



## FIRST LADY CECILIA ABBOTT AND ONESTAR FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF THE 2015 GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER AWARDS

September 8, 2015

First Lady Cecilia Abbott, Honorary Chair of the 2015 Governor's Volunteer Awards, and OneStar Foundation have announced the recipients of the 32nd annual Governor's Volunteer Awards. These awards honor the exemplary service of individuals, groups and organizations that have made a significant and measurable contribution to their communities through service and volunteering. Texas A&M's **The Big Event** is one of nine award recipients. "These nine awardees are some of Texas' most dedicated volunteers," Mrs. Abbott said. "Because of their generosity, kindness and hard work, our world is a better place. They have hearts as big as Texas, and I am honored to join in this celebration of their amazing contributions to their fellow Texans."

The Big Event is the recipient of the ***Higher Education Community Impact Award***:

Thirty-three years ago, The Big Event started as a project for students at Texas A&M University in College Station to say thank you to the surrounding community through a one-day service blitz. In 2015, over 22,000 students volunteered to assist local residents with painting, yard work, cleaning, and various tasks, completing over 2,500 jobs. In a testament to the power of service The Big Event has spread to 110 other schools across the country, and internationally. The Big Event is embedded into the undergraduate culture of Texas A&M students, many of whom continue their civic engagement into their professional and personal lives wherever they reside.

Mark Lutz '16, The Big Event Director shared, "Our committee members work tirelessly year round to ensure the best day possible each Spring, and I hope this award offers them a big thanks for their time and energy. We strive each year to make it the best Big Event possible, and I hope that each participant, committee member, and exec can see this award as a token of appreciation for their hard work."

Rusty Thompson '85, Director of Student Activities, stated, "A recognition such as this not only reflects positively on the Big Event Committee, it reflects on the core value of selfless service that is entrenched in the entire Texas A&M student body."

The awardees will be honored on Monday, September 21, 2015, at an evening reception at the Texas Governor's Mansion.

A full press release can be found here:

<http://gov.texas.gov/news/press-release/21376>

Texas A&M's news story can be found here:

<http://today.tamu.edu/2015/09/08/big-event-wins-governors-community-impact-award/>