

NR 120915

Gladstone holiday giving effort enters the home stretch

For the first time, this year several Gladstone groups are collaborating to make the holidays brighter for up to 150 struggling families. The Gladstone Fire Department, Kiwanis, Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary, and Gladstone Schools are all part of the effort.

Donations of non-perishable foods can be dropped off in the blue barrels at businesses across Milwaukie, or delivered to Gladstone High School during school hours. Some of the many businesses include the Gladstone Public Library, Gladstone U.S. Bank, Gladstone Burgerville, Tebo's Restaurant, and The Ram at Clackamas Town Center.

Most-needed food items include rice, pasta, peanut butter, tuna, chili, hearty soups, pancake or muffin mixes, breakfast cereal, and canned fruits or vegetables.

The group also seeks new, unwrapped toy donations. Gladstone Fire Fighters will be gathering toys this Saturday, December 12, outside the Target store at Clackamas Promenade from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Clackamas Bookshelf plans bargain book sale this Saturday

The Clackamas Bookshelf, a Gladstone-based non-profit, has a clear mission: to provide low-income youths with free books.

Community members can support that goal this Saturday at the group's monthly books sale, where thousands of titles are available, priced at just 50 cents. The sale is scheduled on December 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Kraxberger Middle School campus, 17777 Webster Road in Gladstone.

Visitors who bring 5 cans of food can choose a free book from the thousands available. In addition, raffle tickets will be sold for 50 cents each for prizes including book sets and a leather laptop bag.

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Kraxberger plans Santa breakfast fundraiser

Help support Kraxberger Middle School's 8th grade party by attending an pancake breakfast with Santa on December 12 at Applebee's Restaurant, 15640 SE Happy Valley Town Center Drive, from 8 to 10 a.m.

It's a great opportunity to enjoy a yummy breakfast and get holiday pictures with Santa taken care of without the long lines or expensive fees.

Tickets cost \$10 and must be purchased before the event. They will be on sale December 5 at the GHS wrestling tournament. Tickets are also on sale in the Kraxberger office on school days from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Mindy Christopher at 503-933-5915.

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Lunch Buddy mentors needed

The Lunch Buddy program in Gladstone is seeking volunteers to work one-on-one with elementary students, sharing lunch and recess time with a child once a week or twice a month during the school year.

“This is an opportunity to change the life of a child. Our experience shows that students who meet regularly with adult mentors have better attendance and are more likely to succeed in school,” said Volunteer Coordinator Theresa Schmidt. “Also, kids with mentors are less likely to use drugs and alcohol.”

To volunteer, complete an on-line application at <http://gladstone.k12.or.us/parents/volunteer-opportunities/>. For more information, call Theresa Schmidt at 503.656.6564.

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Middle schoolers recycle old electronics

The Kraxberger Gearheads Robotics Club will recycle old flat screen TVs, audio equipment, computers, printers, cords, cables, chargers, server racks, servers, and routers.

Besides providing an opportunity for students to learn how electronics work, the effort also keeps waste out of the landfill and serves as a fundraiser for the club’s participation in competitions.

To schedule pickup of your donations, email mentor Shawn Price at shawn.price@gladstonerobotics.com.