



MEDIA ADVISORY

EMPLOYEES & STUDENTS ROLL-UP SLEEVES FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN *Mercedes Benz Financial Services employees install a new garden at Harlean Beal Elementary School*

WHAT: More than 20 employees from Mercedes Benz Financial Services will work alongside teachers and students at Harlean Beal Elementary School to install the school's first community garden. This project is being done in conjunction with REAL School Gardens and the Volunteer Center of North Texas (VCNT).

This outdoor classroom space will feature raised vegetable beds, perennial beds to attract butterflies, an earth science station and a miniature bog. Mercedes-Benz employees will contribute valuable manual labor and supplies to get these features in place and prepare the garden for many seasons of active, outdoor learning to come.

The morning will begin with a presentation from the students, welcome from the Principal, Alfreida Colvin, and instruction from REAL School Gardens staff about the tasks for the day.

WHEN: **9:05 a.m. – 2 p.m., Tuesday, February 15, 2011**

WHO

- 20 Mercedes Benz Financial Services employees
- Volunteer Center of North Texas
- REAL School Gardens Staff
- Faculty, staff and students from Harlean Beal Elementary School

WHERE: **Harlean Beal Elementary School**
5615 Forest Hill Drive
Forest Hill, TX 76119

WHY: REAL School Gardens is a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating relationships with elementary school communities to create learning gardens that raise hope, spark imaginations and connect children to nature. Partnering with VCNT and REAL School Gardens to impact the lives of students at Harlean Beal Elementary School is another example of Mercedes Benz Financial Services' commitment to help improve the community.

This service project is managed and coordinated by VCNT's Hands at Work™ Corporate Employee Program, which optimizes the effectiveness of employee volunteers while ensuring a rewarding volunteer experience. VCNT collaborates with local nonprofit organizations to provide any size corporate employee group the opportunity to volunteer, learn and lead in their communities. This is the sixth Hands at Work™ service project completed by Mercedes Benz Financial Services.

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