

Amid the COVID-19 PANDEMIC, the Austin AKA Foundation Delivers School Supplies to Oaks Springs & Texas Preparatory



Volunteers LaMonica Lewis, Jackie Hawkins and Reuna Campbell deliver supplies to Oak Springs.

(AUSTIN, TX) - Though COVID-19 has redefined the way our students learn, the Austin AKA Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Beta Psi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), continued its annual commitment to provide school supplies to each child in two schools in the Austin area.

Twelve years ago, AKA began a partnership with Oak Springs Elementary School. The mission remains to annually adopt every child in the school for the purpose of furnishing all school supplies on their grade-level lists, including backpacks. The program, known as Project G.R.E.E.N. (Growing Re-

shaped by national and state guidance as well as local decisions, mandated a different plan. The supplies were purchased from local stores, boxed up by grade level, and delivered to the door of the school. All volunteer workers were required to wear masks. For the safety of all, entry was not allowed beyond the doorway.

Oak Springs Elementary opened for learning on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Current plans stipulate that the first four weeks will be on-line learning. In-school learning is scheduled to begin on Oct. 6th. Earlier plans to distribute backpacks to families were interrupted by rain but was resched-

ing access was limited to the school's entryway. Monday, August 24, 2020 marked Texas Prep's first day of school for the 2020-21 school year. Texas Preparatory is offering both an *on-line* option, as well as an *in-person* option. Full Details are available in the *Reopening Plans* found on the school's website: <https://texasprep.us/2020-reopening/>.

Both schools recognize that the pandemic guidance is ever-evolving, which requires that their leadership be flexible, agile, and able to pivot as circumstances change.

The officers and members of the Austin AKA Foundation extend



Principal Daphne McDole (L) of Texas Preparatory School and Jackie Hawkins, Austin AKA Foundation Chair

responsible Environmentalists by meeting Educational Needs), also encourages environmental education, as the name implies. Students and teachers are urged to recycle and participate in other environmentally friendly activities and, in return, the Foundation provides the supplies needed by students and teachers in the classroom.

In past years, all supplies would be delivered to the school and then, the week before school started, approximately 20 members of the organization would gather at the school to pack backpacks for each grade level. This year, COVID-19 guidelines,

uled to ensure students have the tools needed for success. For info go to: <https://oaksprings.austinschools.org/>.

Texas Preparatory School, now in its 7th year of partnership with the Austin AKA Foundation, also received its annual school supplies. Principal Daphne McDole was there to greet the delivery team along with helpful staff. Like the Austin ISD school, reopening policies followed guidance from federal, state, and local entities, including Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Again, delivery volunteers were required to wear masks, and build-

our gratitude to both principals, Cynthia Sinegal-Jackson of Oak Springs Elementary and Daphne McDole of Texas Preparatory School, and their staff members for helping to continue and strengthen this partnership. Special thanks to Ana Lee, Oak Springs Primary Instructional Specialist & Webmaster, who graciously makes herself available to the Foundation. Thank you all for working to ensure the safety of our students and teachers. We welcome and congratulate Ms. Sinegal-Jackson as the new principal of Oak Springs and offer our best wishes to both schools for a productive year.

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Saturday, 9/12 and Sunday 9/13

SAHARA LOUNGE

(In front of the building you will see a tent.)

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER
& VOTE IN NOVEMBER...

YOUR VOTE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

4pm to 7pm

1413 Webberville Road, Austin, TX 78721

To register in Texas you must:

- be a citizen of the United States
- be at least 18 years old at the time of the election
- If you have been convicted of a felony, you must have fully discharged any incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation.

If you meet the qualifications or know someone who does and has not yet registered, please come by! It's not too late to register and vote in the November election. We can make a difference!

Sat. Sept. 12 and Sun. Sept. 13. 4 to 7pm. There will be a tent in front of the club in the parking lot. The League of Women Voters will also be providing materials about voting. Let your friends and family know. All are welcome.



Food Bank Announces September Drive-through Food Distributions for Austin Area

The Food Bank needs volunteers to assist with these events and with food sorting in our warehouse. Anyone interested in volunteering to support the Food Bank at this critical time should visit the Food Bank's website, centraltexasfoodbank.org, and click on "Volunteer" to sign up.

WHEN & WHERE:

Thursday, September 17

Nelson Field

7105 Berkman Dr Austin, TX 78752
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 24

Toney Burger Stadium

3200 Jones Rd, Austin, TX 78745
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

IMPORTANT: Please enter at the north side of the facility, from the eastbound Hwy 290 frontage road

Saturday, September 26

Del Valle High School

5201 Ross Rd, Del Valle, TX 78617
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

At these special drive-through food distributions, the Central Texas Food Bank will distribute free food to help those who are facing increased food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendees will receive an assortment of food items totaling between 44 lbs and 76 lbs., depending on available supplies.

Before coming to this drive-through event, please make appropriate space in your trunk or hatch.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central Texas Food Bank continues to meet the needs of those facing hunger. In addition to these special distributions, Central Texans can also access food through our network of partner pantries and mobile food pantry distributions throughout Central Texas. For the latest information on getting help, go to centraltexasfoodbank.org and click on "Find Food Now". Once you find the distribution site nearest you, please call them to confirm their hours of operation since things are changing rapidly. You can also call 2-1-1 for the latest information.

The Food Bank stands ready to help all Central Texans affected by the pandemic, but we've seen demand for our services skyrocket recently, severely straining our resources. So if you're able to help, we need monetary donations. Please donate at centraltexasfoodbank.org.