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# TURKEY BASKETS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

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Community Service Project 2016-2017  
Hazen FBLA #8090  
Hazen High School  
Renton, Washington  
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## Description of the Project

Turkey Baskets is an annual food drive project led by students at Hazen High School, where student



volunteers and leaders collect items to build Thanksgiving dinners for families in the Renton community that cannot afford one. Through this project we hoped to not only brighten the holiday season for families in need, but also encourage students to take part in a meaningful service project that made an impact on their community. With the items listed (Appendix B), we were able to provide a Thanksgiving meal for many families to share during the holiday season this holiday season.

## Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the Turkey Basket food drive is to feed the less fortunate people in our community. We want to help the global problem of world hunger by starting right here, close to home. Looking at the Renton School District as a whole, a majority of the students are on the Free or Reduced Lunch program, which became part of our motivation to initiate and execute the Turkey Basket service project. We wanted to make the people of Renton feel more welcome and supported by their neighbors. With Turkey Baskets supplementing a family's dinner for Thanksgiving, we were able to make those people feel more joyful this holiday season.



## Project Mission Statement

Working together with our student body, we want to gather, assemble, and provide at least 300 meals for families in our community to share a meal with their families this Thanksgiving Day.

## Impact and Benefit to the Community

The city of Renton has a total population of 97,003, according to the 2013 census. As reported by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington State Report Card shows there is roughly 16,000 students within the city of Renton, in a school district made up of 22 elementary,



middle, and high schools. Of that 16,000, 52 percent of our students come from low income households, thus qualifying for the Free and Reduced Lunch program. With all this information, members of the Hazen High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter and the leadership class created a food drive that would benefit these families in need during the Thanksgiving holiday season. As a group, we were able to collect and assemble more Turkey Baskets than what was requested. With the materials that we collected, we were able to make 450 turkey baskets to distribute throughout the Renton area, surpassing our original goal of 300 baskets. As a group, we successfully met the need of the city of

Renton, relayed to us by the McKinney-Vento liaisons who work at each of the school buildings within the Renton School District. The leftover material that was collected was donated to the local branch of the Salvation Army.

## Impact and Benefit to the Hazen FBLA Chapter

Throughout the last year, our chapter has more than doubled in size. Growing from 52 members during the 2015-2016 school year to a chapter of 138 for the current school year, we knew we would be able to reach out into the community and make a difference. Throughout this process, we learned ample amounts from our community members and were able to hone our communication skills through one-on-one interaction with customers at various store locations. Hazen FBLA members served as crucial advocates to the public, discussing the importance of what we were trying to accomplish and how community members and our fellow classmates could help us accomplish our goals.



By reaching out to the community, we had the ability to create change to those within the city of Renton and hopefully make them proud to be a part of this project.

## Planning and Development of the Project

In the beginning of the year, the FBLA chapter decided to take on the annual Turkey Basket food drive as the chapter's community service project. Our execution of the project began by meeting with our high school activities director and giving a thorough explanation of what we intended to do and the purpose of the project. After receiving approval from administration, we had to reach out to our school's McKinney-Vento liaison, who was put in charge of coordinating with all of the schools in the district to find out how many turkey baskets were needed for in each school. Once we got this information, we made a two part goal:

Be able to assemble at least 300 turkey baskets as requested

Raise \$4,600.00 to provide each family with a turkey

We then reached out to all the teachers at Hazen via email and spoke at a staff meeting to inform them about what the Turkey Basket food drive is and how they could help us reach our goal. Teachers were provided with a list of ingredients and a box to centralize donated items (Appendix B). The leadership class and FBLA members were tasked with the collection, organization, and assembly of all items received from both classrooms and grocery stores.



We also reached out to the other high schools in the Renton School District, Renton High School and Lindbergh High School, in an attempt to make it an inter-high themed project. Unfortunately, due to unknown circumstances, Lindbergh and Renton were not able to contribute significantly to the project. In addition to recruiting assistance from the neighboring high schools, we hand delivered letters requesting permission from local grocery stores in the Renton Highlands and Newcastle area to set up donation stations outside of the store entrances. Lastly, we created a plan to have student volunteers outside to

watch over the stations and hand out informative flyers to customers as they walked inside the respective grocery store location.

