

Cougar Clubs Concur: 'Tis the Season to

By Lindsay Marshall, News Editor

Imagine having cancer or being a four-year-old with no Christmas presents. Imagine not having a book to read or being

as with no daily supplies. For many people, this is a reality. Durant students are doing their part to help this holiday season, with the book drive, the collection

the troops, a Christmas party for migrant children, a school-wide effort to collect bottle caps for cancer, among others.

The Poetry Club, "Word" is spreading the Christmas cheer by collecting poems to send to soldiers in Afghanistan, as well as books to give to the county jail. According to club sponsor Laura Estes, the book drive will probably be second semester, so books may still be turned in. The adult books will be going to the jail, while any kids' book donated will be given to a children's charity.

Donna Briggs, from Plant City Support Our Soldiers Organization, recently visited a Student Advisory Committee Club meeting to discuss Durant's participation in Support Our Soldiers for the second year. Boxes have been distributed in classrooms

and flyers have been posted to get school wide participation.

"Some classes have even been holding their own individual competitions to motivate students to bring in supplies," said Denise Savino, Student Advisory Committee Club Sponsor.

The Spanish National Honor Society is throwing a Christmas party for underprivileged migrant children on December 16 at the San Jose Mission. There are around forty children aged three to five, and in this economy, it is hard for their parents to provide them with an adequate Christmas.

"There are more people than usual who are going to have a difficult time providing food for their children, let alone presents this year, so the Spanish Honor Society is going to do our part to see that these children have a fun Christmas," said junior SHNS secretary Sarah Schmidt.

The SNHS members will go to the migrant mission and bring gifts and food, and play games with the kids. Another school wide effort is collecting bottle caps for cancer treatments.

"[Freshman] Kindall

Patrick brought in a letter from her father's work about the bottle caps," said Social Studies teacher Ryan Haczynski. "One of the coworker's children has cancer, so we were going raise bottle caps as a class." Haczynski's classes

originally had the goal of collecting 2,500 bottle caps to go toward the cancer treatments, but eventually the entire school became involved, so to date, over 10,000 bottle caps have been collected. For every 2,500 bottle caps, the company donates money to help pay for a child's cancer treatment.

So from collecting bottle caps to poems, supplies for the troops to Christmas stockings, Durant wants to help everyone they can this holiday season. "Community service helps build a better sense of community and feels really great to do," said Schmidt.

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Advisor

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