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Gladstone groups team up to spread holiday cheer

Low-income families across Gladstone will have a happier holiday season thanks to the Adopt-a-Family project, a joint effort between several community groups.

This year organizers invited families to a free ‘shopping’ experience. Besides picking up a holiday food box, they had the opportunity to select toys for their children and gift cards for teens. They also got to choose free food at the Gladstone Food Pantry and free clothing at the Kids Clothes Closet, introducing families to year-round support programs.

“This year we are serving over 120 Gladstone families,” said Fire Marshal Mike Funk. “It is a huge task to take on gathering food and toys for so many. We are very grateful for the selfless efforts of all the folks involved.”

The program is a partnership between the Gladstone Fire Department, Gladstone High School, Gladstone/Oak Lodge Rotary, Gladstone Kiwanis, Clackamas County Compassion in Action, the Portland Sunshine Division, the Gladstone Clothes Closet, and the Gladstone Food Pantry.

PHOTO: Gladstone High juniors Marrin McLeod [left] and Hailey Miller [right] help parents carry toys they chose at a free “toy store” the high school created for the Adopt-a-Family effort.

PHOTO: The Gladstone Fire Department distributed 120 food boxes with all the ingredients for a holiday meal.

PHOTO: Gladstone Food Pantry volunteer Sandie Kiehl [left] helps a family choose free groceries during Gladstone’s Adopt-a-Family event.

PHOTO: A family selects clothing gifts at the Kids Clothes Closet at Gladstone High School, run by volunteers from four Gladstone churches.

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Gladstone High shines in All-American High School Awards

The competitive spirit and sportsmanship of Gladstone High won teams and athletes top honors in the 2019 Pamplin Media All-American High School Awards. Winners were nominated by community members and chosen by a vote of the media company’s readers across the Portland area.

Sophomore Cameron Kinsella was a standout, winning the Gold award for Best Boy Cross Country Runner.

Silver awards went to the Gladstone High School Band, the Gladettes dance team, and the Gladstone Cheer Squad.

Bronze award winners included the GHS Student Section and boys soccer goalie Nathan Burlingame, a senior.