

EDUCATION

Sorrows students chip in at Gleaners

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Our Lady of Sorrows seventh-graders have been rolling up their sleeves for the hungry.

The four seventh-grade classes at the Farmington parochial school in recent months have helped pack, bag and stack food for hungry children served by Gleaners Community Food Bank.

"We've been doing this for a number of years," said Janice Huber, who coordinates the trips to the Gleaners Detroit warehouse along with seventh-grade teacher Rebecca Mulrooney. "We want to teach them to be service oriented and help those in need."

It's just one of many service projects at the school, she said.

The kids shed their dress uniforms for the trips to the warehouse, where they participate in the food bank's Kids Helping Kids program.

"It's a very nice program," said Huber. "Depending on the needs of that particular day, often they are packing snack packs for students so that when kids come in hungry, they have something to go on."

The students work in assembly lines. Runners gather items from crates full of cheese nips, cereal and crackers and bring them to the awaiting packing line. Packers fill large orange mesh bags to the brim with dry goods to provide snacks for hungry children.

The bags are shipped to nearby schools.

Children also hear about the work of the food bank.

According to Gleaner's information, about 70,000 people receive emergency food assis-



From left: Josh Tanksly, Fernando Rangel, Atticus Loidas and Micheal Orsini of Our Lady of Sorrows, gather items for packing during a service trip to Gleaners Community Food Bank in Detroit.

tance in any given week in southeastern Michigan.

At least one in three households receiving food have one or more adults who are working. Parents often have to choose between paying for housing or heat or medicine before they can buy food.

Rachelle Bonelli, Gleaners program services director, said they are grateful to Our Lady of Sorrows students for helping provide snacks for kids throughout Southeast Michigan.

"It will allow them to concentrate more on their studies and help them to become even better students," she said of those receiving the snacks.

Gleaners is a source of food for pantries, shelters and soup kitchens.



Our Lady of Sorrows students fill large orange mesh bags to the brim with dry goods for the hungry at a Gleaners food bank warehouse.

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