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For Immediate Release

Heritage students live the lesson of giving back

Toppenish, WASH—Students from Heritage University are making the holidays a little brighter for families in the Lower Valley this Christmas. Members of the Associated Student Body (ASB), Native American Club and Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) joined forces to fill the pantries of 100 families in need in Toppenish and White Swan.

Calling their efforts Pantry of Hope, the students held a food and household goods drive to fill gift baskets with everything from turkeys and canned goods to cleaning and personal hygiene supplies. Area businesses assisted them by donating products to add to the baskets. A community grant from Walmart and a donation from the employees of the Sunnyside Walmart helped to purchase items that were not received through the drive.

The students worked with area school districts and social service agencies to identify the families that will receive the gift baskets. Student volunteers will play Santa, delivering the gift baskets to the families just before Christmas.

“One of the best things about Heritage is that they go out of their way to help us (the students),” said Laura Aguiar, ASB president. “This is a way for us to take that generosity and share it with those that we see who are in need.”

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Heritage University is a non-profit, independent, regionally accredited institution of higher education offering undergraduate and graduate education across the state of Washington.