STRIVING TO BE #HUNGERFREEOUD
National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 2018 was one of the most impactful yet, as we helped to create 14,083 meals at North Texas Food Bank, donate 21 pounds of vegetables to NETWORK of Community Ministries, craft 21 no-sew blankets for the homeless supported by Family Gateway, and participate in an immersive food pantry experience at Jewish Family Service. We also were able foster new partnerships with the UT Dallas Office of Undergraduate Education and UT Dallas Arts & Humanities.

VOLUNTEER EXPO THRIVES IN YEAR FIVE
The OSV and UT Dallas Career Center saw one of our biggest turnouts at this year’s Volunteer Expo. Taking place during Weeks of Welcome, Expo helped connect 624 Comets with 48 community partners representing an abundance of social impact areas in the Richardson community. Volunteer Expo aims to not only kick off the semester by introducing students to service opportunities in their backyards, but also allow for networking opportunities that might grow into potential internships at nonprofit organizations.

VOLUNTEER OF THE SEMESTER
This fall’s Volunteer of the Semester, Ellen McKay, was selected by OSV Student Leaders for the curiosity and genuine positivity she brought to each event she participated in. Thanks for being an awesome example of how greatly Comets care, Ellen!

SERVICE SUMMARY
2,962 Comets participated in 56 OSV events and service opportunities over the fall semester. In total, volunteers served 4,649.76 hours with an estimated value of $112,942.67* in donated time. Head over to our Facebook page to see photos from all of our events, or check out #volunteerudt on Instagram.

SPRING INTO SERVICE
As we lean into spring, check out the highlights below and save the dates! Registration and event details are available at utdallas.edu/volunteer.

- Jan. 25, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.: The OSV, Multicultural Center, and other campus departments and student groups will package 20,000 meals as a part of UTD Dream Week. General registration will open dependent upon space availability.
- April 15-19: Be one of the “thousands points of light” envisioned by President H.W. Bush by participating in various volunteer events like Piggy Bank Painting and Breads & Threads.
- April 22-26: Celebrate the Earth and learn how campus departments, and community partners practice sustainability in a planet-sized week filled with eco-friendly events.

DONATION OVER-DRIVE!
OSV monthly donation drives, new and old, saw gains across the board this semester with the campus community donating 117 party items for the Birthday Party Project, 223 eye care items for Lions Club International, and 150 pounds of pet food for Second Chance SPCA.

LIVIN’ LA VIDA VIVA VOLUNTEER
511 Comets from 27 student groups came together on Make a Difference Day to serve at 23 project sites throughout the Dallas area. Viva Volunteers served in a variety of ways such as planting 198 trees with Texas Trees Foundation, sorting 5,286 toys at NETWORK of Community of Ministries, and providing 56,826 meals at North Texas Food Bank. Viva Volunteer’s goal each year is to not only connect Comets with a community resource, but to increase their awareness of the variety of ways in which they can make a difference. One Viva Volunteer summed up their experience by saying, “A few individuals focused on one goal can make a huge impact.” It was thanks to that combined focus that Viva Volunteers were able to help save $63,083 in volunteer time in just one morning!

*estimated value of 2017 Texas volunteer time per www.independentsector.org