



## KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Kids On the Block troupe is comprised of local volunteers who present puppet shows to second and

third graders in ECISD's elementary schools. One program educates students about many different social concerns to help break down barriers and misconceptions and learn to celebrate differences. Another program offers strategies for dealing with bullies. Fourth and fifth graders are presented a show addressing gangs, violence, and consequences. After which, an ECISD police officer speaks about making good choices.

Positions with the troupe are not limited to just puppeteers. We need backstage help, setting up and tearing down, maintaining puppets and equipment, and running the sound. No special skills needed. We provide training - so come on!

"Thank you for the puppet show. I had fun learning not to make fun of people and that kids are different and the same in many ways."  
*(from a child)*

"Doing the Kids on the Block is one of the most rewarding things I've done. At the end of the day, our troupe knows that we've made an impact and a difference."  
*(from a puppeteer)*



## WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?

- ◆ Meet new people and make new friends
- ◆ Improve communication and establish a partnership between home and school
- ◆ Use your time in a meaningful way by making a positive difference
- ◆ Develop self-confidence
- ◆ Help at your child's school
- ◆ Gain better understanding of your child's education experience
- ◆ Experience the reward of sharing skills and knowledge by helping others
- ◆ Explore career options
- ◆ Gain work experience by broadening your knowledge and skills
- ◆ IT'S FUN!

"I love the feeling that I am helping our community. It makes me feel good to make a difference in a child's life. I love being part of a wonderful team who loves children."

*(from a VIP)*

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Ector County  
Independent School District

## Volunteers in Public Schools



VIPS are a vital link  
offering quality  
work which meets  
needs and  
extends tax dollars.

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of Volunteers in Public Schools shall be to support and enrich the lives of school children and to stimulate an interested community to a more active support of public education.

## HISTORY

VIPS began in 1982-83 at Dowling Elementary and Nimitz Junior High. The following three years VIPS was launched in the rest of the school district.

## STATISTICS

In one school year, VIPS provide more than \$980,000 worth of academic and support services to ECISD students and faculty.

In summary, since 1982 the VIPS Program has recorded more than 14,000 volunteers who have served 1.5 million hours for a total value of more than \$20 million. (Independent Sector, a nonprofit research organization, determines the value of a volunteer hour.)

Volunteers' acts of compassion offer immediate support and inspire the contributions of future generations.



## WHAT IS VIPS?

Volunteers in Public Schools is a program sponsored by the Ector County Independent School District that promotes parental and community involvement in our schools by volunteering time and talents in an area of their choice. VIPS provide a service with the end result in everyone benefiting — students, faculty, staff, and volunteers.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Each school tailors the volunteer program to meet its specific needs. Some of the areas a person may volunteer include the classroom, nurse's office, playground, cafeteria, office, library, workroom, and the Kids on the Block puppet troupe. Training is provided.

## WHEN?

VIPS are needed throughout the school year. Kids on the Block are needed August-January.

## WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED?

To participate in VIPS, you must be at least 18 years old, not a student in public schools, and be approved following a criminal background check. Language and age are not obstacles to volunteering.

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Contact the VIPS Chair at the school where you want to volunteer, or call the VIPS office at 334-7168.

## BENEFITS OF VIPS PROGRAM



### Students

- Improve self-esteem
- Individualize instruction
- Provide positive adult role models
- Improve motivation and attitude
- Better attendance and behavior
- Advance academic achievement

"I appreciate our VIP even though she had a lot of things going on, she worked hard helping out in our classroom." *(from a student)*

"She doesn't even care that she doesn't get paid. She does it just because she wants to help." *(from a student)*

### Teachers/Principals/Administrators

- Provide invaluable help allowing teachers additional instructional time with students
- Create more informed parents
- Utilize parents as special resources
- Improve communication with parents
- Provide positive mentors for students

Administrators, principals, teachers, and staff say, "Our VIPS are essential to the entire education of the student body. They are very important people and an invaluable asset on our campuses."

**Volunteers are valued team members in our schools!**