



Jerry Davis
City Council Member
District B

NEWS RELEASE

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Council Member Jerry Davis Announces 2nd Annual Walking Towards Literacy

HOUSTON — September 30, 2013 —District B Council Member Jerry Davis is pleased to announce the Second Annual Walking Towards Literacy event, to be held Saturday, October 26th, 2013 from 9am to 1pm at Tidwell Park Community Center. Walking Towards Literacy is a free event geared to promote literacy as a pathway to success. Several community partners will be participating in this event providing books, health and wellness screenings, arts and crafts for the children, and more.

Throughout the month of October during the school day, District B staff joined by volunteers from our community partners and sponsors will read to second grade students at nine elementary schools in Northeast Houston: Atherton, Cook, Dogan, Henderson, Kashmere Gardens, Lakewood, McGowan, Betsy Ross, and Osborne. Walking Towards Literacy is generously supported by our growing list of sponsors that includes Cigna, SpawGlass, Coca-Cola, Littler Mendelson, Locke Lord, LLP and Texas Children's Health Plan. Our community partners are excited to participate in the concluding walk by providing books and backpacks, health and wellness screenings, arts and crafts for the children, and more.

The current District B profile reveals as of 2010, 44.6% of District B minors are living in poverty. Only 31% of District B residents have achieved a high school diploma or its equivalent. "This is a very important initiative to me, our principals, and stakeholders. The reason why I wanted to do this is because both my parents were educators in the North Forest Independent School District, my dad was an assistant principal, and I want to practice what he preached and what he preached was education," said Council Member Davis. As we embark on this journey, we hope to improve the literacy rate among District B youth. "Last year we had over 100 people come out to the literacy walk. From that walk, we were recipients of a grant from Making It Better. We hosted a free summer enrichment program for 60 students and this year we will have extra reading assistance for our first and second graders," said Principal Kristi Rangel from Kashmere Gardens Elementary School.

The event will start off with a 1.5 mile-long walk from Tidwell to Forest Brook Middle School and back where walk participants can enjoy the festivities.



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