

Ross teen leaders give out coats

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Winter wear distributed to local families at Pontifex

Daniel Carson Fremont News-Messenger USA TODAY NETWORK

FREMONT – With winter fast approaching, a number of Fremont Ross High School students are trying to provide area residents with warmer clothes to deal with colder weather.

The Fremont Ross High School TeenLeadership Corps held a winter coat giveaway Tuesday night at Pontifex, a local charity that helps people in need.

Residents took turns picking out adult and children’s winter coats, scarves, hats and gloves set up on five tables in one of the main rooms in Pontifex’s West State Street facility.

Tina Dyson, a Lindsey resident, held a coat and a pair of snow pants as she looked for other winter clothes for her family.

“I’m hoping we don’t need to use them,” Dyson joked about the snow pants.

Lillie Swinehart, a junior at Fremont Ross, helped coordinate the coat giveaway for the school’s leadership group.

Swinehart said the group collected 153 coats, 115 hats, 78 pairs of gloves and 44 scarves.

Collection boxes were set up at the high school, Pontifex, Croghan Elementary School, Atkinson Elementary School, Fremont City Hall and the Fremont Recreation Center.

The group collected coats for the entire month of November, Swinehart said.

“As it starts to get colder, I think it’s important for people to stay warm and have a nice coat,” Swinehart said.

After less than a hour Tuesday night, about half of the coats and other winter clothes had been given away to residents.

Swinehart said any coats

or clothes left over would be given away at Pontifex on Christmas Eve.

Pontifex founder Jan Nowak said Swinehart would also be helping her with a toy giveaway on Christmas Eve.

“It’s wonderful to have these young people doing this,” Nowak said.

Nowak said Pontifex had already collected and wrapped all of the donated toys for its annual toy giveaway.

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Tina Dyson of Lindsey, right, and Todd Burden of Oak Harbor check out coats at a giveaway held at Pontifex.

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