



News release
February 26, 2019

Whittier students help feed homeless with lunch and hope

Nearly 100 fourth-graders packed lunches and wrote positive notes



EVERETT—"Teaching our students about giving back is important," began an email to parents of fourth-graders at Whittier Elementary School. "In place of a Valentine's Day party, the fourth-grade classes will be helping make sandwiches for the homeless."

Fourth-grade teacher, Maegan Windrick had success with #hashtaglunchbag at her previous school and brought the idea to her fourth-grade teacher team, Lindsay Buff and Joan Hills, who were immediately onboard. Nearly 100 students packed about 150 lunches and wrote positive

messages and pictures on the paper bags. Parent volunteers then delivered the lunches and extra fruit and water to The Union Gospel Mission to be distributed.

The event, #hashtaglunchbag, began in 2012 in Los Angeles with a group of young adults who wanted to find a fun and meaningful way to give back to others. After they put together 100 sack lunches they handed out the lunches to people in need. The lunches included a sandwich, cookie, water and fruit, along with a simple note of encouragement.

With the help of social media, these friends shared the joy they found giving back and helping others with photos and a hashtag, #hashtaglunchbag. They received so much positive feedback and the program has spread nationwide.



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