

50 high schoolers to aid tutor project

Volunteers helping Waco One Thousand meet community goal

By MIKE WALLACE
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Fifty Waco High students joined the ranks of the Waco One Thousand reading volunteer program Thursday, pushing the program to the halfway point of its goal to attract 1,000 volunteers.

"Anybody who is in high school should be concerned about the kind of society we're going to

have," said Bernard Rapoport, chairman of the board of American Income Life Insurance and founder of the Waco One Thousand program.

The 50 students who volunteered will serve one hour per week tutoring elementary students in six north and west Waco elementary schools. They've joined 450 other people who have volunteered since the program began in December.

"These young high school kids are phenomenal and they're excited about doing it," Rapoport said.

Amy Wicklund, a senior, had already worked as a volunteer in Viking Hills Elementary before joining the Waco One Thousand. She spends most of her time helping one boy.

"When you see him reading and he smiles when he understands something — it's just a lot of fun," she said. "I've taken him to a pep rally and done lots of stuff with him."

Senior Michael Wise said he wants to volunteer to give something back to the community.

"The community has given me a quality education," Wise said.

"I'm ready and willing to help because others have helped me out."

The student volunteers were drawn from members of the National Honor Society, Future Teachers of America and the Rotary-sponsored Interact Club. Other Waco High students are also participating.

Rapoport said the young volunteers will be an asset to the program.

"People that think this generation isn't up to par — they just don't know what they're talking about," he said.