

NR012215

**Gladstone Education Foundation boosts classroom innovations**

In 2014, the Gladstone Education Foundation (GEF) brought in over \$149,000 -- \$71 per student -- to support Gladstone's four schools.

The total includes \$71,000 from fundraisers, including an auction, a community garage sale, a breakfast, and a golf tournament. The group received over \$21,000 in direct contributions and more than \$57,000 in grants.

"Our schools are at the heart of this friendly little town," said GEF President Bill Kemnitzer. "It's no surprise that our community turns out in force to help kids. Our 2014 auction was perhaps the biggest ever, with 300 people attending."

Some \$106,000 of the funds are being used to support classroom projects and athletic programs, afterschool clubs, a new kindergarten readiness summer program, Saturday School, the Family Resource Coordinator, and equipment for the Community Clothes Closet and Food Pantry.

To contribute to or to volunteer with the GEF, contact Bill Kemnitzer at 503.522.2884. More information is available on the GEF website.

**PHOTO: Gladstone Education Foundation leaders held a community garage sale last June to raise funds for schools. Pictured are Tammy Tracy, Dan McFarlane, Bill Kemnitzer, Kathy Beykovski, Leslie Robinette, and Ed Beykovski.**

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**Kids invited to share teddy bears, free books, science fun**

Because early childhood is essential to brain development, the Gladstone Center for Children & Families plans two special events in February, both on Thursdays at 4:15 p.m. The GCCF is located at 18905 Portland Avenue, in Gladstone.

Story Hour, on Thursday, February 5 celebrates Teddy Bear Day, with children five and under invited to bring their bears to share in story time and fun activities. Each child attending will receive a free book.

Science Hour, on Thursday, February 19, invites kids eight and under to learn about making things move. The event is designed to help parents, grandparents, and childcare providers encourage and support science learning. Each child participating will receive a free science activity to do at home.

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**Free class provides tips on communicating with teens**

Parents hoping to improve family communication, boost student motivation, and build effective discipline strategies will learn that and more at free 4-week parent course offered this winter.

**Parenting Teens without Losing Your Mind** will be offered at Kraxberger Middle School from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights: February 3, 10, 17, and 24. Free childcare will be provided. To register, visit [www.lastingrelationships.org](http://www.lastingrelationships.org) or call 503-546-6377.

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**Gladstone School District seeks volunteers**

If your New Year's resolution is to help others, schools in Gladstone have some fun opportunities for volunteers. To apply, call Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt at 503-656-6564, ext. 265.

"Studies show that kids with adult mentors have better attendance and more success in school," said Schmidt. "We want every student in Gladstone to have a great role model."

- **Lunch Buddies:** Meet once a week or twice a month with an elementary student for lunch and recess to provide a positive role model and mentoring.
- **SMART Readers:** Read to preschoolers at the Gladstone Center for Children & Families twice a week, and join the team from Start Making A Reader Today, this year's winner of the Library of Congress Literacy Prize. To volunteer, call Nathan Buck at 971-634-1607.
- **Book Club Leader for grades 4-5:** John Wetten Elementary is seeking a volunteer to lead an afterschool club of ten 4th & 5<sup>th</sup> graders in book discussion 1 hour per week, starting in February. Books are provided.