



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### All for a Pair of Gloves and a Hat!

Sterling Band students donate food, blankets to homeless

By Brenda J. Clem

A year in the lives of a teenager can be forever! Friends come and go, romances bloom and fade, and lessons are learned and forgotten. But Christmas of 2011 will remain in the memory of the Sterling Band students forever!

In December, 2010, the students donated money to purchase fabric for blankets and scarves. The blankets and scarves along with lunches of sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, and water were taken to the people who live under the freeways and bridges in Houston. This stirred in the hearts of the students a new realization of the quote, "It is more blessed to give than to receive!"

As Christmas of 2011 approached, the Sterling Band Students once again set out to bring joy and warmth to those so desperately in need -- both physically and emotionally!

The blankets and scarves were made, hats and gloves were added to the packages, lunches were prepared, hot coffee was brewed, and Santa's sleigh (a bus) arrived for the journey!

The weather was cold and blustery as the students and chaperones climbed in the "sleigh" for the delivery in Houston! The first stop was to reward two gentlemen with the band's gifts of love! As the two gentlemen received their gifts, several other gentlemen and ladies begin to arrive. Within twenty minutes, the students had blessed over sixty people with gifts of warmth and food! Smiles were abundant, new friends had been made, pictures were taken as reminders, and hugs were shared by all. It was a very moving experience for all concerned -- both the givers and the receivers!

As the students finished their lunch, Mr. Ricky Clem, Director of Bands at Sterling High School, began to debrief with the students how this experience had changed their views about Christmas.

Many students and chaperones shared individual stories about their interactions with the women and men whom they had met. One student shared a special story.



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She was a part of the team handing out blankets, scarves, hats, and gloves. A gentleman approached her and she offered him a blanket and scarf. He thanked her, but was not interested in the blanket and scarf. She offered him a lunch and hot coffee. He thanked her, but was not interested in the lunch and hot coffee. So she offered him just the hat and gloves. His face lit up like the Christmas tree in her home. He held out his hands and gently caressed the new hat and gloves. His smile said it all as he thanked her for his gift, and skipped away.

The students decided that as they opened their gifts on Christmas morning they would look at them very differently. They would remember the gentleman who greatest joy was just a pair of gloves and a hat!

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