

---

## A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

### **Garland School District Garland, Texas**

The Garland School District Partnership Program encouraged schools to share successful partnership practices by distributing disposable cameras to each school. At the end of the 1999-2000 school year, the district partnership program gave each of the sixty-four schools a one-time-use camera along with a gift certificate for developing the film. A community partner purchased these materials for the program at a cost of \$700.

The district facilitators asked each school's Action Team for Partnerships to take pictures of events that represent school, family, and community partnerships during the 2000-2001 school year. The schools would display their photos and other materials at the May 2001 Council of PTA's Spring Luncheon as a way of sharing partnership successes. Many schools used other cameras to document activities after they finished the disposable cameras.

Six hundred and thirty district administrators and PTA members attended the May Council of PTA's Luncheon. The sixty-four schools displayed photos of activities including:

- Volunteers working with students;
- Community speakers;
- "Welcome" family and community events;
- PTA meetings; and
- Signs in languages reflecting school populations.

Along with the photos, schools sent either a school representative or handouts to share their partnership practices. This district-wide practice sparked enthusiasm for and communication about school-family-community partnership programs.

*Patricia Mullins, Family Enrichment Facilitator  
(972) 926-2681*