



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Austin Elementary Recognized for Donation to AHA

Stephen F. Austin Elementary School was recognized at the regular meeting of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees December 16 for making a donation of \$37,203.43 to the American Heart Association.

Austin Elementary raised the most money in the southwest area, which includes six states.

The funds were raised last February through Jump Rope for Heart, and every student contributed to the campaign to raise money for research and training to help improve cardiovascular health. Students used their P. E. time to jump with their jump rope team, as well as with teachers and family members, who encouraged them to reach their goal.

The AHA program also stresses the importance of living a heart-healthy lifestyle for the faculty and students of Austin Elementary.

Amy Newman, vice president of youth market for the American Heart Association, presented physical education teachers Tiffany Coffman and Charlotte Williams, along with Laura Smith, principal, Bart Cobb, assistant principal, and the top five students with a plaque and a banner showing Austin Elementary as Number One of the Top Ten Schools in Texas for donations to the American Heart Association. The five students raising the most money for the AHA were Kailey Rodriguez, \$1,015; Drake Jackson, \$765; Addison Schmidt, \$675; Sammy Johnson, \$625 and Jake Carr, \$513.

The highlight of the presentation was a video-taped, heartfelt message from Anna King, a 14-year old student from The Woodlands, who is on the heart transplant list. Anna thanked Stephen F. Austin Elementary School, administrators, teachers, students, and the community for the generous donation, which will help fund research, education and outreach for the AHA.

"From my heart to yours, thank you. You guys rock," said King, as she strummed her guitar.



(l to r) Amanda Krippel, youth market director and Amy Newman, vice president youth market for the American Heart Association, present a plaque and banner to Stephen F. Austin Elementary School to recognize the school's \$37,203.43 donation to the American Heart Association. Also pictured are (front row, l to r) Jake Carr, Sammy Johnson, Addison Schmidt, Drake Jackson, Kailey Rodriguez, (back row) Bart Cobb, assistant principal, Laura Smith, principal, Daniel Blackford, president of the GCCISD Board of Trustees, Dr. Salvador Cavazos, GCCISD superintendent, Charlotte Williams and Tiffany Coffman, P. E. teachers.

Austin students were treated to a visit from Radio Disney's Rockin' Recess team last year after they achieved their goal of 100 percent participation and surpassed their previous record of \$23,000, but the American Heart Association plans to further recognize the students for their achievement. A formal presentation at a rally to kick off the SFA 2014 Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser is scheduled for January 31.

"The students, parents, coaches, principal and staff of Stephen F. Austin Elementary truly went above and beyond last year to support the American Heart Association and our mission of building healthier lives free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke," said Amy Newman, vice president youth market for the American Heart Association's Southwest Affiliate. "Raising more than \$37,000 is not an easy feat. It takes passion and dedication to become the No. 1 school in a six-state region. We are so lucky and privileged to be working with such a committed school who understands lives are impacted daily by their efforts."

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