## Implementation of Project

As we started hearing back from grocery stores, we had planned eight days over a period of three weeks to collect donations from the QFC and Safeway in Newcastle and the local Safeway in Renton with the help of student volunteers from Hazen. We began posting online sign-up sheets (Appendix G) every week leading to the volunteering dates, as well as setting up a sign-up sheet in Hazen's Career Center, where students in need of community service hours could easily access it. We prepared Food Drive signs to display on grocery carts (Appendix C) and passed out flyers to grocery store customers (Appendix D) as they entered the building. At the last shift of each day, we had vehicles from student volunteers to hold items and transport them to Hazen High School to be organized and assembled by the leadership class and FBLA members (Appendix C).



At the school, we created two thermometer charts: one to represent how many baskets we had assembled and one to indicate how much money we had raised (page 7). This served as a constant reminder and update to Hazen students on how well the school was accomplishing our goal. We created announcements to go into Hazen's daily bulletin, and implemented the use of social media to advertise our project. To signify the end of the project, baskets were collected by each school's McKinney-Vento liaison on Monday, November 21, 2016. Hazen FBLA and leadership students assisted in loading vehicles and organizing leftover items. It was decided to donate the remaining 200 baskets to the Renton Salvation Army. The total amount of food donated to the Renton Salvation Army was around 900 pounds of food.



## Chapter Involvement

A majority of FBLA members assisted in collecting donations from local grocery stores, while other helped make posters and signs to be hung around Hazen. Additionally, members assisted in the collection of items donated within our school, transportation of items to be made into baskets, and the assembly of

baskets (Appendices B and C). As the food drive grew closer, our chapter held several meetings in order to make sure we were fully prepared. Posters and signs were made to publicize the food drive and were hung around Hazen. Additional posters were made for item donations at our local grocery stores. In addition to all this, we created signup sheets and dispersed them throughout our chapter as members took turns volunteering to advertise at local grocery stores together (Appendix C and G). Members also donated various items that were needed to compose the turkey baskets. FBLA chapter members were the driving force of collecting the items that were donated throughout the school and assembling the baskets that were given out to the Renton Community.

## Evidence of Publicity



A major way we advertised to the public was by standing in the doorways of grocery stores and conversing with customers about our project; elaborating on how we need all the help we can get to feed families this holiday. We explained ways that the community could get involved including purchasing certain items at the designated grocery stores we were located at. First, we contacted the current managers at three different grocery stores and explained to them what our purpose was and proposed the idea of advertising at their stores (Appendix F). The managers approved and commented that they supported this Turkey Baskets project, which turned out to be a success for both the project and the store because the shelves started to look barren as more and more customers purchased items for the Turkey Baskets project.

Another way that Turkey Baskets was advertised was by publishing information onto the Renton School District website as well as the Hazen High School homepage (Appendix E). On this it included pictures of some of the food that we had collected as well as chapter members at grocery stores. There was description of what our goals were and how RSD students, staff and all members of the community could come support the Turkey Baskets project. Since many students are also active online, advertisements were put onto Hazen Twitter and Facebook pages. In addition, we published an announcement that was continually read on the Hazen's daily bulletin over the intercom as the project went on. We also created a giant thermometer that we hung in the commons and continued to paint once we had reached a certain amount of turkey baskets and the sum of money collected. Students had the opportunity to step up to the plate as they could see that the number of turkey baskets was low and it



encouraged the student body to help us raise our turkey basket numbers. In the end, we were proud to fill the entire thermometer in red paint as we exceeded our goals.

