

# Student-run event seeks donations for homeless teens

**By Ruth Longoria Kingsland**

of the Daily Courier

It's not your typical car wash or bake sale.

Dozens of teens from the Josephine County Foundation, a student-led philanthropic organization, and Hidden Valley High School Future Business Leaders of America will be camping out in a parking lot tonight for the group's annual "Pay it Forward" fundraising campaign.

The youths will camp out in the parking lot of the former Ray's grocery store on Williams Highway in Grants Pass, from 4 p.m. today through 4 p.m. Saturday to receive donations of clothing for homeless teenagers.

Other donations sought include hygiene supplies, towels, bowls and utensils, non-perishable food items, flashlights, and other survival needs for area homeless youths; and, of course, cash.

Sylvia Marr, co-president of Hidden Valley's FBLA and a member of the Josephine County Foundation, says she's excited about the event, which will be somewhat carnival-esque, as well as being a 24-hour-manned donation site.

"This is a chance to raise community awareness and also some money and other items for causes that really need help," she said.

In addition to inviting several local media organizations to show up and get interviews, Grants Pass Mayor Darin Fowler is expected to show up this afternoon for a pep talk, Marr said.

There also will be a dunk tank and games.

The Josephine County Foundation stages several service projects throughout the year, including coordinating free vision clinics, student enrichment programs, and the homeless teen backpack project.

In addition to donating items at the Pay it Forward event, checks can be mailed to: The Josephine County Foundation, P.O. Box 673, Murphy, OR, 97533.

For more information, contact Hidden Valley FBLA and Josephine County Foundation adviser Chris Pendleton at [cpendleton.jcf@gmail.com](mailto:cpendleton.jcf@gmail.com) or visit online at [josephinecf.org](http://josephinecf.org).

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