One BIG day

Learn how The BIG Event has been building tradition of service and unity.

Page 4

One BIG thanks

Find out how students are doing more than yard work to help out a community.

Page 5

One BIG event

See The BIG Event’s goals to become the largest day of service in Corpus Christi.

Page 6
Student Volunteer Connection

Student Volunteer Connection (SVC) is a student organization that aims to get TAMU-CC students actively involved and committed to community service, provides community service opportunities that are accessible to students and to connect the campus to the community. The primary goal of SVC is to enhance the University by providing programs that:

- Cultivate student leadership
- Promote civic responsibility
- Contribute to University retention efforts

SVC members have the opportunity to participate in service events that help deal with different social issues in the community, and also have the opportunity to plan, promote, and organize large-scale service events, such as The BIG Event, for the University.

“Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you.”

-Mother Teresa
The BIG Event

Mission:
Through service-oriented activities, The BIG Event promotes campus and community unity as students come together for one day to express their gratitude for the support of the surrounding community.

About the event:
The BIG Event is a way for the student body to express their gratitude to the community which supports Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. This one-day event gives students a chance to connect with and give back to Corpus Christi community they may not have had a chance to meet otherwise. It is important to remember The BIG Event is not about the number of jobs completed or the number of students who participate each year. Instead, it is the interaction between students and community, and the unity that results throughout the community that makes The BIG Event such a unique experience.

History
The Big Event began in 1982 and was founded at Texas A&M University by Joe Nussbaum, then the Vice President of the Student Government Association. He envisioned a one day service project where students could show their appreciation for their community.

Big Event had humble beginnings, starting with six students wanting to thank the community through their actions. More than 30 years later, the BIG Event at College Station is the largest one-day student-run service project in the nation.

The BIG Event came to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2008 with the similar mission of expressing gratitude for our community and giving back to those in need. Each year the number of volunteers and our job sites that have been helped has increased considerably.

TAMU-CC students recognize that spending time with residents and helping them around their home is the least they can do to say thank-you to the community on one big day each year.

TAMU-CC’s BIG Event shares in the vision to ultimately establish a single day where students across the nation come together for one big day, one big thanks, one BIG Event. Though we may not be working side by side, the spirit of selfless service will be apparent from coast to coast as college students build relationships with the community that supports them.

Top right: Students remove trimmed tree branches from a resident’s yard.
Bottom right: Members of Zeta Tau Alpha pose for a group photo after sorting food at the local Food Bank.

One BIG tradition
3
The Organization of The BIG Event

The dedicated members of the Student Volunteer Connection organize The BIG Event with the help of outside student volunteers. The BIG Event is broken into five committees: campus outreach, community outreach, sponsorship, logistics and marketing. These five committees along with The BIG Event Chair and Co-Chair work throughout the year to complete various tasks that help The BIG Event continue to be successful.

The BIG Event Chair and Co-Chair create a new vision and set new goals for the event each year. They also work closely with the other committees to ensure that event planning proceeds on-schedule. Campus outreach is responsible for the recruitment of students, staff and faculty that will volunteer at job sites around the community. The community outreach committee works with local nonprofit organizations, community centers, senior centers, and churches to find job sites for the day of The BIG Event. The main focus of the sponsorship committee is to create partnerships with local businesses who share our vision of helping others and building a stronger community. The logistics committee plans the opening ceremony, check-in process and tool distribution and collection for the day of the event. The marketing committee designs save-the-date cards, posters, flyers and registration forms. The BIG Event requires a committed work force of passionate students and year-round preparation.

Bottom: Members of Island Waves and Alpha Gamma Delta pose for a photo with a Corpus Christi resident who has participated in several BIG Events.
Top right: Two members of Zeta Tau Alpha rake leaves and branch clippings around a resident’s driveway.
“Many small people, in many small places, do many small things, that can alter the face of the world.”
-Anonymous

A Typical Job

The typical jobs done by BIG Event volunteers vary greatly from one job site to another. Corpus Christi residents may request the volunteers help with tasks such as mowing the lawn, pruning flower beds, raking leaves, etc. The volunteers arrive at their assigned sites equipped with any necessary supplies such as, paint, painting supplies, rakes, shovels, gloves, trash bags, and garden shovels.

All needed tools are provided to the volunteers by the Student Volunteer Connection through the support of sponsors. The volunteers then perform any jobs that the homeowner (typically unable to do the job themselves) has requested. A typical job lasts approximately five hours and involves six to twelve students. Each job helps to bridge the gap between the students and their community allowing them to put Corpus Christi back into Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

The connections formed during The BIG Event lead to more opportunities for the students to serve their community in the future. Some students stay in touch with their resident and continue to visit after the event to complete other projects around the house. Student Volunteer Connection receives correspondence from homeowners and students every year about the impact of the relationships formed during their time together.

Left: Members of the Island Ambassadors prepare to mow a resident’s lawn.
Top right: Members of Rotaract and Campus Activities Board take a break from yard work to pose for a group photo with a resident they spent the morning helping.
**Growth of The BIG Event**

The BIG Event has continued to grow every year since it first began on the Island in 2008. Each year, more students and residents join in the event.

In 2013, The BIG Event volunteers completed an estimated **1200 hours of service**!

Our student participation goal for 2014 is **400 student volunteers**.

---

**2013 Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee members</th>
<th>13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of lawn mowers</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of weed eaters</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of gloves</td>
<td>Over 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event budget</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Student Participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Community Jobs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**The Importance of Sponsors**

Sponsors are a critical part of The BIG Event. Sponsors ensure that our volunteers have the proper tools to work safely at the job site. Without the aid they provide, The BIG Event would not be able to continue to grow and impact the lives of more and more people. With the help of sponsors, the Student Volunteer Connection is able to organize The BIG Event and mobilize the student body to give back to their community. We thank them for joining us in a tradition of service!

---

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

-Martin Luther King Jr.
Student Reviews of The BIG Event

“...Had fun! Lots of work and labor but worth it.”

“My favorite part of the event was bonding with the homeowners.”

“Best experience ever!”

“It was a great opportunity to help out others who really needed it.”

“My favorite part of the event was when Mr. Rodriguez rolled down his new ramp.”

“Great event!”

Contacting The BIG Event

If you are interested in volunteering for The BIG Event, filling out a Job Request Form or becoming a sponsor please contact Student Volunteer Connection.

Phone: (361) 825-2106
Fax: (361) 825-5201
Email: svc@tamucc.edu
Mailing Address:
6300 Ocean Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5783 Unit # 5783

Top right: Student Team from the very first BIG Event and their resident.
Above: Members of Rotaract hard at work stop to smile for the camera.