The stores that we advertised at were:

Newcastle Safeway Coal Creek Pkwy SE, Newcastle WA 98056 425-641-0902	Newcastle QFC 6940 Coal Creek Pkwy SE, Newcastle WA 98056 425-747-9599	Renton Safeway 2725 NE Sunset Blvd, Renton WA 98056 425-225-5700
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Daily announcements, like the one below, were read over the school's intercom at the beginning of third period each day to remind students and staff to bring what they could and help our cause:

"Highlanders! There are only 2 weeks left for our Turkey Basket project so come get involved! Donate Thanksgiving food items or cash to your 3rd period teacher or sign up to help volunteer. We will be posted outside local grocery stores asking for donations on the weekends, so sign up for a shift in the career center or on the Highlander Club Facebook page! Let's share the love this Thanksgiving and provide a warm and hearty dinner for families in need, because everyone deserves to have something to truly be thankful for."

## Project Evaluation

Even though we were hoping to get help from the two other high schools in the Renton School District, we quickly learned and realized the significant population of our fellow students that were on free and reduced lunch at Renton and Lindbergh High School. For these reasons, we realized exactly how much more important it was for our chapter to exceed our original goal of 300 total turkey baskets and \$4,600.00 for turkeys. Although including Renton and Lindbergh High School didn't work out so well, it didn't stop Hazen students from working hard to provide for local families. With the determination, we far surpassed our goal by assembling a total of 450 baskets and raising \$8,000.00 for those in need. Turkey Baskets was a very successful service project and we intend to repeat it next year. Looking forward towards next year, we want to find additional ways to involve both Renton High School and Lindbergh High School into this project. This was an amazing experience for our students, and steps have already been taken to include Renton and Lindbergh so that everyone is able to provide for those who are less fortunate and in need during the holidays. A main goal for next year is to share ideas and plans/deadlines that were successful for us to help other high schools get started.



## Appendices

### Appendix A: First Turkey Baskets Flyer Handed Out To Grocery Stores

**42.4 million Americans live in food-insecure households, including more than 13 million children. Millions of people each year are unable to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for their families.**

**HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP TODAY!**

<sup>2</sup>  
Hazen High School is now accepting donations to create turkey baskets that will feed those who can't afford a Thanksgiving meal. Below is a list of items that one basket contains and items you can donate. Spread the love this Thanksgiving and donate today!

- 2 boxes of stuffing
- 2 cans of cranberries**
- 2 boxes of potato mix
- 2 packets of gravy mix
- 3 cans of fruit
- 3 cans of veggies
- 2 boxes of dessert mix
- Money Donations (\$25 = 1 turkey)**
- 1 reuseable shopping bag**



# Appendices

## **Appendix B: Photos Taken During the Organization and Assembly Process**



# Appendices

## **Appendix C: Photos Taken During the Collection Process at Local Grocery Stores**



# Appendices

## **Appendix D: Redesigned Turkey Basket Flyer Handed Out At Local Grocery Store**



### Turkey Baskets!



Turkey baskets is a food drive that is run by Hazen High School. We collect food to make thanksgiving dinners for families that can't afford one in our Renton Community. We will be accepting donations until Sunday Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> at the locations & times listed below.  
**ONLY NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Fridays: 3-5pm  
Saturdays & Sundays: 11am-5pm

- Safeway (Greater Highland Shopping Center, 2725 NE Sunset Blvd, Renton, WA 98056)
- QFC (6940 Coal Creek Pkwy SE, Newcastle, WA 98059)

**INGREDIENTS**

#	Name of item
2	Cans of Cranberries
2	Boxes of Mashed potato mix
2	Packets of Gravy
3	Cans of Fruit
3	Cans of Vegetables
2	Boxes of Dessert Mix
1	Resuable Bag
Money for Turkeys (\$25/Turkey, Anything Helps!)	

# Appendices

## Appendix E: Article Published On Renton School District Homepage



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### High school students throughout the district provide Thanksgiving feasts

November 8, 2016—Hazen, Lindbergh and Renton high school students are working together this holiday season to help all Renton School District families have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Students in the schools' Associate Student Body and leadership roles, under the guidance of Hazen High's Peter Rustemeyer, are working on the annual Turkey Basket drive to provide a full Thanksgiving meal for families throughout the district. The students hope to create 300 food baskets which will include \$50-70 worth of Thanksgiving meal supplies along with a \$20 supermarket gift card to allow families to purchase a turkey. In total, the drive could raise about \$10,000 worth of food.

