

“The Power of 50”, the Exchange Club of East Dallas

The ECED has been serving the students of east Dallas since 1948 (70 years).

Our membership meets each Wednesday for lunch and develop the plans to raise funds and to serve our eleven (11) schools (supporting approximately 7,100 students) located in east Dallas that really need a helping hand.

Coats for Kids Program

For decades the ECED has been donating winter coats to students who would otherwise on a cold Dallas morning might not attend class due to the weather. **In 2017, we provided 3,900 new coats to the students.** This program has developed over the years from collecting donations of used coats and providing them to the students in need to raising enough funds to be able to now provide all new coats.

Vision Program

Students need to see well enough to read the teacher’s lessons on the board, their school books, and adequately study and do problem solving to grow and advance through school. Recognizing that undetected vision problems impair learning and disrupt classrooms, **we proudly work with the Essilor Vision Foundation** partner in a program whereby club members are trained to perform vision screenings and testing along with funding assistance to put glasses on children that need them. Over the last several years thousands of school children have been tested and provided eye glasses to correct their vision so they have the opportunity to learn and perform at the level of those who are not vision impaired. **In 2016/17 we were able to put glasses on close to 500 of our elementary students.**

Books to Support the School Library’s

In partnership with Half Price Books, each year the Exchange Club provides thousands of books to stock the libraries of our East Dallas schools along with providing students with books of their own. **Over the past 8 years we have been able to provide over 500,000 age appropriate books** to pass out to the children as well as stock their library shelves.

Scholarship Program

For students at Woodrow Wilson High **the Exchange Club offers \$5,000 scholarships annually to 4 graduating seniors.** The scholarships are renewable each year and require a minimum grade average of 2.5 and a minimum course load of 12 hours per semester. That equates to \$8,000 for each student over the 4 year degree period. **That’s 4 students at \$20,000 per year sums to \$80,000 a year in scholarships annually.** We personally interview each applicant. Our goal is to provide financial assistance to the student that wants to further his education but does not have the financial means to do so.

Dallas Junior Golf Championship

We also host the Dallas Junior Golf Championship which is Dallas’s oldest (since 1924) junior golf tournament. **This year The Exchange Club of East Dallas Foundation, in association with the Dallas**

Park & Recreation Department, is pleased to host the 92nd annual Dallas Junior Golf Championship at three Dallas public golf courses. Those sponsors receive a tax deduction for their contributions. Kids from every walk of life are encouraged to play in the tournament regardless of their socio-economic status or their level of athletic ability. Since the Exchange Club is run purely by non-paid volunteers, virtually 100% of a tournament's sponsor's donation goes to the school kids of East Dallas.

Civic Affairs

Besides the important mission of helping students in east Dallas the club is active in civic affairs. On the Fourth of July, club members walk the **Lakewood Fourth of July parade** route and give away thousands of American flags. If you've attended a parade your kids probably have one. **In 2017 we passed out just over 6,000. In certain public locations, the Exchange club may have installed a Freedom Shrine, bronze replicas of our nation's most important documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and more.**

Other Special Needs

As the members work with the schools, they get to know the needs of the students. Each school may have unique needs such as **microscopes for the science lab, music stands for the band, Weekly Reader programs, pencils, tablets and many other items that the teachers and Counselors believe would help the students learn better.**

Fundraising Efforts

How is all this paid for? Each member is tasked with raising funds annually through donations, fundraisers, corporate and individual sponsorships, as well as individual contributors. This year we added a special event:

2018 – “Dale Hansen”

2017 – “A Blazing Good Evening with Burton Gilliam” Master of Ceremonies will be Gary Coghill: Longtime Dallas area film producer and movie critic.

2016 - “Talkin’ Baseball: An Evening with Eric Nadel”. ESPN's Ian Fitsimmons served as Master of Ceremonies and lead the retrospective of Eric's career. We sold tables to the event; we had a silent auction, and a live auction of donated items along with cash donations that allowed us to clear about \$98,000 of additional funds through this event for our school kids and teachers in East Dallas.

In a typical year we will raise approximately \$120,000 in funds to support our school kids and teachers. In 2016 that number expanded to approximately \$165,000 and in 2017 to \$185,000 resulting largely from our special event that we are planning to continue for the years to come.

Having fun while supporting our community, that's what we call **“The Power of 50”, the Exchange Club of East Dallas.**