sultana has been a part of Bobcat Build since her freshman year in 2011 when she attended a committee meeting out of curiosity. She fell in love with the program and participated in volunteer work in 2011, then served as the 2012 recruitment chair and this year's planning committee director.

"The fact that I get to help so many people is absolutely the best feeling in the world," she said.



Lydia Kurtz, interior design freshman, and Corey Davey, interior design senior, participate in Bobcat Build Mar. 23 at a resident's home in San Marcos.