

Bob's Red Mill donates to Gladstone Schools food pantry

The Backpack Buddy program serving 70 Gladstone families each week got a boost this year when the school district created a food pantry to store non-perishable food donations, a staging area for loading backpacks.

Thanks to generous donations from Bob's Red Mill, the supplemental weekend food packets now include nutritious, whole grain products like brown rice, oatmeal, and granola.

"The donation from Bob's Red Mill has helped students in two ways," explained Gladstone High Principal Natalie Osburn. "Besides providing food to struggling families, the whole grain donations have provided a job training experience for young adult special education students, who help us count, package, and sort the food."

The program, supported by Gladstone Christian Church and First Baptist Church of Gladstone hopes to expand to serve more families in 2014. To volunteer or contribute, call Volunteer Coordinator Angela Johnson at 503-656-6564, ext. 265.

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Third graders design placemats for homebound seniors

Miss Gillies' third grade class at John Wetten Elementary brightened the holiday season for seniors served by the Meals on Wheels program, creating festive placemats and handcrafted cards that were delivered with hot meals.

"Each child showed off their unique style and creativity," said Gillies. "The students loved the idea of giving back and making a stranger's day special."

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Gladstone High students contribute toys to Fire Department toy drive

After filling Adopt-a-Family food, clothing, and toy needs for more than 20 families, students at Gladstone High had boxes of donated toys left over. These were donated to the Gladstone Fire Department for their annual holiday toy drive.