

Middle School Students Raise Money for Forgotten People

For a second year, teenagers at Talmadge Middle School in Independence, Oregon are raising money to buy school supplies for impoverished schools and schoolchildren in Vietnam. After studying Southeast Asia and listening to a presentation by Jerry Braza and Mark Girod of the Forgotten People Foundation, Brittany Damewood and Grace Peets, both 8th graders, were inspired to do something to help the children of Vietnam. Both girls are students in Kelly Cutsforth's leadership class – a class in which students engage in service oriented activities. "Kids here don't think about school as a privilege like kids do in Vietnam. We just wanted to do something to help" said Grace during a recent interview.



This is the second year Brittany and Grace have been involved in raising money for school supplies. Last year the girls were assisted by Kim Alejandre and Suvane Gutierrez and accepted donated school supplies from many other students at Talmadge Middle School. These supplies were delivered to the Long Thanh school in south Vietnam by Tuan Nguyen of the Forgotten People Foundation in May of 2007. Brittany and Grace made a poster with pictures showing the donated school supplies to let their fellow students know that their donations were appreciated.







Brittany and Grace have been busy making lapel pins using colorful beads that sell for \$1.25 to friends, teachers, and others in the school community. During the winter months, the girls also sold Winto-grams – personalized holiday messages with a piece of candy that students can send to friends for \$1.00. Proceeds from both Winto-grams and the lapel pins will be used to buy more school supplies for Vietnamese children.



Brittany and Grace are working closely with the Forgotten People Foundation and students at Western Oregon University (WOU) that are coordinating a return trip to Vietnam in March 2008. “We’ll deliver the school supplies to rural schools and children on behalf of the Talmadge students” stated Mark Girod of Western Oregon University and the Forgotten People Foundation. “Brittany and Grace are doing a great thing for children who really need our support. They’re both amazing kids!”