

Mississippi
 Alberta
 North Portland

METRO

Vancouver
 East County
 Beaverton

University Students Give Back



Volunteers prepare free burritos for the homeless during the holiday season as part of a public service project by University of Portland Masters of Business Administration students Joaquin Ortiz and Katie Smith.

Burritos feed the masses

A pair of University of Portland Masters of Business Administration students has led a larger group of colleagues on a public service campaign to make and deliver free burritos to the homeless in downtown Portland.

The Portland Burrito Project was founded by UP students Joaquin Ortiz and Katie Smith to help feed those in need during the holiday season. The idea emerged as part of a course in their university program that encouraged students to practice leadership in their workplaces and community. Although other Burrito Projects exist in cities throughout the country, both Smith and Ortiz said they wanted to bring the idea to Portland.

"Friends come together, make burritos, and pass them out to hungry people in need. No political, religious, or party views of any sort," said the organizers.

A group of 15-20 volunteers, most of whom are University of Portland students and friends, gathered before both the Christmas and Thanksgiving holidays to walk around downtown and disperse more than 100 burritos to homeless individuals within the city.

All food and funds for the project were donated.



Fire Safety Lesson for Kids

Burton Elementary School students in Vancouver have taken grand prize honors as part of an effort to learn fire safety.

The theme of the student artwork campaign was "Take Safety Home,"

Kindergarten students from Vancouver's Burton Elementary join Virginia Chapman and Natalie Parsons of the Vancouver Fire Department to showcase the artwork they created in a fire safety contest.

and required students to submit full color artwork related to smoke alarms and other fire prevention themes.

Throughout October, employees from Paul Davis Restoration of Portland, along with the Vancouver Fire Department, and school district volunteers, spoke with students in kindergarten, and third through fifth graders within the district.

The winning students received pencils, fire hats, and stickers, and the grand prize winners received a dress-up fire coat and personal protective equipment needed to fight a fire.