

NR 121317

Shop with a Cop brings holiday cheer

Officers from the Gladstone Police Department joined the countywide Shop with A Cop project to bring Christmas joy to low income families.

Ten children from John Wetten Elementary paired up with police officers, sharing breakfast at Hale's and gift shopping at Walmart funded by local donors, including Gladstone Baskin Robbins.

Each child got to choose a gift for each member of their family, and a gift for themselves, with the police officers contributing to purchases that exceeded their \$100 budget. Volunteers helped wrap all the presents.

"I look forward to this event every year," said Principal Wendy Wilson. "The kids were excited to ride in police cars and spend time getting to know the officers. The smiles on their faces were contagious!"

PHOTOS: Sergeant Carl Bell helps 4th grader Brandon Ruiz-Alejandres choose toys and gifts for his family.

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Middle school robotics teams donate to school

The two Kraxberger Gearheads robotics teams had such a successful fundraising year that this week they donated \$1,000 to the Kraxberger Rising campaign at their Gladstone middle school. Funds were raised through electronics recycling, a year-round effort for club members.

"As a robotics club the school has opened up space for us, and given supplies and support," said robotics mentor Shawn Price. "This year we wanted to give back. That's why the first \$1,000 earned from e-recycling was marked towards the Kraxberger Rising project."

The Kraxberger Rising Campaign seeks to raise \$50,000 by the school's 50th birthday to add three new programs for serve middle school families in Gladstone:

- **A Student Resource Center** to provide on-site clothes, food, school supplies, and social services.
- **A Student Celebration Center**, a gathering place to honor kindness, community, performing arts, and academic success.
- **A Family Resource Center** where middle school parents can mentor and learn from each other, and families can connect with support programs.

To contribute to Kraxberger Rising, visit
<https://gladstonefoundation.ejoinme.org/kraxbergerdonate>

PHOTO: Principal Len Reed accepts a \$1,000 donation from Kraxberger Gearheads Robotics team captains Grace Christiansen [left] and Lauren Hirte.

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Gladstone Teaching Preschool honored

Gladstone’s school board presented a Growing Great People Award to the Gladstone Teaching Preschool for their innovative approach to kindergarten preparation for low-income and special-needs children.

The preschool was formed through a unique partnership between the Opal School at the Portland Children’s Museum and the Clackamas Education Service District. Tuition is funded by a foundation, Teaching Preschool Partners, serving children who would not otherwise have a preschool opportunity.

The school’s focus is teaching habits of mind to optimize school success. Children learn to focus attention, communicate clearly, make connections, think creatively and strategically, and to collaborate with others.