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For more information, call 361-825-2106 or email bigevent@tamucc.edu
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, make community service opportunities more 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 alleviate the struggle of different social issues in the community. Members also have the opportunity to plan, promote, and organize large-scale service events, such as The BIG Event, for the University.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”

-Audrey Hepburn

Did you know?

Since 2008, The BIG Event has served 321 community volunteer sites.

Top left: Volunteers pose outside of their volunteer site after a successful day of work.
Bottom left: Samantha De Melim (bottom left) and Mayra Rodriguez (bottom right) work to beautify downtown Corpus Christi.
Top right: Volunteers from Omega Delta Phi remove damaged wood from a resident’s porch.
The BIG Event

Mission:
During Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s The BIG Event, students work in teams to complete projects across the city as a way to say “One BIG Thanks” to the community for their support of TAMU-CC.

About the event:
The BIG Event is a way for the campus community to express their gratitude to the community which supports Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. This one-day event gives the campus an opportunity to connect with, and give back to the Corpus Christi community. Through service, the campus is able to meet local residents and show them neighborly appreciation and love. It is important to remember The BIG Event’s goal is not about the number of sites completed, nor the number of students who participate each year. Instead, it is the achievement of interaction between the campus and the Corpus Christi community, the relationships formed, and the Islander Impact produced that results in a unified community. This is what 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.

The BIG Event had humble beginnings, starting with six students wanting to thank the community through their actions. For more than 30 years, The BIG Event at College Station has been the largest one-day student-run service project in the nation.

The BIG Event was established at 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 volunteer sites helped have increased in steady increments.

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 every year.

TAMU-CC’s The BIG Event shares in the vision to ultimately establish a single day of service where students across the nation come together for one BIG day, one BIG thanks, and 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.
Organization of The BIG Event

The dedicated members of the Student Volunteer Connection organize The BIG Event with the help of TAMU-CC student volunteers. The BIG Event is broken into five subcommittees: Campus Recruitment, Community Outreach, Programming, Operations, and Sponsorship.

The BIG Event Student Coordinators, with assistance from their advisor and subcommittee chairs, create a new vision and set new goals for the event each year. They work closely with their subcommittee chairs to ensure that event planning proceeds on-schedule.

- The Campus Recruitment subcommittee is responsible for the recruitment of students, staff, and faculty that will volunteer at sites around the community.

- The Community Outreach subcommittee works with local nonprofit organizations, community centers, senior centers, and churches to find volunteer sites for the day of The BIG Event.

- The Programming subcommittee plans the opening ceremony, guest speakers, and day-of-layout.

- The Operations subcommittee plans the check-in process, tool distribution and collection process, and performs general tool maintenance.

- The Sponsorship subcommittee works to create partnerships with local businesses and regional corporations who share our vision of helping others and building a stronger community.

Did you know?

TAMU-CC students have volunteered 16,576 hours since The BIG Event’s inception at the Island University.
“Volunteering is at the very core of being human. No one has made it through life without someone else’s help.”

- Heather French Henry

A Typical Volunteer Site

The service completed by BIG Event volunteers vary greatly from one volunteer site to another. Corpus Christi residents may request the volunteers’ help with tasks such as mowing the lawn, pruning flower beds, raking leaves, mulching, painting, washing windows, etc. The volunteers arrive at their assigned sites equipped with necessary tools such as gloves, shovels, spades, rakes, trowels, face masks, and trash bags. We ask that residents supply any other supplies that are deemed necessary to complete the volunteer site such as paint, mulch, cleaning supplies, etc.

All necessary tools are provided to the volunteers by the Student Volunteer Connection through the support of sponsors. The volunteers then perform any project the homeowner (typically unable to do themselves) has requested. A typical volunteer assignment lasts about four hours and involves six to twelve students. Each project 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. The Student Volunteer Connection receives correspondence from homeowners and students every year about the impact of the relationships formed during their time together.

Top right: An Army ROTC Cadet climbs a ladder inside the Ritz Theatre.
Middle left: A volunteer paints a fire lane in downtown Corpus Christi.
Bottom Left: A group from Omega Delta Phi poses with a resident after completing the requested work on her home.
The Importance of Sponsors

Sponsors are a critical part of The BIG Event. Sponsors ensure that our volunteers have the proper tools and equipment necessary to work safely at the volunteer site. Without the aid they provide, The BIG Event would not be able to continue to grow and further impact the lives of Corpus Christi residents. 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!

Student Reviews

“I had fun! Lots of work but totally worth it.”

“I didn’t know the smallest task could make the biggest impact.”

“Not only did we volunteer today, but we created better community ties and memories.”

Contacting The BIG Event

If you are interested in VOLUNTEERING for The BIG Event, becoming a volunteer site, or becoming a sponsor, please contact the Student Volunteer Connection.

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