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PRESS RELEASE

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HOLIDAY BOOK BAGS PROMOTE READING

Each Holiday Season the Columbia County Commission on Children and Families demonstrates its ongoing commitment and support to promoting reading literacy and healthy family activities with the Holiday Book Bag Project. This annual event is made possible by the generous donations of many local organizations and individuals.

The book bags, donated by Garrett Marketing, are decorated with holiday theme appliques. The material was donated by Detirck Embroidery and applied by a Scappoose Girl Scout Troop. The 50 colorful bags are filled with holiday stockings, crayons, pencils, activity books, calendars, book marks, writing pads, toothbrushes, toothpaste and stuffed animals.

The bags also hold cooking utensils, recipes from the OSU Extension Foods and Nutrition Program. As a result of a challenge, over 100 pot holders have been crocheted, enough to give each family two. Jan Greenhalgh, Kath Dostert and Sally Norbom raced each other to complete the crocheting project.

When the book bags are filled, they are brought to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Self Sufficiency, where they will be given to families receiving services. At the time the bags are distributed, the families are able to pick out age appropriate books that can be added to the already full book bags. The books have been donated by the St. Helens Kiwanas Club, Zenith Women's Club and many individuals. Books are especially meaningful to families who cannot afford to buy them on their own.

When children can read, they are more likely to be successful in school. School success is a key factor in building vibrant, resilient communities. Reading literacy is a key component not only ensuring a child's success in school, but in building vibrant resilient communities.

The Commission gives its warmest thanks to all those who helped with this project: Dr. Heibert, Community Action Team, Commission members, AWPPW, Dan Moore, Piper Ramsdale and Kevin Iverson, Sarah Hanson, Grammy's Books, Northwest Regional Education Service District and the National Institute for Literacy.

To learn how to be involved and promote reading literacy, please contact Jan Spika Kenna, Director. Commission on Children and Families at 503-397-7225 or at Jan.Kenna@co.columbia.or.us.



Jan Kenna, Director of Commission on Children & Families and Commissioner Earl Fisher
Photo Taken by Janet Wright, County PIO