



CELEBRATE *service*

Students spend MLK Day serving in Dallas and West, TX

The students of Dallas Baptist University spent Martin Luther King, Jr. Day serving those in need from South Dallas to Central Texas.

Thirty-five students served at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Dallas where they prepped and painted bookshelves for Literacy Connexus, a local Christian ministry servicing those with literacy needs.

"This event is a significant effort that symbolizes the ideals of cooperation and community espoused by Dr. King," said Andrew Briscoe, Director of the Center for Service-Learning. "No one person made all of this happen, which goes to show that we each need to play a part in identifying and serving the needs of our community."

In 2008, DBU adopted service learning as an initiative to promote higher education and service within the community. Students are afforded the opportunity to enhance their learning through service while fostering an understanding of their civic responsibility.

Meanwhile, a group of sev-

en from Dallas Baptist University spent the holiday serving by clearing out drywall, removing debris, and tearing down walls in the home of a single mother in West, Texas.

Partnering with First Baptist Church of West and the Disaster Relief Team from the Texas Baptist Men, the group helped in a reconstruction project for the house, which was destroyed as a result of the deadly explosion that rocked the small central Texas town on April 17, 2013.

DBU has worked with First Baptist Church of West since the explosion last spring. In the immediate aftermath, the University partnered with John Crowder, pastor of FBC West, and associate pastor and former DBU student Phil Immicke, to host the church's youth group for a special Disciple Now weekend held on the DBU campus.

Josh Hemby, director of DBU's Baptist Student Ministry, stated, "The relationship that DBU staff and students continue to have with the town of West and FBC West is one, I believe, of mutual

encouragement. Whenever we spend time with Pastor Immicke and the students from his youth group, DBU students take away as much from the experience as they are able to give."

"This project was no different," Hemby continued. "Our team was able to help get a lot of work done remodeling a house for a single mother, and this progress was extremely rewarding for us. However, the larger body of work that FBC West is doing to serve their community and the joy on the faces of students, despite many of their circumstances, makes our continued relationship with the town of West and FBC West so exciting."

Another group from DBU will return to West for a Spring Break mission trip this March, just in time to help with the final stages of remodeling the house they started during their winter break. In addition, the youth from FBC will be traveling to Dallas during the spring to have their second Disciple Now at DBU.