

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY Student-Athletes

Love your
neighbor

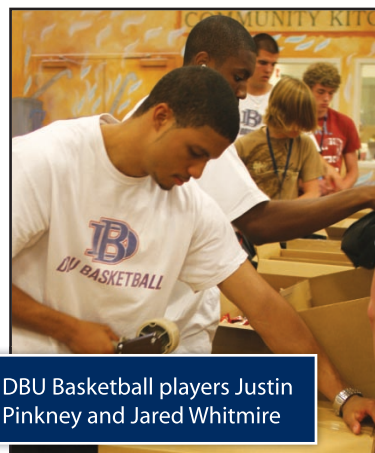
SERVANT LEADERS AT HOME

AT Dallas Baptist University, the Patriot Athletic Department's student-athletes are given opportunities to share the love of Christ through hands-on service projects. In addition to global initiatives, DBU student-athletes are able to apply their leadership skills and God-given talents through service-learning experiences here at home.

Goodness NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK

In 2007, DBU's Men's Basketball program started initiating its incoming players in a rather unusual way. All new team members join together with DBU coaches, several returning players, and local churches to serve at the North Texas Food Bank.

"DBU Basketball is about more than just winning games," explained DBU Head Coach Blake Flickner. "Helping our students become servant leaders who are active in the community, is as important as anything we do on the court."



DBU Basketball players Justin Pinkney and Jared Whitmire

Volunteering in the community is an important aspect of the educational experience at DBU, which emphasizes "servant leadership" as part of its faith-based mission.

Service H-E-B FEAST OF SHARING

Over 170 members of DBU's athletic teams filled Dallas' Fair Park on November 10, 2009, for the H-E-B Feast of Sharing, a free Thanksgiving meal and festival for the less fortunate and homeless members of the Dallas community.

Student-athletes from all DBU athletic teams, the Patriot Cheerleaders, and the Diamond Belles joined some 1,000 volunteers to greet and serve over 10,000 guests.

"Being there to help these people in need reminds me of what life is all about. I have been truly blessed," claimed DBU Golfer Nic Tacher.

Ashleigh Elkins, a player on the Lady Patriot Soccer Team, said, "This experience of getting to hand out food and drinks to people in great need has shown me a side of life I never knew existed, and it really opened my heart to help the community more."



Faithfulness VOLLEYBALL CLINIC

In August 2010, the DBU Lady Patriot Volleyball Team partnered with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to host a free Volleyball Clinic for over 205 middle school girls in the Dallas Independent School District.

The Lady Patriots taught volleyball skills through different stations in the gym and shared how to be student-athletes while maintaining a life that is glorifying to God.

"This service project was one that is close to my heart," said Head DBU Volleyball Coach Cathy Ray Kokel. "Having our Lady Patriots working and teaching right alongside the campers allowed for our team to be great role models and witnesses for Christ. I was so impressed by the way our team stepped right into coaching the young girls and showed so much compassion and motivation."



DBU Tennis player Richard Abel

Kindness

SENIOR PROM

Over 75 student-athletes and coaches from the DBU Athletic Department hosted the inaugural DBU Athletics "Senior Prom" on April 11, 2010, at Crescent Point Retirement Community in Cedar Hill, Texas. Dinner and dancing provided a night of interaction between the student-athletes and over 35 Crescent Point residents.

According to head DBU Volleyball Coach Cathy Ray Kokel, "DBU student-athletes brought many smiles to the residents' faces, and energy to their lives."

After dinner was served, many residents and student-athletes took to the dance floor, enjoying music from the 40s and 50s, as well as music from newer generations. Two Crescent Point residents were even recognized as Prom King and Prom Queen and were presented with their crowns.



DBU Cheerleaders Taran Bowman and Kayli Jackson

Love

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The DBU Patriot Baseball team partnered with the Special Olympics of Texas on May 27, 2011, to provide an unforgettable experience for several hundred athletes who had the opportunity to compete in the track meet at UTA Maverick Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The Patriots were able to assist in many logistical efforts and provided help in setup and breakdown for all events. They also showed their support for each individual by encouraging the athletes to do their best.



DBU Baseball player Drew Pirtle

"We feel very fortunate that we were able to volunteer for the second year in a row at such a great event. Our goal was to serve and help make the summer games a memorable event for the special athletes," Head Coach Dan Heefner said about the day.



Compassion

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

The Dallas Baptist University's Sports Medicine staff prepared and served breakfast to the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Dallas, on April 17, 2011.

"It was great to be able to minister to the families who have been uprooted from their homes so that their children can receive proper medical care," reflected DBU student athletic trainer, Haddon Norris. "Sometimes the brothers and sisters of a sick child are forgotten, so reaching out to meet the simplest of their needs by providing breakfast was truly a blessing."

DBU Director of Athletics Ryan Erwin said, "We have a special group of student-athletes and staff at DBU who are always willing to help make a difference in the lives of complete strangers."

Generosity

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On November 11, 2010, over 150 student-athletes and representatives from all 16 intercollegiate DBU sports participated in the seventh annual Patriot Athletics Wrapping Party for Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by the DBU Diamond Belles, DBU Cheerleaders, and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC).



DBU Cheerleader Amanda Mills

Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, demonstrates God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, while sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Each student-athlete brought at least one shoebox filled with a variety of products, toys, a small Bible, and a personal note from the individual sending the package. At least 200 boxes for children of different ages were collected, wrapped, and shipped to multiple countries around the world.

This yearly contribution of money, time, and effort makes a difference in the lives of many young children. As well, Patriot athletes learn the missional calling of sharing love with children across the globe.