



Photos by Patty Salazar - The Clackamas Print

# Class project hits Portland streets

**Donny Beach**  
News Editor

A group of Clackamas Community College students from a communications class began a humanitarian project, The Good Samaritan Project, as part of a class assignment. The assignment? Devise a way to give back to the community and talk to people.

Lauren Cole, elected leader of the project, met with fellow classmates in front of Roger Rook Hall at 9 a.m. Saturday to pile five team members, five volunteers and the 971 articles of clothing and blankets collected into three cars.

During the setup and car assigning, Rachel Soderberg team member, called "shotgun" in true road trip fashion. Group members Ashley Anderson, Kelsea Heaton, Juana Morales and Chelsea Vincenzi joined their teammates and volunteers — Becky Copeland, Austin Dahlstrom and Kody Dahlstrom — in laughter. Missing group member Sean Blice would be meeting up with the group later before they headed into downtown Portland.

The Clackamas Print met with the group to find out what The Good Samaritan Project was all about.

**The Print: The Who came up with the project name?**

**Cole:** We talked it out and The Good Samaritan Project came out of those talks. It is the perfect name.

**TP: Who came up with the idea of collecting clothes for the homeless?**

**Soderberg:** Once again, it was a group effort. We all had similar ideas about what we wanted to collect.

**Cole:** It's cold here in the winter. No one wants to have wet feet, so socks were a high concern for us too.

**TP: There were donation boxes outside the ASG office. How many boxes of donated goods did you get from the people at the college?**

**Cole:** Four large bags and a huge quilt.

**TP: Were you surprised by the amount of donations?**

**Vincenzi:** I was hoping for more, but the biggest surprise was the amount of donations we received from the box at McNulty & Barry's bar on Main Street [in

Oregon City]. We collected over 500 articles from that box alone.

**Copeland:** We even got monetary donations from people at Lauren's mom's work.

**Cole:** Nearly \$300 in cash donations.

**Vincenzi:** Which we used to buy blankets from Fred Meyer and wash all the donations at the laundry mat.

**TP: You mentioned having a box at the bar in town. Did you have other donation boxes setup?**

**Soderberg:** We each had a box setup in a different area, close to where we live.

**Morales:** We also used social media to promote the project — Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and hung up fliers around campus.

**Vincenzi:** We received lots of interested people asking if we could pick up donations. Some delivered their donations here to the school as well.

**TP: Do you feel this was a worthwhile assignment/project?**

**Morales:** It is important and has a great impact on our community. I hope we were successful in raising

awareness for the homeless problems.

**Vincenzi:** It was the successful project in class.

**Cole:** What we aren't able to deliver by hand will be donated to the Portland Rescue Mission because they have a DHS closet for interviews. DHS sends people who need nice clothes for a job interview there.

**TP: Would you have done this if it weren't a class assignment?**

**Cole:** I volunteer with OHSU community service already and soup kitchens just don't leave as long of an impact as new clothes — one hot meal versus many days of being warmly clothed.

**Morales:** I did a similar project in high school. I organized a food drive and collected food for my senior project.

The Print followed the Good Samaritan Project from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Initially the group met with disappointment; the first two stops on the trip proved to be unsuccessful because the spots were either deserted or the people were not interested in clothing assistance.

The Portland trek of compassion and goodwill was met with both "no"s and "thank you"s. Only once was the group responded to with hostility when one gentleman in a wheelchair was offended by the offer to help.

"No, he's not homeless. He's a wonderful man. Thank you," said the gentleman's companion.

But others were more than happy to accept the group's generosity. One gentleman came back to express his gratitude.

"God bless you guys. It's a good thing you are doing. I really needed a new jacket."

One individual was found walking along the Park Blocks without any shoes on. The group sent a runner back to the car to grab the bags that had shoes for him. Shortly afterward, they were approached by another of Portland's homeless.

"I doubt you have shoes in my size, but do you have gloves?" he asked. Gloves, jackets, socks and shoes were the most asked after articles of clothing along the Park Blocks.

But if you missed a chance to donate don't fret, the Good Samaritan Project turned in its constitution to ASG last week and will become an official CCC activities club in the coming Spring term.



Top: Ashley Anderson helps Luis go through a bag of men's pants.

Above: The Good Samaritan Project group goes through a bag of scarves and hats. Throughout their route the group was asked for blankets, gloves and socks the most.

Bottom left: After a thorough search through bags for the perfect jacket.

Bottom right: The group leaves a blanket with socks on a mans lap his friend finds a scarf to keep her warm during a rainy Saturday in Portland.

