

NR 123015

### **Gladstone teens plan talent show to help homeless youths**

This fall, Macy Kingsley's class at Kraxberger Middle School studied the plight of homeless people. They read books and did research. They toured the Gladstone Clothes Closet and Food Pantry. And when they discovered that Clackamas County had 2,070 homeless people, they wanted to help.

Together, the class planned a fundraiser event that includes a talent show, an art auction, and a benefit performance by Portland Chamber Music. Proceeds will benefit two local support agencies supporting teens experiencing homelessness, Springwater Transitional Living and P:EAR.

The performance will take place at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, January 8, in the auditorium at Gladstone High School, 18800 Portland Avenue. Donations will be accepted at the door.

"We will auction off 14 pieces of art created by youth experiencing homelessness," said Kingsley. "They are compelling pieces relating to personal experience, wonderfully framed, and quite stunning."

In addition, the event features eight student acts, including tap dancing, singing, guitar, and piano performances by Kraxberger students. The second half of the show will feature Portland Chamber Music, a group that works to bring art and music to all people regardless of their socio-economic status.

"This group of students has worked tirelessly for a cause they care about," said Kingsley. "They believe they can make a difference in our community, and they are proving themselves right."

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### **Gladstone 5<sup>th</sup> graders chosen for All-State Choir**

Over 30 fifth graders at John Wetten Elementary auditioned for a chance to sing in the Oregon Music Educators Association Elementary All-State Choir. Four were selected for this special opportunity.

In January, Hudson Winfrey, Leesa Jo, Isabella Kuther, and Carver Kolln will travel to Eugene to rehearse with 120 fifth grade singers from across the state.

"The choir will perform a variety of challenging choral works under the leadership of a nationally-recognized conductor," said music teacher Kelly Jacobs. "We are proud to have these students representing the John Wetten music program."

**PHOTO CAPTION: Hudson Winfrey, Leesa Jo, Isabella Kuther, and Carver Kolln rehearse for their All-State Choir performance in January.**

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## **Gladstone pulls together on holiday giving**

To help struggling community members have a happier holiday season, several Gladstone groups came together on a citywide Adopt-a-Family effort. Saturday they delivered food, toys, and books to over 130 Gladstone families.

“Each partner organization helped with a different piece of the puzzle, from food and toy drives to fundraising and free books,” said Gladstone High Vice Principal Patti Alexander. “The best part was having this opportunity to work side-by-side to help our neighbors.”

Partners included the Gladstone Fire Department, Kiwanis, Gladstone/Oak Grove Rotary, the Gladstone Police Department, The Clackamas Bookshelf, and Gladstone Schools.

“I’ve been impressed how much smart work Gladstone High students did to sort and bundle donations,” said Gladstone fire fighter Izaak Thoman, a lead organizer of the effort. “It’s clear how much they care.”

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## **Free workshops help job seekers**

Those who hope to find a job in the new year can get help with the job search process through a series of free January workshops presented by WorkSource Clackamas. The courses will be provided in Gladstone, Canby, Oregon City, Sandy, Milwaukie, and Wilsonville.

Eight different workshops are offered, including Job Search Success, Resume Ready, Resume Lab & Application Review, Acing the Interview, Interview Coaching, Social Media & Job Searching, and Skills for Work & Life, and Progress & Motivation Support.

To register, create an iMatchSkills account at [www.imatchskills.org](http://www.imatchskills.org) and bring identification when visiting the WorkSource Center [506 High Street in Oregon City] to complete the full enrollment process. For more information, call 971.673.6400, ext. 22473.