

NEWS



Submitted photo

Members of the Baker Middle School Leadership Class helped serve food to the Portland homeless.

Baker Middle School Leadership students help Portland homeless

By JOSIE BRYAN

For the Baker City Herald

As a seventh-grader at Baker Middle School I have had many opportunities to get involved with my school and the community. The reason that I have been able to help other people and improve my world are because of my being in Baker Middle School's Leadership class and having the support and guidance given to me by Samantha Sullivan.

One of these amazing opportunities was going on Baker Middle School's Leadership Portland Rescue Mission trip, that took place several weeks ago. I was among the few seventh-graders who got to go on the trip and I am very grateful. A total of 45 Leadership students and about 17 parents went on the Portland trip to feed the homeless.

Not only did we serve food to them, but we also gave out socks and candy bars and

swept the areas where they slept. I was shocked to see how many homeless people there are in Portland, and that's just one city. It was inspiring to see that kindness and acceptance can make someone's day, put a smile on people's faces, or maybe even change their lives. Going on my Leadership class's mission trip was a life-changing experience for me and I am sure for many others.

Another one of my amazing opportunities to help others was one week later going to Boston, on a family trip. You see I was going to meet with Mrs. Sullivan's niece who works with the homeless there and is on the board for a group that helps homeless women. I got to meet the founder of the organization called "Found in Translation." I gave her a check for \$100 from our Baker Middle School Leadership class, which will go into helping the organization continue.

The program started in September of

2011. The main goal of Found in Translation is to train homeless or low-income women who are multilingual to become medical interpreters. The women, who are a part of the organization have now graduated, which makes a total of 19 women. Found in Translation is a great program and I am so happy Baker Middle School's Leadership class was able to donate to them.

While I was in Boston I also got to go to New England's largest homeless shelter and meet with Mrs. Sullivan's niece, Maggie Sullivan, a nurse practitioner who works with the homeless. I did not interact with any homeless people, but I did get a tour of the shelter and talked to Maggie and another woman about what they do and how the shelter works.

All of these experiences have been life-changing and are a part of my Leadership classes' goal to reach out to others in our school, community, country, and world.