



NEWS RELEASE

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A.C. Stelle Students Help Feed the Homeless

Students at the Las Virgenes Unified School District's A.C. Stelle Middle School got a unique opportunity this holiday season. Under the leadership of local running club New Basin Blues, students worked to collect essential supplies for donation to the homeless community at the Army Reserve Armory in Sylmar.

The collection was a part of the Green Bag Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting and distributing food to homeless shelters and soup kitchens. With guidance from New Basin Blues member Duffy Walton, in addition to A.C. Stelle activities director Todd Schroeder, students gathered supplies into green bags that were later distributed to homeless individuals.

Each bag is designed to include everything that each person might need, such as a toothbrush and toothpaste, warm clothing, a clean towel, easy-to-open food, camping supplies, and general first-aid items.

A.C. Stelle has been participating in the Green Bag Project for three years. "It's amazing to realize what an impact we've had and what a wonderful thing we've done," says Schroeder.

Walton, who has been involved with the project for five years, also asks the students to write notes of encouragement, left anonymous or signed with a first name, to the recipients of the bags. It is these notes, he says, that make the experience truly unique and most valuable for both the students and the homeless community.

"Homelessness won't go away until everyone is aware of it," says Walton. "The Green Bag Project not only helps those in need, but it also raises awareness of what still needs to be done to

combat this issue. It gives our kids the chance to be adults and to help eradicate a very real, very adult problem.”

For more information on the Green Bag Project, visit their website at www.green-bag-project.org.



A.C. Stelle students gather in front of the truck that will deliver their assembled green bags