

News release



Everett Public Schools

Jan. 25, 2011

For more information:

Angela Steck, Shoe Fund Chair, angelasteck@live.com

More students than ever before need *PTA Shoe Fund* help

Almost 500 students this year alone have already needed shoes; PTA says the need continues

For 35 years, the Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) within Everett Public Schools have provided needy students with vouchers for new shoes in partnership with Payless Shoes in Everett. Students needing shoes are identified at schools by teachers or counselors and given the cards and information about the Payless location to choose their shoes. Each voucher card is worth \$15 for elementary students and \$20 for middle and high school students.

Since September 2010, the Shoe Fund committee has distributed 494 shoe cards to students in the district's 26 different schools. "This is a 33 percent jump from the same time period last year when we had given out 393 cards from September through December. As we saw with last fall's urgent need for school backpacks and supplies, students need basic clothing as well, and our Shoe Fund is running low," explains Shoe Fund chairperson Angela Steck.

Shoe cards are distributed on an as-needed basis and only the grade level of the receiving student is captured for the Shoe Fund records. Local PTA groups have generously donated to fund this program. From the 49 cards distributed in 1976 to the almost 500 this school year, these groups have consistently given more than they originally budgeted in response to the demand increase. For the program to continue fulfilling the ongoing student needs through June, the PTA is asking for help. School PTA groups are considering a special penny fund drive to add funding to the Shoe Fund coffers. "We also know that generous individuals in our communities also may be interested in helping donate to make sure each child in the district has warm and well-fitting shoes this winter."

Donations can be made payable to "Everett PTSA Council 7.3" and sent to:

Angela Steck
C/o Shoe Fund Program
4315 142nd Place SE
Snohomish, WA 98296

---end---