

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Dec. 14, 2010

Students a big part of food-gift operation

The fingerprints of Battle Ground Public Schools students and employees are literally all over the food, toys, clothes and other gifts going to upwards of 500 north county families this weekend.

The distribution is the culmination of the 2011 Christmas operation involving the North County Community Food Bank, schools and offices across the Battle Ground School District and numerous local clubs, businesses and individuals who once again donated items and/or volunteered their time to make it all happen.

As John Idsinga, School Board member and Food Bank Board president said, the effort “would fail without the volunteers. Without them, we are nothing.”

Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 13-14, the Battle Ground Community Center was a beehive of activity as those volunteers sorted and boxed food that had been collected at Battle Ground schools. They checked it for old pull dates, sorted it according to category (canned fruit; pastas; beans and rice, etc.) and boxed it as Christmas gift packs for about 240 families. Distribution at the center will begin about 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

Similar, but smaller, operations were under way – or soon will be – at two other north county distribution points: Yacolt Primary School, where the North Clark Lions Club will be in charge of distributing about 125 Christmas food boxes beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, and at Sacred Heart Church in Battle Ground, where St. Vincent de Paul is handling distribution of 70 or more boxes at 10 a.m.

Perishables, including a turkey, butter, milk and potatoes, will be added to each box. In all cases, recipients are to have paperwork from the North County Community Food Bank (NCCFB) in order to receive a Christmas food box.

The lion’s share of the Christmas food came from food drives in Battle Ground schools where students brought food for delivery to the distribution points. Just one example: Maple Grove Middle School students donated 2,573 food items.

After it was all delivered to the Community Center, students from the BGHS FFA and the Futures Program joined numerous adult volunteers, including former School Board member Frederick Striker, to sort and box the food in advance of Saturday’s distribution.

“Giving Trees”: In addition – and separate from the food-box distributions -- there have been “Giving Trees” in some schools and offices. Those include the school district headquarters in Brush Prairie and the big, 13-year-old program at Amboy Middle and Yacolt Primary in conjunction with Green Mountain and Yale schools. That effort is organized by Yacolt parent and indefatigable volunteer Lori Homola. She said boxes that include two gifts for each member of about 85 families will be delivered Friday or Saturday.

The total from just these four efforts is more than 500 boxes. (Community Center, 240; Yacolt Primary, 125; St. Vincent de Paul, 70; Amboy-Yacolt Giving Tree, 80). Add to those an uncounted number of additional giving-tree efforts in other schools and offices around the district.

The Christmas-food-box program is separate from the regular monthly food-distribution program at the food bank, 17 N.E. Third Ave., Battle Ground. The county-wide Walk and Knock food drive on Dec. 5 resulted in 12,888 pounds for the regular NCCFB operation. That food was sorted and boxed at Chief Umtuch Middle School buy eighth graders on Dec. 7 and 8.

More information: North County Community Food Bank, (360) 687-5007, nccfoodbank.com



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