As part of the effort, Hazen High students are posted outside of the local Safeway and QFC stores through mid-November collecting donations for the baskets from shoppers.

Hazen High's ASB President and co-chair of the community service project, Marwa Popal said, "I feel grateful for all the members of the community who are contributing to this effort. I'm blessed to be able to help provide dinner to others."

"In the end," Popal continued, "it is the most rewarding community service project I have ever done and it really shows how strong and generous people in the Renton community really are."

Popal co-chairs this community service project with senior Justin Chin and junior Samantha Yee. School teachers, counselors, and the Family Liaisons help identify families to receive the Thanksgiving baskets.



# Appendices

## Appendix F: Letter to Local Grocery Store Managers



### **2016 Hazen Turkey Basket Drive**

Dear Safeway,

Hazen High School is conducting our annual Turkey Basket Drive for the 2016 school year! The Turkey Basket Drive was made to help provide less fortunate families in the city of Renton with a full Thanksgiving dinner. This year Hazen is partnering up with Lindbergh and Renton High School to reach a group goal of 300 baskets.

We are contacting you today to ask for your help with reaching this goal. With your permission, we'd like to place a few volunteer students outside of your store to ask your customers for any contributions they can make. We would like for this to take place **every Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 3pm-5pm starting on October 28<sup>th</sup> until November 18<sup>th</sup>**. In addition, we would gladly accept donations of any kind from the store as well. The following list includes all the items required to make 1 Turkey Basket:

- 2 Boxes of Stuffing
- 2 Cans of Cranberries
- 2 Boxes of Potato Mix
- 2 Packets Gravy Mix
- 3 Cans of Fruit
- 3 Cans of Veggies
- 2 Boxes of Dessert Mix
- \$25 for Turkey
- 1 Reusable Shopping Bag

All proceeds will be used for the sole purpose of Turkey Baskets. If you have any questions/concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us or our ASB director. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Hazen Leadership

#### **Turkey Basket Drive Committee**

Student Leader: Marwa Popal

Email: [marwa21260@live.com](mailto:marwa21260@live.com)

Phone: (206) 578-9116

#### **Hazen ASB Director**

ASB Director: Peter Rustemeyer

Email: [peter.rustemeyer@rentonschools.us](mailto:peter.rustemeyer@rentonschools.us)

Phone: (425) 204 4278

# Appendices

## **Appendix G: Online Volunteer Signup Sheet**

QFC in Newcastle	Day	Time	Name	Name	Name	Name
	Friday 11/4	3-5pm	Emma Ledbetter	Charley Davatos		
	Saturday 11/5	11am-1pm	Marwa Popal	Ashley Vo	James Chen	
		1-3pm	Marwa Popal	William Eng		
		3-5pm	Steven Mai	Isis Hatcher	Alan Ngo	Richard Huynh
	Sunday 11/6	11am-1pm	Jordan Early	Tinh-An Le	Alexandra Santiago	
		1-3pm	Jordan Early	Tinh-An Le	Sydney Collins	
		3-5pm	Isis Hatcher	Daniel Lee		
	Friday 11/11	11am-1pm	James chen	Steven lu	Alex huynh	
		1-3pm	James chen	Steven Lu		
		3-5pm	Jarred Wicks	Kassie Thomazin		
	Saturday 11/12	11am-1pm	Justin Chin	Peyton Yammamoto	Christian Chavez	Trinity Yang
		1-3pm	Justin Chin	Ashley Vo	Tyler Bunnell	Trinity Yang
		3-5pm	Marwa Popal	Daniel Lee	Tyler Bunnell	
	Sunday 11/13	11am-1pm	Justin Chin	Tinh-An Le		
		1-3pm	Justin Chin	Tinh-An Le		
		3-5pm	Marwa Popal	Justin Chin		
	Friday 11/18	3-5pm	Naomi Goto	Kassie Thomazin	Nghi Pham	
	Saturday 11/19	11am-1pm	Ashley Vo	Charisse Davatos		
		1-3pm	Ashley Vo	Charisse Davatos		
		3-5pm	Marwa Popal	Charisse Davatos		