

News Release



Everett Public Schools

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Project You CAN Stay 8th-grade volunteer wins Violet Richardson Award

There's no stopping these Evergreen Middle School students as they continue to benefit homeless students

Christie Luttrell, 8th-grade student at Evergreen Middle School, is the 2013 recipient of the *Violet Richardson Award*. This award is given through the [Soroptimist International of Everett](#).

The award recognizes young women between 14 and 17 years old who volunteer in their communities. Luttrell, the founder of *Project You CAN Stay*, wrote about the project efforts, her continued volunteering and the impact the project still has on Everett's [Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington](#).



"In April, Christie attended an awards reception at the Everett Country Club and was awarded \$500 for herself and \$500 for the shelter. Christie plans to buy a laptop with the money, for high school and college," said Molly Challman, GEAR UP Coordinator at Evergreen Middle School.

Evergreen Middle School students' efforts to help homeless students have continued to change lives as they encourage others to contribute as well.

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It was about a year ago when Desmond Pullen, children's advocate at the Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington, was hoping to get laptops for the children at his shelter. *Project You CAN Stay* Evergreen students approached him about it, and he said, "Go for it." Evergreen students raised about \$500 and donated the first laptop to the shelter.

"We currently have seven laptops, but only five are working," said Pullen. "Two Microsoft 'techies' came and donated their time to clean up donated laptops and install Windows 7, which Microsoft donated to the program. They spent about four hours cleaning up the computers and getting them ready for the students," said Pullen.

Challman added, "The laptops they acquired for the shelter have already changed lives. They are a very important part of the Study Club and they have seen improved grades among the kids who live there."

One of the benefits is the unlimited access to the internet to research subjects.

Pullen recalled, "One day when it was nice out, I took four students on a nature walk where we discovered an abandoned bird's nest on the ground. The kids took it back to the study club and they were able to get on the internet and search for bird's nests. The lesson for the day was on how birds created their nests, cared for their eggs and chicks, etc. We do a lot of that!"

[2012.03.14 Project You CAN Stay | Point of Pride article](#)

[2012.05.02 Project You CAN Stay Update | Point of Pride article](#)

[2012.10.18 Project You CAN Stay Update | Point of Pride article](#)

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