

**TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRESS RELEASE**

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**SIGNING SANTA VISITS DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN**

**WITH HOLIDAY MUSIC PERFORMED BY STUDENTS FROM TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

**Austin, Texas – December 3, 2012** Santa arrives at Barton Creek Square Mall today, ready to check wish lists from deaf and hard of hearing students from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

That's right. Santa knows many languages, including American Sign Language (ASL).

Signing Santa - sponsored annually thanks to the Northwest Austin Optimist Club at Barton Creek Square Mall - gives area children who use ASL to communicate, the opportunity to relay their holiday wishes directly to Santa and on to the North Pole. Optimist volunteers provide each child with a free photo with Santa and a small treat from his workshop, and you can join students from the Texas School for the Deaf who will be performing interpreted holiday carols using ASL.

WHAT: Signing Santa  
WHEN: Monday, December 3  
6:00 – 9:00 PM  
WHERE: Barton Creek Mall  
Entrance B – between Sears and the AMC Theater  
WHY: Free photos with Santa, sponsored by the North Austin Optimists, and holiday music by Texas School for the Deaf students

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**ABOUT THE NORTH AUSTIN OPTIMISTS**

The North Austin Optimists have been serving the youth of Austin since 1952 with its primary focus on providing sports activities, educational programs, self-esteem and skill enhancement to the youth of our community. Meeting the needs of young people in communities worldwide, Optimist Clubs have been "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" since 1919 with positive service projects aimed at providing a helping hand to youth. Optimists are best known in their communities for their upbeat attitudes. By believing in young people and empowering them to be the best they can, Optimist volunteers continually make this world a better place to live. For more information, and to join the North Austin Optimist Club, visit <http://www.naopt.com/>.

# TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRESS RELEASE

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## ABOUT THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (TSD)

The Texas School for the Deaf is the oldest continuously operating public school in Texas. Educating deaf and hard of hearing students of Texas since 1856, the campus also provides outreach and educational resources for students, their families and professionals in the field throughout the state of Texas. With educational excellence and a strong belief in a culture and community at TSD, students form a unique identity based on their individual strengths and talents. TSD is an environment where students learn, grow, and belong. For more information about the Texas School for the Deaf, visit <http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/>.

