

Donate during the holidays

By Kara Ennis
opinion editor

Throughout the community of Greenwood, there are many children who go through the holiday season without any gifts or celebrations. The Greenwood Fire Department and GHS students are looking for a way to combat this issue.

"There are so many kids who go without every holiday season. If we can help them in any sort of way, we should," Mrs. Lindsey Glaze, athletic secretary, said.

Tomorrow, the annual GHS craft fair will take place. This fundraiser will bring roughly 2,000 community members into the building who can help with the toy drive.

"We have partnered with the Greenwood Fire Department; they host an annual toy drive. What we are going to do is be a collection site for them. With our larger audience, we are hoping to get a good amount of toys for the fire department and the kids of Greenwood. We wanted to take the fundraiser and do something for the community itself," Mrs. Glaze said.

The fire department began this toy drive in 1997 and then partnered with the Greenwood school system in 2013.

This is the 11th year for the collection collaboration.

"We have a partnership with the four Greenwood elementary schools, where the counselor recognizes families that have children who need help with Christmas. They identify them, and then, we bring the donated toys to the schools the week before Christmas Break, and the schools distribute them accordingly," Mr. Bob Anderson, Greenwood Fire Department chaplain, said.

Although the craft fair will have a multitude of vendors for shoppers, the opportunity to donate will be available.

"Any donation would be great. I've worked with the fire department before. They have had some collection sites have 10 toys; some give them 50 plus. They are glad for all donations, so anything at all would be appreciated. All of the toys go to Greenwood children, so it will just be to benefit our own community," Mrs. Glaze said.

Toys should be new and unwrapped. Any toy for ages newborn to 16 years old is fine as long as it is not affiliated with weaponry. No Nerf guns, toy swords, etc.

"You can either donate here in the



Lily Rollings photo

athletic office, or you can come to the craft fair, which is our big collection day," Mrs. Glaze said.

Another approaching opportunity to donate this holiday season is the cereal and canned food drive, which will be held in December.

"The canned food drive is for us as a community to collect food to support the Greenwood community for the Good Cheer Fund. GHS will collect canned foods across our high school, but the district collects food as a whole. Anyone can donate to the canned food drive. You can donate any canned foods, but we are also going to ask for boxes of cereal, too," Mrs. Samantha Young, Student Services advisor, said.

The Student Athletic Advisory Com-

mittee is hosting collection sites at different varsity sports events during December.

"The committee is going to help out by collecting canned goods at some varsity games this winter and then putting them into baskets for them to be picked up and distributed to families in need," Mrs. Andrea Campbell, SAAC sponsor, said.

Senior Jenna Martin is helping organize a cereal collection to add to the overall canned food drive. The seniors have a goal of collecting 1,000 cereal boxes during the month of December.

"We are going to have boxes around the school where you can put the cereal with advertisements with information about what to donate," Martin said.



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Capstones begin in two weeks

By Makena Cruse
editor in chief

Senior capstones are right around the corner, and seniors are continuing to learn more about their future career choices and where their lives may lead them.

Senior capstones are a project that all seniors must complete as part of their English curriculum. The capstones consist of different options, such as job shadows, internships and community outreaches. Each senior chooses a topic they feel called to pursue and completes various journals, essays and products. Seniors then present the topics during a week in December to judges from the community. Capstones serve as a way for seniors to be integrated into the world and prepare themselves for the next step.

Senior Davis Arthur's capstone project was an opportunity for him to grow his love of a game he has played for his entire life.

"I've been playing competitive golf since I was in eighth grade. I've always loved the game and have grown passionate about it. My love for the game of golf inspired me to shadow a head pro at Valle Vista. A head pro is someone who helps with grounds maintenance, teaches lessons and manages the overall course. During my shadow, I learned how to spin bunkers and sand traps which helps even out the sand, how to mow the tee markers, and was able to observe how they keep the grounds in golfing condition. I also learned how to change the location of a green, which was a cool experience," Arthur said.

Senior Brayden Hafen shadowed a pharmacist.

"I found my mentor through a family friend. When I contacted my mentor to plan my shadowing hours, he had left for a two month vacation. My mentor only works every other week, so it was incredibly difficult to find a time that would work for both of us, but in the end, it taught me time management and the importance of scheduling in advance," Hafen said.

The senior capstone project serves as a way for students to see into their futures and decide if certain careers actually fit them.

"The topic of my project was engineering, and one of the big things I did when I shadowed my mentor was sit in on the meetings when they created a new encoder, which is a sensing device that provides feedback for different machines and makes it run much better. I hope this will provide me with an easier route to engineering in college and help me find a job more easily when I start. I found my mentor through my brother, who went to college with him," senior Michael Schrader said.

Finding a mentor can often be the most challenging piece of the capstone. Many students shadow family friends or adults they know. However, some decide to step out of their comfort zones.

"For my project, I shadowed the head of the Music Department at Indiana University. To find my mentor, I researched Indiana University's Music Department and asked her if she would be willing for me to shadow her. My capstone product was a teaser video for the Make Music Day, which will be used for the next event. I also made promotional posts on their Instagram page and helped with rehearsals and behind the scenes stuff," senior Natalia Orozco said.